Message from the Chair

We have good news from two sources to report: The Residency Match went well and we are delighted to welcome a strong group of incoming residents to the department. Congratulations to Rob Marvin and his team, which includes the residents, faculty, and staff from the Department’s Office of Education, on a great job!

The NIH has awarded a five-year Center Grant to Subhash Pandey and colleagues to study the neurobiology of alcoholism. This is the first epigenetics-based center on alcoholism in the country and the only center in Illinois funded to study this important health problem.

Kudos to both groups!

Special Announcements

Subhash Pandey, PhD, and his colleagues were awarded a Center Grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the neurobiological basis of alcoholism. The primary focus of this NIH-NIAAA funded center is to investigate how different epigenetic mechanisms contribute to changes in specific target genes and/or at the genome-wide level, associated with adaptations in the reward and stress systems in the brain during alcoholism. This Alcohol Research Center will use both preclinical (animal models) and translational models (human post-mortem brain and neuroimaging/biomarkers) of alcoholism and multidisciplinary approaches to find the causal mechanisms of alcoholism.

This Center, entitled, “Center for Alcohol Research in Epigenetics (CARE),” consists of four highly inter-related research projects. While the Center is primarily based in the Department of Psychiatry, it includes collaborators from the Department of Physiology, the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, and the Urbana campus of the University. The structure of the Center is as follows:

Research project #1 (Dr. Mark Brodie, Dept. of Biophysics/Physiology, UIC)—Epigenetic mechanisms of positive affective state of alcoholism.

Research project #2 (Dr. Subhash Pandey, Dept. of Psychiatry, UIC)—Epigenetic mechanisms of negative affective state of alcoholism.
Special Announcements (cont.)

Research project #3 (Drs. Amy Lasek & Rajiv Sharma, Dept. of Psychiatry, UIC)—Epigenetic mechanisms of glia and neuron interactions in alcoholism.

Research project #4 (Drs. Alessandro Guidotti, Dennis Grayson, & David Gavin, Dept. of Psychiatry, UIC) —DNA-methylation/demethylation networks in brain of alcoholic subjects.

Pilot projects include the mitochondrial and glial epigenome (Dr. Douglas Feinstein, Dept. of Anesthesiology, UIC).

The Center’s administrative core will be directed by Drs. Subhash Pandey & Alessandro Guidotti, Dept. of Psychiatry, UIC. The epigenetic core will be directed by Drs. Dennis Grayson & Chunyu Liu, Dept. of Psychiatry, UIC, and Drs. Alvaro Hernandez & Victor Jongeneel from the Roy J. Carver Biotechnology Center, UIUC. Dr. Dulal Bhaumik will serve as a biostatistician.

CARE will provide resources and a scientifically-enriched environment for training opportunities (Dr. Mark Rasenick, Dept. of Biophysics/Physiology and Psychiatry, UIC), and will also utilize a community outreach program (Dr. Marc Atkins, Dept. of Psychiatry, UIC) to disseminate scientific knowledge of alcoholism to the general public.

The proposed novel studies and important collaborations represent team science at its best and will increase our understanding of neurobiological mechanisms that may be involved in the pathophysiology of alcoholism.

Ultimately, these studies may lead to the identification of molecular/cellular targets, which can be used to develop new pharmacotherapies to treat or prevent alcoholism.

Congratulations to Dr. Pandey and his team!

Upcoming Events

**Grand Rounds** *(SPH/PI, Room 109)*
April 1, 2015: **Dr. My Phon Nguyen**, UIC, “History of Premenstrual Syndromes as Risk Factor for Postpartum Depression”
April 8, 2015: **Dr. Veenstra-VanderWeele**, Columbia University/New York State Psychiatric Institute, “Pathways To New Treatments In Autism Spectrum Disorder”
April 15, 2015: **Dr. Joan L. Luby**, Washington University School of Medicine, “Developmental Trajectories of Depressive Disorders: Brain Behavioral Relationships in Emotional Processing”
April 22, 2015: **Dr. Gregory L. Hanna**, University of Michigan, “Error-Related Brain Activity and Genetics in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder”
April 29, 2015: **Dr. Eric J. Nestler**, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, “Transcriptional and Epigenetic Mechanisms of Depression”

**Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience Seminar Series** *(NPI, 7th Floor Auditorium)*
April 10, 2015: **Dr. Mary Heitzeg**, University of Michigan, “Brain functional contributors to vulnerability for substance abuse: Findings from a longitudinal fMRI study of at-risk youth”
April 17, 2015: **Dr. Scot Hill**, Rosalind Franklin University, “A Genetic Perspective on Switching and Updating Failures in Psychosis”
The **Alcohol Research Center**, with **Dr. Subhash Pandey** as the Principal Investigator, has been funded for 5 years through a P50 Center grant from the NIH. Dr. Pandey’s team consists of faculty and staff in the Departments of Psychiatry and Physiology at UIC, the Jesse Brown VA, and UIUC.

**Dr. Julie Carbray** is the Chair of the Program Committee for the APNA 13th Annual Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute, which will be held in Baltimore, MD, in June. [Click here for more information.](#)

The **Center on Psychiatric Disability and Co-Occurring Health Conditions** debuted a new website on its Integrated Physical and Behavioral Health Care Summit. Held in October 2014, the Summit brought together experts on evidence-based, integrated health care interventions and system reforms to promote health and well-being. [Click here](#) to learn more about what was presented at the Summit.

**Dr. Sucheta Connolly** will be retiring in June. The Child Psychiatry Interest Group and their mentors had a small celebration for her earlier this month. See the picture below:

![Celebration Picture](image)

**Dr. Judith Cook** presented a webinar, “WRAP as an Evidence-Based Practice,” sponsored by the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**Natania Crane**, a Clinical Psychology doctoral student working with **Dr. Scott Langenecker**, received a 2015 Director’s Travel Award to the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence.

**Dr. Pauline Maki** was quoted in the *New York Post* about the cognitive consequences of Angelina Jolie’s early oophorectomy. [Click here to read the article.](#)

**Dr. Pauline Maki** spoke at the launch of the Women’s Brain Health Initiative, an event to raise awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, in New York. [Click here to read the article covering the launch in the Wall Street Journal.](#)

**Dr. Graziano Pinna** was nominated for the prestigious Italian career achievement award, “Sardus Pater,” which is assigned by the Sardinian Governor to individuals who distinguish themselves in a field that benefited Sardinia, Italy. Please support Dr. Pinna’s award candidacy by [signing the petition](#) (scroll down for English text).

**Dr. Mark Rasenick** was elected to be a member of the National Academy of Science—of Cuba.

Trilogy, Inc. is holding their annual Spring Into Recovery Gala: Trilogy’s Celebration of Self, Purpose, and Community this upcoming May. All are invited to attend. Please contact Ruth McMahon at rmcmahon@trilogyinc.org for more information.
Congratulations to the new Psychiatry PGY-1 Residents!

Jerry Francisco Benzl, MD  
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, IL

Jenifer Lloyd, MD  
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, IL

Eric Reed, MD  
Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, OH

Brian Jason Salzverg, MD  
Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Miami, FL

Tammy Tamayo, MD, PhD  
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, IL

Brandi Jackson, MD  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

Mayurika Pise, MD, MPH, PhD*  
University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, TX; Topiwala National Medical College, India

Surya Sabhapathy, MD, MPH  
University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI

Andreea Seicean, MD, MPH, PhD*  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH

Victor Guy Tarson III, MD  
University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Houston, TX

*denotes Research Track
Dr. Carl Bell and colleagues published “Overcome Prejudice at Work,” a book now sold on Amazon.
Click here to read more.

Dr. Carl Bell and a colleague published an article in Psychiatric Services entitled, “Prevalence of Neurodevelopmental Disorders Among Low-Income African Americans at a Clinic on Chicago’s South Side. Click here to read more.

Drs. Leah Rubin, Judith Cook, Pauline Maki, and colleagues published “The association of perceived stress and verbal memory is greater in HIV-infected versus HIV-uninfected women” in the Journal of NeuroVirology. Click here to read more.

Drs. Leah Rubin, Pauline Maki, and colleagues published an article in the Journal of NeuroVirology entitled, “Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) modulates the associations between insulin resistance and cognition in the current combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) era: a study of the Women’s Interagency HIV Study (WIHS).” Click here to read more.

Drs. Lisa Sanchez-Johnsen, Julia Escamilla, Erin Rodriguez, Susan Vega, and Liliana Bolanos published “Latino Community-Based Participatory Research Studies: A Model for Conducting Bilingual Translations” in Ingenta Connect. Click here to read more.