RIC’s New Hospital Designed For Innovation

Richard Lieber, PhD, MBA, chief scientific officer and senior vice president of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC), has an important question for his scientists: Which of our patients have you helped this year? It’s a question that will be easy to answer at the AbilityLab, RIC’s new $550 million, 242-bed research hospital slated to open to patients next spring.

Not only will the building have nearly three times as much room for research as RIC’s current hospital, the AbilityLab will also put scientists and physicians in shared spaces, allowing innovation and treatment to collide in a way that has not been possible before.

“We are embedding science within the clinical practice, blurring the line between scientists and clinicians so that two cultures can merge,” said Lieber, also a professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR) and Physiology at Feinberg. “The bet is that this will change the paradigm for translational research, making it faster and more efficient.”

Currently, 128 members of Feinberg’s faculty have privileges at RIC, and many members of the hospital’s research team are also Feinberg investigators. Needless to say, partnerships between the two institutions are already strong. But the new building brings opportunities to supercharge existing collaboration and to start shared projects.
RIC’s New Hospital Designed For Innovation
(continued from cover page)

“We will be a gigantic source of enthusiastic subjects for research trials for anyone at Feinberg involved with studies of the human brain, spinal cord and neurological and musculoskeletal systems,” said Lieber, who runs a lab focused on cerebral palsy and muscle contractures, in addition to serving in his leadership position at the hospital.

Unlike traditional rehabilitation hospitals, where floors are divided to treat patients recovering from stroke, spinal injury and other conditions, and entirely void of research labs, the new hospital’s lab spaces are centered around functional outcomes for patients. The labs are named: Think + Speak Lab; Legs + Walking Lab; Arms + Hands Lab; and Strength + Endurance Lab. There is also a Pediatric Lab. While private patient rooms follow the perimeter of each floor, these one-of-kind “ability labs” form the core. Blueprints reveal open floor plans in which researchers work next to physicians, therapists and patients. Although there are investigator pods for quieter study and enclosed rooms for private procedures and meetings, collaborative spaces predominate in the futuristic design.

“The whole idea is that this physical layout will encourage communication, debate and generation of new ideas,” Lieber said. “We can imagine a scientist looking over at something that a therapist is doing with a patient and starting a conversation about novel strategies to improve function. Or a patient may see a research participant getting treated with electrodes or an innovative device and want to know how they can get involved.”

To design the new building, RIC worked with HDR Architecture, Inc., Gensler and Clive Wilkinson Architects, the latter a firm known for creating unique open-plan workplaces, including Google’s headquarters.

“The architects were great guides, helping all of us envision the possibility of this new way of life,” Lieber said. “We met personally with every scientist to talk through what each needed. We showed them drawings and asked a lot of questions, everything from ‘where do you think this equipment should go?’ to ‘what kind of plugs do you want?’”

No detail was too granular, no request too unusual. For example, Brenna Argall, PhD, assistant professor of PMR with a joint appointment at the McCormick School of Engineering, mentioned that the assistive machines she develops for patients with motor impairments sometimes move around unexpectedly. As a result, her lab may include a designated ‘robot testing space,’ designed so that patients can observe experiments with these smart robots from a safe distance. Argall, who already has lab space in RIC’s current building, said that being situated within a hospital has helped shape her lab’s research priorities.

“It has enabled us to see beyond simply identifying opportunities where autonomous robots might provide a solution, to understanding which solutions will most directly impact our patients,” she said. “We can push this even further in the new hospital, once all of the walls between research and clinical practice are quite literally taken down.”

RIC will also have its own imaging suite for the first time, which will be run with Feinberg’s Department of Radiology. On-site access to MRIs, CT scans and other types of imaging will enable more cost-effective care and ease logistics for clinical care and research, knocking down one more barrier that currently stands in the way of scientific discovery.

Lieber acknowledges that it may seem obvious that clinicians and investigators should work together to achieve the best patient outcomes. But it’s easier said than done.

“Everyone’s really busy. Doctors are flying around treating patients, dictating notes. Scientists are writing grants, analyzing data,” he said. “That’s why co-localizing is so critical. Any barrier to communication and collaboration is a barrier that has to go. Space is one of those barriers.”

Construction of the new AbilityLab, begun in 2013, should be completed by the end of 2016, with patients and scientists moving in at the end of March 2017.

Richard Lieber, PhD, MBA, is overseeing plans for the new building. Lieber joined RIC and Feinberg in 2014.
Inflammatory Skin Diseases and Cardiovascular Risk
Jonathan Silverberg, MD, PhD, MPH

Q&A

What are your research interests?
I am very interested in inflammatory skin disease, particularly atopic dermatitis (eczema), contact dermatitis and photosensitive disorders. I am studying the epidemiology and burden of disease for atopic dermatitis and other inflammatory skin diseases. We are finding that the burden is much more extensive than we imagined – for both adults and children – and are now considering atopic dermatitis to be a systemic disorder with a multi-organ burden.

What is the ultimate goal of your research?
First, I’m hoping to identify novel modifiable risk factors for inflammatory skin diseases and develop clinical and epidemiological interventions to prevent these disorders throughout the US population. This includes improving our understanding of the genetics and gene-environment interactions in adult atopic dermatitis.

Second, I am working on developing improved assessments for patients with chronic itch that can help us to better understand how best to reduce the itch, which is so life altering for our patients.

Finally, I am working toward improving our understanding of the direct and indirect burden of inflammatory skin diseases, including their relationship with other health conditions, such as cardiovascular disease.

How did you become interested in this area of research?
While pursuing my Master of Public Health degree, I became fascinated by the role of the “hygiene hypothesis” (that our increased cleanliness reduced the risk of developing atopic dermatitis) and how health behaviors interact with inflammation. My master’s thesis studies focused on the protective role of chickenpox infection against atopic dermatitis. Since then, I have grown to recognize that there are many lessons to be learned from classical chronic disease epidemiology that apply to skin diseases.

I have also learned that there is a lot of confusion about these disorders among patients and providers and a huge patient-burden of disease that has not been well-described. Studying these different issues has led me down a number of fun methodologic journeys, including population-based research, “big-data” analyses of health records, clinical epidemiology, improving the validity of epidemiological research in skin disease, systematic review and meta-analysis, biobanking, qualitative and mixed methods.

What types of collaborations are you engaged in across campus (and beyond)?
I am collaborating with NUgene and eMERGE in order to study the genetics of atopic dermatitis. I am also fortunate to have outstanding collaborators from Medical Social Sciences, Preventive Medicine and IPHAM on a number of different projects related to chronic itch and skin disease.

What are some of your personal hobbies/interests?
I spend most of my personal time with my wife and kids and am slightly obsessed with CrossFit.
Melina R. Kibbe, MD, Edward G. Elcock Professor of Surgical Research, is the winner of the 2016 Tripartite Legacy Faculty Prize in Translational Science and Education. As a surgeon-scientist, Kibbe’s research focuses on developing novel therapies for patients with vascular disease while simultaneously studying the mechanism of how these therapies impact the vascular wall. Watch a video about her award-winning career.

The Medical Faculty Council honored two faculty members with Mentor of Year Awards. The winners are Diane B. Wayne, MD, Vice Dean for Education and Dr. John Sherman Appleman Professor of Medicine and Medical Education and Kenzie A. Cameron, PhD, MPH, Research Associate Professor of Medicine in the Divisions of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. Watch a video about their approaches to mentoring.

Research Day participants competed for awards in five areas of research during the annual poster session. Winners were selected based on a given set of criteria, as determined by pre-assigned judges who are experts in the presenters’ research area. This year’s winners are:

**Basic Science Research**
- First: Tomokazu Souma, MD, PhD
- Second: Rahul Rai, MBBS
- Third: Xianghui Zou

**Clinical Research**
- First: Mark C. Kendall, MD
- Second: Ashley L. Devonshire, MD, MPH
- Third: Ryan Buck, MD

**Public Health and Social Sciences Research**
- First: Hawkins C. Gay, MD, MPH
- Second: Elaine O. Cheung, PhD
- Third: Salva Balbale, MS

**Award for Excellence in Women’s Health Research**
- **Basic Science**
  - Katarina Kotnik Halavaty, PhD
- **Clinical, Education or Public Health**
  - Natasha Lewis, MD

**Education Research**
- First: Karl Y. Bilimoria, MD, MS
- Second: Elaine Cohen
- Third: Samuel K. Chu, MD
Full Spectrum Research Administration Support
Nina Pourahmadi, MA, Research Administrator, Office for Research

What is your educational background?
I hold a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a master’s degree in quantitative methods from the University of Texas at Austin.

Tell us about your professional background.
Throughout both my undergraduate and graduate studies I worked as a research assistant in various labs and educational centers. These positions provided me invaluable opportunities to develop a range of qualitative and quantitative skills, including interview coding and data management and analysis. Prior to joining Research Administration Services, I worked for a year and a half as a regulatory coordinator in NUCATS.

Why did you choose to work at Northwestern?
After completing my graduate program, I found myself back in Chicago ready to start my career and began researching potential opportunities. My father was a professor, so growing up immersed in university culture, the prospect of working at Northwestern University was extremely attractive to me.

How do you help scientists and/or research students at the medical school?
I provide a full range of grants administration support for PIs in the Ken & Ruth Davee Department of Neurology and the Department of Urology. More specifically, I coordinate pre-award grant applications for federal and non-federal sponsors, facilitate the negotiation of clinical trial agreements with industry sponsors and manage post-award financial tracking, progress reporting, salary planning and effort reporting.

What is your favorite part of the job?
My favorite part of working as a research administrator is having the opportunity to meet with the investigators I support on a regular basis. The research they are conducting is fascinating and their commitment to and excitement about their research is motivating.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, trying new restaurants and traveling – I’m always planning my next adventure!

Connect with Nina on LinkedIn.

Faculty Appointed Nigeria’s Minister of Health

Isaac Adewole, MBBS, adjunct professor of Medicine and a native of Nigeria, has been sworn in as the African country’s minister of health.

Formerly vice-chancellor of the University of Ibadan, the first medical school in Nigeria, Dr. Adewole has collaborated with faculty in Feinberg’s Center for Global Health on several studies supported by the National Institutes of Health. Since 2010, he has been a principal investigator of the Medical Education Partnership Initiative, a consortium that includes Feinberg that was developed to transform medical education at the six leading medical schools in Nigeria.

“My current assignment at the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria will not hinder my role at Northwestern University,” he said. “Rather, I will use my current position to strengthen collaboration between Northwestern and the Federal Ministry of Health as well as other affiliated institutions in Nigeria. My plan is to leverage on my long-term relationship with colleagues at Northwestern to support my vision of eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV infection in my country.”

Dr. Adewole has served as a physician and professor of obstetrics and gynecology for several decades in Nigeria. Through his research, he investigates methods for increasing cervical cancer screenings, decreasing unwanted pregnancies and eliminating pediatric HIV in his country.
Improving Health Outcomes in Nigeria
Jonah Musa, Health Sciences Integrated PhD Program

Jonah Musa obtained a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation from Northwestern in 2009 with support from the Northwestern University AIDS International Training and Research Program (NU-AITRP).

His desire to have a deeper and broader view of issues affecting poor health outcomes was the major attraction for enrolling into the Health Sciences Integrated PhD program.

It was a shocking and fascinating epiphany to discover that health problems could be solved based on asking the right questions, designing appropriate methodologies to find the correct answers and in turn taking the appropriate actions. The experience at the masters level gave me a bird’s-eye view of the enormous opportunities and possibilities that can make a positive impact on health care systems and that could lead to improvement in individual and population health.

My desire to have a deeper and broader view of issues affecting poor health outcomes was the major attraction for enrolling into the PhD program at Northwestern. Indeed, I’m beginning to see things more deeply and widely now. I’ve started to understand how personal, community, economic, clinical and public policy variables interact to shape health systems and the various levels at which we can intervene to improve the health outcomes of individuals, populations in a global landscape.

What has been your best experience at Feinberg?
Discovering the dynamism in science and the need to keep searching for “the truth.” Learning that “good science and research takes us closer to the truth” gives me inspiration and joy!

How would you describe the faculty at Feinberg?
Fabulous! Very experienced and dedicated faculty, always willing to help students understand, discover and realize their great potentials in research and academia. Many of the faculty have stimulated my interest in very difficult research areas such as “decision analysis” in medicine. I love their commitment, team science and the interdisciplinary approach to solving research problems.

What do you do in your free time?
I have a lovely wife and two little kids who are always competing for my free time! It’s always fun to be with them, either at home, recreational parks, restaurants or visiting friends.

What are your plans for after graduation?
I want to be a successful academic and independent investigator in epidemiology and health services research and contribute to the understanding of effective, cost-saving interventions for improving cancer outcomes in low-resource settings.

Q&A

Where is your hometown?
I’m a Nigerian, born and raised in Kaduna, northern Nigeria.

What are your research interests?
I focus on epidemiology and health services research to better understand factors associated with prevention and early detection of cervical cancer in low-resource settings, particularly among HIV infected populations.

What exciting projects are you working on?
I’m part of the research team collaboration between the Northwestern Center for Global Health and the University of Jos, Nigeria, on HIV-associated malignancies.

Being a clinician from Nigeria, with prior clinical research experience on cervical cancer prevention among HIV infected population, I’m now focusing on developing and utilizing health services research methodologies to understand how health care delivery factors inter-play with social, environmental, economic and patient-related factors in cancer prevention and treatment outcomes in Nigeria.

What attracted you to the PhD program?
My previous training experience at Feinberg was an eye-opener to the critical role of capacity building for research as the ultimate investment that holds promise for curing the myriad of health problems around the world.
Research in the News

**HealthDay, March 3**
Low Vitamin D Levels May Signal More Aggressive Prostate Cancer
Adam Murphy was quoted.

► This research was also featured in UPI, Health Newsline, Latin Post, Medical News Today, Tech Times, NDTV, WTOP (Washington, D.C.)

**US News and World Report, March 3**
Smartphone Blood-Pressure App Often Wrong, Study Finds
Clyde Yancy was quoted.

**Huffington Post, March 11**
Does Exercise Affect How Well You Sleep?
Kelly Glazer Baron was quoted.

**Pacific Standard, March 11**
Study in Brazil Links Zika Virus to Eye Damage in Babies
You’re Pregnant. What Do You Know About the Medication You’re Taking?
Op-Ed by Crystal Clark

**USA Today, March 14**
Acne: It’s not contagious and other things dermatologists want you to know
Bethanee Schlosser was quoted.

**Chicago Tribune, March 21**
Kids who end up in juvenile jail have high rates of drug dependency: Northwestern study
Leah Welty was quoted.

**U.S. News and World Report, March 24**
‘Love Hormone’ Levels in Pregnancy May Point to Risk for Postpartum Depression
Suena Massey was quoted.

**Crain’s Chicago Business, Mar 24**
Smarter tools for brain surgery
Maciej Lesniak was quoted.

More media coverage available online.

NUCATS Corner

**Recruitment Tips for Clinical Trials**

Difficulty reaching a target population, challenging protocols and participants’ lack of willingness to join are all common challenges scientists face when recruiting for a clinical trial. To help research teams effectively identify and recruit potential study participants, **NUCATS Center for Clinical Research** offers a variety of services to help overcome common challenges and barriers.

NUCATS research recruitment coordinators do much more than develop and place advertisements during clinical trial recruitment. They also develop unique plans based on the study’s target population, budget and needs of each study team.

They also collaborate with the **Northwestern Medicine Electronic Data Warehouse** team and **Center for Community Health** (CCH) to gain valuable insights about the individuals they are recruiting and how to approach them in a community-engaged, culturally responsive way.

The following services are provided as part of a comprehensive recruitment plan or on an individual basis:

- Development and implementation of a customized recruitment strategy
- Design of digital and print study marketing materials
- Execution of print and digital marketing including Facebook ads, Google Adwords, email marketing campaigns and leveraging relationships with media vendors for reduced ad rates
- Pre-screening of potential participants and working with the study team to develop paper/online screening questions

Whether a study team is writing a grant, submitting to the IRB, about to start or in the midst of recruiting, NUCATS can help. For more information about recruitment services or to request recruitment assistance, email **nucatsrecruitment@northwestern.edu** or contact Ashley Sipocz at 312-503-2289.
Sponsored Research

PI: Chyung-Ru Wang, PhD
professor of Microbiology-Immunology
Sponsor: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
Title: “The Role of Group 1 CD1-restricted T Cells in Infectious Disease”

One of the goals of Wang’s lab is to develop new T cell-based vaccines for microbial infection. Group 1 CD1-restricted T cells are good targets for vaccine design because they respond to similar lipid antigens in most individuals. In this study, Wang’s team will characterize group 1 CD1-restricted T cell responses during Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtbd) and Staphylococcus aureus (SA) infection. Both Mtbd and SA are bacterial pathogens of immense clinical relevance. However, there are no effective vaccines against these bacteria. Therefore, understanding of the contribution of group 1 CD-1 restricted T cells in immune protection or immune pathology during infections will facilitate the development of vaccine strategies that target these T cells.

They will evaluate whether memory group 1 CD1-restricted T cells can be generated in secondary Mtbd infection and determine the molecular and cellular events associated with the induction of memory group 1 CD1-restricted T cells.

Then they will evaluate the surface phenotype, functional properties of these T cells and determine whether they play a protective role during Mtbd infection. Finally, they plan to assess the kinetics, expansion and function of group 1 CD1-restricted T cells in the context of a systemic SA infection and identify the structure of stimulatory SA lipid antigens.

PI: Mark Molitch, MD, the Martha Leland Sherwin Professor of Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Molecular Medicine
Sponsor: National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Title: “10/22 Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study (DPPOS) Phase 3-Research Project”

Pre-diabetes and Type 2 diabetes (T2D) affect more than 100,000,000 individuals in the U.S., with the total cost of T2D currently estimated at $245 billion. The Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study (DPPOS) is focused examining the long-term effects of the early use (starting before diabetes develops) of metformin (MET), one of the most commonly used medications in the world and lifestyle interventions (LSI).

The DPPOS cohort includes nearly 1600 patients with known T2D duration and 1200 who have not developed T2D. In this phase three study, Molitch and his team plan to follow the cohort for 10 years, taking advantage of the long-term randomized exposure of MET and LSI on the densely phenotyped and genotyped cohort, to address yet-unanswered questions about pre-diabetes.

Among other aims, his team will examine how MET and LSI impact the development of significant morbidities such as cancer and cardiovascular disease and help understand the clinical course of abnormal glucose levels from the pre-diabetic state through early and more advanced T2D.

Welcome New Faculty

Gabriela Caraveo Piso, PhD, joins as assistant professor of Neurology. Caraveo Piso comes from the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research where she was a postdoctoral associate in the lab of Susan Lindquist, a pioneer in the study of protein folding.

Caraveo Piso graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico with a bachelor’s degree in biology. She continued her education at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and obtained a PhD in immunology.

Her research is focused on the role that Ca²⁺ signaling plays in the toxicity caused by α-syn, a small lipid binding protein whose misfolding results in a group of neurological disorders collectively known as synucleinopathies such as Parkinson Disease, Dementia with Lewy Bodies and Multiple Systems Atrophy, among others. She uses diverse model systems, from yeast to mammalian neurons, in her lab.
Feinberg Rises in School Rankings

Feinberg has risen two spots to rank 17th among the best research-oriented medical schools in the country, according to the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings.

“This year's ranking recognizes Feinberg’s exceptional accomplishments and our upward trajectory among the nation's elite medical schools,” said Eric G. Neilson, MD, vice president for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean. “The outstanding achievements of our faculty, trainees, students and staff continue to reinforce our reputation for academic excellence and leading-edge research.”

This is the ninth year in a row Feinberg has placed as a top 20 research-oriented medical school and this year’s ranking presents an all-time high.

Three of Feinberg’s specialty programs also rated highly, with Pediatrics ranked 14th, Women’s Health ranked 10th and Internal Medicine ranked 17th.

Feinberg’s Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences was also ranked 6th in the listing of best physical therapy programs in the country.

U.S. News assessments are compiled based on peer surveys completed by deans and senior faculty, National Institutes of Health research activity, student selectivity and faculty resources. All 140 fully accredited medical schools and 30 schools of osteopathic medicine in the United States were surveyed.

Feinberg also moved up in this year’s U.S. News ranking of the best medical schools for primary care, rising 12 spots to 17th. That list factors in the proportion of graduates who enter primary care residencies, rather than research activity.
Liaison librarians at Galter Health Sciences Library are primary contacts between the library and your department, institute, center or educational program. Feinberg faculty, staff and students can contact their liaison librarian for information about any library service or issue. They are well-informed about the library’s collections, services, policies and resources and strives to keep up-to-date with the latest research coming out of your department to match library and information services to departmental needs.

What can your liaison librarian do for you?
They can work with you to insure that information literacy and evidence-based practice are fully incorporated into your curricula. Liaison librarians have developed teaching partnerships with faculty in several departments and taught courses or provided guest lectures in a wide array programs at Feinberg.

- Lead in-person workshops or develop online guides and screencasts explaining how to search specific bibliographic databases such as PubMed or how to efficiently use other research tools like EndNote, Covidence or GeneGo Metacore.
- Show you how to deposit your work into DigitalHub, Northwestern Medicine’s institutional repository, created by Galter Library, to enable other researchers to discover your scholarly output through Google and other search engines. The more discoverable your work is, the more likely it will be cited.
- Help you comply with Open Access mandates and find evidence to describe the impact of your work for grant applications, biosketches and annual reports.

Systematic review services
There has been an explosion in the publication of systematic reviews over the past decade. In 2015, Galter librarians collaborated on nearly 30 systematic review projects with Feinberg faculty and other researchers from across the globe, including reviews produced or supported by the Cochrane Heart Group U.S. Satellite, based at Feinberg.

Several liaison librarians have completed continuing education training on systematic review methods. We offer in-depth systematic review services and can collaborate with you in several phases of the systematic review process including:

- Formulating a focused and answerable research question.
- Investigating whether there is already a published systematic review on your topic or whether there is a review currently under development.
- Planning the search and writing the search methods for your review protocol.
- Determining the most appropriate sources to search based on your topic and developing sensitive search strategies for each source.
- Identifying appropriate search filters and executing the searches.
- Delivering de-duplicated search results in a mutually agreed upon format (e.g. EndNote, RIS, Word, Covidence).
- Identifying tools and strategies for review management.
- Capturing data for the PRISMA flow diagram.
- Documenting the search and study selection process for reporting purposes and writing the search methods of the review.

A rigorous systematic review is a team effort. Many tasks in the systematic review process, such as screening search results and data extraction should be performed by more than one individual or require individuals with specialized skills. Sharing tasks also increases efficiency and reduces risk of bias.

Ideally, your team should include subject specialists, a systematic review methods expert, a librarian or information specialist with training in systematic review methods and a quantitative methods/meta-analysis specialist.

If you have questions about systematic review services or any other library resources or services, do not hesitate to contact your liaison librarian.
Help Feinberg Track Journals

The Feinberg Research Office regularly tracks research published by Feinberg investigators. The citations are used on web pages, in newsletters and social media, for internal reporting and more. To more accurately track these journals, the Research Office asks that Feinberg investigators use the following institution name in the address field when publishing in peer-reviewed journals: “Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.”
Tuesday, April 14
Keratins and Lamins Unite to Protect the Liver: Disease Perspectives and Therapeutic Approaches

M. Bishr Omary, MD, PhD, Professor, University of Michigan Medical School, will present.

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Location: Wieboldt Hall North Entrance
Room 408
339 E. Chicago Avenue
Contact: b-jaron@northwestern.edu
More information

Wednesday, April 20
20th Annual Drug Discovery Symposium

The event includes a faculty talk, keynote lecture and poster session.

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Robert H Lurie Medical Research Center
Hughes Auditorium/Ryan Atrium
303 E. Superior
Contact: More information/register now

Tuesday, April 26
Using Genetic Approaches to Study Host-Microbe Interactions

Sara Cherry, PhD, associate professor, University of Pennsylvania, to present.

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Location: Robert H Lurie Medical Research Center
Baldwin Auditorium
303 E. Superior
Contact: derek.walsh@northwestern.edu
More information

NIH News

New Hope for Unfunded Projects
The NIH receives more high quality research proposals than it can fund, but now there is a pilot program in place to help highly-qualified applicants find funding outside of the NIH, in the private sector. The Online Partnership to Accelerate Research (OnPAR) program, operated by Leidos Life Sciences, will act as a matchmaker between unfunded NIH applicants and private research funders.

Applicants who qualify for potential funding opportunities through the OnPAR pilot will be contacted by NIH program officers. These select applicants include those who have:

- Undergone Council review within the past year
- Have scored well (i.e., within the 30th percentile or promising non-percnetiled applications)
- Were unfunded
- Have research proposals that fall under the missions of the participating private funders.

Applicants, at their discretion, can decide whether to submit materials to OnPAR for consideration of private funding. Read more about this program in an editorial published in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

Changes to Application Forms
New FORMS-D application packages are now in circulation. These new forms are part of a revamped application guide designed to make NIH grant funding applications easier to use and understand. These new forms are to be used for due dates on or after May 25. Find out more about this change, which is a critical part of the NIH’s implementation of Phase II of the 2016 policy changes outlined in NOT-OD-16-004.

New NIH Grants and Funding Website
The NIH’s central resource for grants and funding information, grants.nih.gov, has a new look, with simpler pages and a more user-friendly interface and design. Check out the revamped website and share your feedback on the reworked the home page, how to apply page, forms page, the landing pages for the tabs and more.

Follow Feinberg Social Media

More Events
Event organizers are encouraged to submit calendar items on Plan-it Purple for consideration. Please contact the Research Office with further questions.