



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY

# FSM Research Newsletter

Feinberg School of Medicine - Office for Research



May 2009

## In this Issue:

- 3 Meet Melina Kibbe, MD, RVT
- 3 Lung Sciences Training Program at FSM
- 4 Ruchi Gupta Receives Faculty Scholars Award
- 4 Animal Research Corner
- 5 Student Profile
- 6 Staff Profile
- 7 Sponsored Awards
- 8 Upcoming Events
- 8 Funding Opportunities



## Prostate Cancer SPORE Receives Five-Year Grant



The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University is home to one of the U. S.'s 11 prostate cancer Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs). Funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health, the SPORE brings together a multidisciplinary team of the Feinberg School of Medicine's basic scientists, epidemiologists, urologists, oncologists, pathologists, and statisticians, who are working together to develop innovative approaches to prostate cancer research. With new funding providing \$11.5 million over the next five years, this SPORE, which was first funded in 2001, is positioned to advance research aimed at improving prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment for this disease, which accounts for more than 25,000 deaths in the U.S. each year.

The Northwestern-based SPORE represents a consortium of investigators from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, The University of Chicago, University of Pittsburgh, and North Shore

University Health System (formerly Evanston Northwestern Healthcare). The principal investigator is Chung Lee, PhD, the John Grayhack Professor of Urology, Feinberg School. Co-principal investigators are William Catalona, MD, professor of urology, Feinberg School, and Walter Stadler, MD, University of Chicago. The scientific administrator is Robin Leikin, PhD, research assistant professor, Feinberg School, and scientific program director, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"Five years of new funding from the NCI is a major investment in our efforts to understand prostate cancer," says Dr. Lee. "It allows us to continue to tackle projects aimed at all aspects of the disease, including prevention, early detection, and finding innovative ways to treat patients with disease and improve their quality of life." Dr. Lee says the funding helps SPORE projects currently under way, and he underscores the fact that all four of these are translational research projects. "One of the most significant features of a SPORE

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

such as ours is that it unites basic and clinical researchers. It is a link from the bench to the bedside.”

There are four SPORE research projects currently under way.

**Project 1. 5-Alpha Reductase Inhibition in Intermittent Androgen Ablation Therapy in Prostate Cancer** led by principal investigator Zhou Wang, PhD, professor of urology and co-principal investigator Daniel Shevrin, MD, associate professor of medicine. This study is exploring ways to optimize the use of intermittent androgen ablation therapy (IAAT), possibly building a rationale for a phase III clinical trial to determine if dutasteride administration in IAAT can prolong survival in patients with metastatic disease.

**Project 2. PEDF Regulation of Adipogenesis and Leptin in Prostate Cancer** led by Susan Crawford, MD, professor of pathology, principal investigator, and Jennifer Doll, PhD, co-principal investigator. Preliminary studies suggest that a signaling network exists between fat cells, leptin, and pigment epithelium-derived factor, and that dysregulation of any one of these factors can promote a pro-tumorigenic environment. This project may provide mechanistic insight into the increased cancer risk in obese patients and may identify new prognostic markers for prostate cancer.

**Project 3. Radiation-Inducible TNF-alpha Therapy for Prostate Cancer** led by principal investigator Ralph Weichselbaum, MD, professor of radiology, University of Chicago and co-principal investigator Walter Stadler, MD, professor of medicine, University of Chicago. This study explores a number of aspects of TNF-alpha as a radiosensitizing antitumor agent. Among its objectives, it will try to determine whether STAT1 and NFkB overexpression are associated with tumor recurrence in a historical group of locally-advanced prostate cancer patients, with the prediction that the association will

be stronger in patients treated with radiotherapy than in patients treated with surgery.

**Project 4. Modulation of Prostate Cancer Cell Motility by the**

**Chemopreventive Agent Genistein** led by principal investigator Raymond Bergan, MD, associate professor of medicine, Feinberg School, and co-principal investigator William Catalona, MD, professor of urology. This study is evaluating genistein, a putative prostate cancer chemotherapeutic agent. Preliminary studies demonstrate that genistein inhibits prostate cancer cell detachment and invasion that are initial steps in metastasis. The investigators hypothesize that this agent will also inhibit prostate cancer metastasis by inhibiting the movement of prostate cancer cells from the prostate gland into the circulation in man.

In addition to the research projects, the prostate cancer SPORE includes Core facilities that support the research; the Developmental Research Program, which funds promising polite projects; and the Career Development Program, which recruits junior investigators.

There are four prostate cancer SPORE Cores.

(1.) The Administrative Core directed by Drs. Lee, Catalona, and Stadler. Dr. Robin Leikin is the scientific administrator. This core plays a central role in guiding SPORE investigators through program management and, according to Dr. Leikin, is an active command structure. “This Core makes the decisions necessary to focus and optimize SPORE research activities so that we can achieve our goals,” she says. The Core’s responsibilities are numerous and include scheduling and leading monthly SPORE meetings, submitting progress reports, providing financial oversight for all SPORE projects, and arranging collaborations with the major institutional programs, to name just a few.

(2.) The Biostatistics/Bioinformatics Core, directed by Borko Jovanovic, PhD, research associate professor of preventive medicine, and Warren Kibbe, PhD,

research associate professor. This core maintains and develops the clinical and tissue databases of the SPORE and provides biostatistical support to all projects.

(3.) The Clinical Trials and Advocacy Core directed by Timothy Kuzel, MD, professor of medicine, Walter Stadler, MD, and Daniel Shevrin, MD. This core is an essential resource for investigators who want to translate SPORE laboratory research studies to the clinic, and supports the SPORE’s Advocate Outreach Program activities.

(4.) The Specimen Procurement Core directed by Karen Kaul, MD, PhD, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, and Ximing Yang, MD, PhD, professor of pathology. This core is responsible for the collection, maintenance, and distribution of high-quality biologic samples from a spectrum of prostate cancer and control patients, along with clinical and pathologic data on these samples.

According to Dr. Lee, the Developmental Research Program is a vital part of the prostate Cancer SPORE. “The program gives us a mechanism to bring the latest technologies and opportunities into translational research,” he says. “It has already enabled our SPORE to support innovative studies by both junior and established investigators who have, in several instances, developed their projects into full SPORE projects or have obtained national funding for their studies. This program helps us assure continued interest and commitment to prostate cancer research.”

Similarly, Dr. Lee notes, the Career Development Program of the SPORE helps recruit talented investigators to a career in translational prostate cancer research. “Being the site of one of only 11 prostate cancer SPOREs in the U.S. positions Northwestern University as a leader in efforts to better understand this disease and find ways to treat it,” Dr. Lee adds. “Our new, five-year funding will help us further those goals.”

## Meet Dr. Melina Kibbe, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery



Melina Kibbe, MD, RVT  
Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery

### *What are your research interests?*

My research is focused on nitric oxide (NO)-based therapies as a means to help patients with vascular disease.

### *What research projects are you currently pursuing?*

Nitric oxide is an amazing molecule with excellent vasoprotective qualities. But in patients who undergo vascular surgeries, that protection is compromised when the endothelial layer

within an artery is damaged. I am currently working on a number of projects that may provide options for restoring the vasoprotection through NO. I am working with my colleague, Guillermo Ameer, ScD, who is a member of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Northwestern's McCormick College of Engineering. With Dr. David Dean of the Department of Medicine, we received a Drew Senyei, MD, Translational Research Award for our study, "Development of an Endothelial Progenitor Cell-Lined Spontaneous Nitric Oxide-Releasing Prosthetic Graft for Vascular Surgery." That work is ongoing, and I am also exploring options such as an NO gel and a biodegradable NO-releasing wrap that could be used at the anastomosis site following vascular surgery.

My research has also led me to some interesting gender-oriented work. With support from Dr. Teresa Woodruff and the Institute for Women's Health Research, I began a study to determine whether using NO to extend the effectiveness of vascular procedures produced different results in male and female animals. To my surprise, I found that it did, with male animals responding better to NO-based therapy. I am excited about this early finding, which may lead to further insights into how cardiovascular therapy results may differ in men and women. This kind of research may ultimately help us develop better, more targeted approaches in caring for our patients.

I also am involved in some cellular/molecular research studies. I am studying how NO inhibits vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation by focusing on the role of NO in regulating the cell cycle, the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway, and apoptosis.

### *What are the objectives of your research interests?*

My work is aimed at finding ways to use NO to help improve the outcomes of surgeries for patients with vascular disease. Specifically I hope my work will help us extend the life of vascular grafts so that patients can avoid the need for additional surgeries.

### *What are some of the challenges you face?*

Funding is always a challenge, and so I am grateful for opportunities such as the Senyei Award and the support from the Institute for Women's Health Research. These help augment the KO8 grants, which can't really support all the resources I need. Of course, time is also a challenge. Being a surgeon with both clinical and basic research interests requires me to be very disciplined, and so I am lucky to work in a supportive environment. My clinical work is done at the Jesse Brown Veterans Medical Center, with a very specific schedule of responsibilities. On the days when I am not there, I am able to focus on the research.

## FSM Awarded Funding for Lung Sciences Training Program

Northwestern University's Lung Sciences Training program (NULSTP) trains 8 pre- and postdoctoral trainees for an academic career in the pathobiology of lung disease research. The program's curriculum that includes didactic coursework and provides basic and/or clinical research training, supervision, and guidance by a multidisciplinary group of mentors from the departments of Medicine, Cell and Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biomedical Engineering on both the Chicago and Evanston campuses.

The long-term goal of this program is to

encourage bright, enthusiastic, well-trained pre-doctoral candidates and post-doctoral MDs and PhDs to pursue careers in lung biology research, make them knowledgeable about the complexities associated with conducting scientifically and ethically sound research, and maximize the likelihood they will develop into independent investigators in this area of investigation. The program builds upon the strengths of current training initiatives in the basic sciences, translational, public health, and health services research and on the considerable scientific and research training experiences of the faculty participating in our training grant. All of these factors make



Drs. Scott Budinger, Karen Ridge, Peter Sporn and Jacob I. Sznajder lead the NULSTP program.

Northwestern University an ideal site for the Training Program in Lung Sciences.

## Dr. Ruchi Gupta Receives Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Faculty Scholars Award



**R**uchi S. Gupta, MD MPH, assistant professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, was recently awarded the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Physician Faculty Scholars award to continue her study of the community impact on childhood asthma. Dr. Gupta's research indicates that childhood asthma rates in Chicago vary significantly by neighborhood, even among adjacent communities and neighborhoods with similar racial/ethnic populations. As a Physician Faculty Scholar, she will work to gain a better understanding of the potential community factors contributing to this finding, focusing specifically on Chicago's Humboldt Park. Her project, entitled "The

Impact of Community Factors on Childhood Asthma," is designed to identify community factors associated with childhood asthma, evaluate the perceived relevance of these factors for Humboldt Park residents, and explore which strategies and resources residents feel are critical to address these factors in their community. At the completion of this project, Dr. Gupta will be uniquely positioned to work with community organizations, leaders, and residents in order to design an asthma intervention specifically tailored to meet the needs of the Humboldt Park community. This will give her the skills to then improve asthma at a community level in other neighborhoods in the US.

Dr. Gupta has a joint appointment to Northwestern University's Institute for Healthcare Studies and the Smith Child Health Research Program at Children's Memorial Hospital. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Asthma Consortium and the Steering Committee of the Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities. Dr. Gupta received a BS in biology and an MD from the University of Louisville, where she was awarded the Guaranteed Entrance to Medical School Scholarship. She completed her residency at the University of Seattle and was

honored with the Fitzhugh Mullen Resident Leadership Award and the American Medical Association's National Leadership Award. Following residency, Dr. Gupta entered the National Research Service Award (NRSA) T32 Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship at Children's Hospital Boston and received an MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. She then continued as a NRSA fellow at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, where she is currently on faculty.

As an academic pediatrician, Dr. Gupta's primary goal is to reduce childhood asthma prevalence, severity and disparities. Her interest in childhood asthma began early in her career, while a resident in an inner-city practice. Dr. Gupta was amazed at how common asthma was among her low-income, minority patients, many of whom were debilitated with frequent exacerbations and hospitalizations. Driven to improve the lives of these children and their families, Dr. Gupta began her study of asthma as a fellow, where she collaborated on two studies assessing disparities in childhood asthma. Since that time, she has conducted several studies and published multiple papers investigating asthma and asthma disparities.

### ANIMAL RESEARCH CORNER

**W**ith the warm summer months on the horizon, we would like to remind everyone of appropriate attire for the animal facilities. When you enter the animal facilities, you must wear long pants and covered shoes. This is to protect your skin from spills and your feet from injuries from heavy equipment. Scrubs are available on both campuses for your use. In Evanston, they are located in the Pancoe researcher restrooms in the basement. In Lurie, scrubs may be found on both the basement and sub-basement levels just outside the male and female locker rooms. It is recommended to keep a pair of tennis shoes under your desk in the event you need to enter the animal facilities and are wearing open-toed shoes.

Some of you may have noticed the recent change in PPE (personal protective equipment) requirements for the sub-basement in the Lurie building. Personnel are no longer required to put on PPE at the entrance to the Lurie sub-basement animal facility. Instead, PPE stations located in each suite will contain all of the necessary PPE for the animal holding rooms located in that specific suite. No PPE

will be required for movement through the corridors of the sub-basement. When exiting the animal holding room, all PPE should be removed and thrown away before leaving the suite. If transporting animals outside of the facility, remember to save your lab coat for covering the cages. In all other instances, PPE can be worn between rooms and suites as long as appropriate entry order is followed. PPE requirements for the Lurie basement barrier facility and Pancoe facilities are not affected by this policy.

Finally, as a reminder, when transporting cages out of the animal facilities, it is required that you keep your animals covered at all times to reduce your exposure to animal allergens and allow discretion when moving animals. If you are transporting animal cages on a cart with multiple levels, please make sure that all levels/cages are covered. It is acceptable to use disposable lab coats for this purpose. To help reduce costs and in an effort to become "greener," please recycle your lab coats and use them to cover animals during transport.



## Student Profile: Kristen Mighty



Kristen Mighty: IGP Program

### *Where is your hometown?*

I was raised in Broadview, IL, a western suburb of Chicago, and my family still lives there. I went to Nazareth Academy in LaGrange Park, IL for high school.

### *Where did you go for your undergraduate degree?*

I attended the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC) and earned two degrees, one in chemistry and the other in microbiology.

### *What are your research interests?*

At UIUC, I did my undergraduate thesis research in the laboratory of Dr. John Katzenellenbogen developing a fluorescence-based assay for determining the affinity of agonist and antagonist ligands for the estrogen receptor. While working in this laboratory, I discovered my passion for research and decided to continue on to graduate school. With respect to my research interests, I enjoyed working on the biochemical aspect of research but found that I wanted to focus on the infectious diseases that cause human disease for my graduate studies. Now, I work in the laboratory of Dr. Laimonis Laimins studying the function of a specific protein in the life cycle of human papillomavirus.

### *What exciting projects are you working on?*

The Laimins laboratory studies the molecular biology of human

papillomaviruses (HPV) and their association with cervical cancer. Although HPV infection is highly prevalent, its progression to cervical cancer is rare. Still, cervical cancer remains a major public health concern as it accounts for 6 percent of all female malignancies, is the third leading cancer killer of women worldwide, and there are no effective treatment options available. For my thesis work, I am carrying out a genetic and proteomic analysis of E1<sup>E4</sup> in order to determine its role in the Human Papillomavirus life cycle. These studies prove to give insight into mechanistically, how E1<sup>E4</sup> may carry out its function in the viral life cycle and may even provide opportunities for the development of effective treatment options.

### *What attracted you to the IGP program?*

When I was applying to graduate school, Northwestern was the only program that offered a PhD/MPH dual degree program and I was very interested in pursuing an MPH. Once I came to Northwestern to interview, I was so impressed with how approachable the faculty were and how welcoming and satisfied the students seemed when I met them. After I interviewed, I received emails from some of the faculty I interviewed with and that really impressed me and solidified my decision to come to Northwestern. Overall, I am satisfied with my training here at Northwestern.

### *How often do you have to travel between the EV and CHI campus?*

In my second year of graduate school, I was appointed to the Cellular and Molecular Basis of Disease training grant, which is comprised of faculty and students from both the Evanston and Chicago campuses as well as Children's Memorial Hospital. While part of this training grant, I traveled to the Chicago campus every other month for our research in progress meetings. I have also traveled to the Evanston campus to participate in some of the events sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and SECMA.

### *What has been the best (or worst) experience so far?*

Every person has good and bad experiences in every aspect of their lives and graduate school is no exception. Overall, I feel like I am getting some good training while developing a vision of what I want to pursue after graduate school.

### *How would you describe the faculty at FSM?*

I would describe them as very approachable. I remember the one thing that stood out to me most during interviews was how the students would address the faculty by their first names. I remember thinking to myself how just that one little thing can bring down the intimidation factor and positively influence discussion with their students. Once I came here, I found that this was true, not just with my own advisor, but other faculty as well.

### *What do you like to do for fun?*

I like to spend time with my husband and daughter in my free time.

### *What are your plans for after graduation?*

I plan to go into a position where I can utilize both my public health and scientific training. I want to focus on health promotion concentrating on disadvantaged populations.

### **Core Fact:**

*Did you know that the Transgenic & Targeted Mutagenesis Laboratory is now cryopreserving mouse sperm in addition to embryos? Recently improved techniques have made it possible to freeze sperm and reliably recover viable sperm. Sperm cryopreservation is much easier and faster to complete as compared to freezing embryos. For more information visit our web site (<http://www.cgm.northwestern.edu/cgm/Core-Facilities/Transgenic-and-Targeted-Mutagenesis-Core>) or contact Lynn Doglio ([l-doglio@northwestern.edu](mailto:l-doglio@northwestern.edu)).*

## Staff Profile: Mary K. McMahan



Mary K. McMahan, administrative director, Center for Genetic Medicine

### *How long have you been at NU?*

I came back to Northwestern in March 2008. I had previously worked here from 1992 through 2002. In 2002, I moved to California and worked at Stanford University until I moved back in 2008, when I needed to return because my mother was about to turn 90 and I felt I needed to support my siblings with her care.

### *Where are you from?*

I was born and raised on the very edge of the southwest side of Chicago (Mount Greenwood).

### *What's your education background?*

I entered Quincy College directly after high school and went for two years---didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, so I quit and started working full time. About seven years later, I decided I better finish the degree and attended Elmhurst College at night while working full time for Wrigley's Gum and received my BS in business administration.

### *What is your role at the department?*

As an administrator, I've always told my friends that I'm involved in everything but the science. Basically, you are running a small business---you manage the fiscal responsibilities (day-to-day, short- and long-term), you're the first point of contact for any HR issues, you manage grants (pre and post), facility issues,

and space.

### *What's a typical day like for you?*

When I leave work each night, I leave something on my desk that I intend to start working on the next morning. But, the reality is that 95 percent of my days start with opening e-mail and immediately starting work on something different than what I planned. I don't know an administrator who could tell you there is a typical day, other than a typical day is always being prepared for things to change.

### *Why did you choose to work here?*

Back in 1992, I came here because of an ad in the Chicago Tribune for the endocrinology administrator position. I worked for Dr. Jameson and the division grew significantly over the years, exposing me to many situations for which I needed to find solutions. As the division grew, I also grew in my experience and expertise. When I needed to move back to Chicago, I only looked at NU. I had a great experience here and CGM's interim director (Dr. Kopp) is one of the faculty members from endo whom I had worked with previously. I knew it would be a good work environment and experience.

### *What do you like/dislike about your job?*

Likes: I work with a great team of faculty and staff---it makes life very pleasant. I also enjoy the responsibilities I deal with; you feel good about yourself when you accomplish something in a positive way (either meeting a deadline, or assisting someone with a problem they have encountered). Dislikes: Space Issues. There is never enough of it and everyone has need for more. It's one of the areas where you never seem to be able to make everyone happy.

### *What are your hobbies or favorite books/movies?*

If I didn't have to work to pay the bills, I would be sitting in a ceramic's studio creating art. I spend many of my evenings and weekends with my fingers in clay. Though when I clean them off, I work on fiber art. I design and create needlepoint wall hangings.

### *Is there anything else you'd like to add?*

I was the first female to work in the manufacturing department at the Wrigley, where I made Extra® gum. Other interesting item---I went skydiving on my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and it was everything I dreamed it would be and more!

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY

**Mehmet E. Dokucu** joins as assistant professor of psychiatry. He received an MD from the University of Ege in Turkey, and a PhD in neuroscience from Washington University. Prior to joining FSM, he worked as assistant professor of psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine.

**Jindan Yu** joins as assistant professor of hematology/oncology. He received an MD from Peking University, China, and a PhD in bio-medical engineering from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Most recently, Dr. Yu was a research investigator in the department of pathology at the University of Michigan.

## Sponsored Awards



**Jonathan Leis, PhD**  
*Professor, Department of Microbiology-Immunology*

**Project Title:** Structure/Function Analysis of the Retrovirus Integrase  
**Sponsor:** National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

A tetramer structural model for the HIV-1 integrase, the enzyme responsible for inserting the viral DNA into the host chromosome, was assembled and used to predict the DNA binding sites for the viral LTR DNA ends and the target DNA. These predictions were experimentally verified using a molecular genetics approach that substituted amino acids from structurally related positions of the avian sarcoma virus into the HIV-1 integrase resulting in a changed specificity from one viral enzyme to the other. In addition, the model was successfully used to explain cross-linking, LTR DNA adduct activity data, and drug resistant sites reported in the literature.



**Jonathan Jones, PhD**  
*Professor, Cell and Molecular Biology*

**Scott Budinger, MD**  
*Associate Professor, Department of Medicine*

**Project Title:** Substrate Stiffness Regulates Alveolar Epithelial Cell Behavior

**Sponsor:** National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

A hallmark of certain pulmonary diseases is the stiffening or fibrosis of lung tissue. This grant will fund studies to assay how the stiffness of the lung regulates the function of its cellular components. The overall goal of our experiments is to provide novel insight into the mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis of lung fibrosis and will involve the analysis of pathological human tissue specimens, cell culture systems and animal models of disease



**Richard C. Scarpulla, PhD**  
*Professor, Cell and Molecular Biology*

**Project Title:** Nuclear Control of Respiratory Chain Expression

**Sponsor:** National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Mitochondria produce the bulk of cellular energy and thus are essential to normal physiological function.

Defects in mitochondrial maintenance and activity have been widely implicated in human degenerative diseases. Although mitochondria have their own genetic system, its expression is entirely dependent on nuclear genes. We have established that these genes are regulated at the transcriptional level by the interplay between nuclear respiratory factors (NRFs) and PGC-1 family coactivators. In this continuation project we propose to characterize specific targets of this transcriptional cascade with the objective of understanding the molecular genetic control of nucleo-mitochondrial interactions in mammalian cells.

## FSM in the News

### NW catches building bug

*Crain's—May 18th*

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/cgi-bin/article.pl?articleId=31760>

Its coffers bulging despite the recession, Northwestern Memorial Hospital is gearing up for more expansion.

Sources tell Crain's that two major projects are in the works at the sprawling medical campus in Streeterville: a large biomedical research facility for Northwestern University's medical school and a medical office tower for doctors who practice at the hospital.

### For Eczema, a Simple Solution

*Washington Post—May 5th*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/01/AR2009050103219.html>

Relief may be as close as the laundry room for kids who suffer from the painful and itchy skin condition known as atopic dermatitis, or eczema. In a small study, researchers at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine have found that the best treatment for the chronic condition, which affects an estimated 17 percent of school-age kids, may be as simple as mixing a small amount of bleach in the bath water.

### Right ER may be key after stroke

*Chicago Tribune—May 20th*

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-stroke-center-20-may20.0.1440806.story>

On Tuesday, the Illinois Senate voted 58-0 to establish a network of specialist stroke centers in Illinois and allow ambulances to take patients to those facilities, bypassing nearby hospitals. The Illinois House previously passed the bill unanimously, and the legislation now goes to Gov. Pat Quinn.

"We have abundant evidence that if patients are taken to a designated stroke center, they receive better care and have better outcomes," said Dr. Mark Alberts, a professor of neurology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.

### Medical students to their cadavers: Thank you

*Chicago Tribune—May 12th*

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-talk-tsouderos-cadavermay12.0.3563583.story>

In the ceremony Friday at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, dozens of students, most of them in their first year of medical school, read letters and poems aloud. One played Claude Debussy's "Reflections on the Water" on a keyboard. Students approached the microphone, thanked their cadaver by name and placed a flower in a vase. "Thank you, Patricia, for showing us you can always leave something behind to value and treasure," one student said.

Each of these acts honored an unusual group they hoped would contribute to their success as doctors: the people who had donated their bodies for dissection in gross anatomy class.

*Look for weekly event announcements and funding opportunities in your e-mail!*

## Upcoming Events

### **IBNAM Seminar and Cleanroom Open House**

*The seminar will feature two experts who use the cleanroom to conduct biomedical research.*

*Chang Liu, PhD, professor, Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering & Computer Science will discuss "Micromachining Technology and Applications in Medical Sensors."*

*Josh Goldberger, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Department of Chemistry, will present "IBNAM Cleanroom Core: Microfabrication for the Biomedical Sciences."*

**Date:** Wednesday, June 3, 2009

**Time:** 1—4p.m.

**Location:** Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, 303 E. Superior Street, Searle Seminar Room

**Contact:** Jill Wrubleski [j-wrubleski@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-wrubleski@northwestern.edu)

### **Sixteenth Annual Cancer Survivors' Celebration & Walk**

*The leisurely four-mile, non-competitive walk is expected to draw close to 4,000 participants. The walk honors survivors, and all those whose lives have been touched by cancer. It also recognizes the achievements of the Lurie Cancer Center's physicians, scientists and health professionals whose work is inspired by the courage they witness daily.*

**Day:** Sunday, June 7, 2009

**Time:** 8a.m. celebration, 9a.m. walk begins

**Location:** Grant Park, corner of Balbo Dr. & Columbus Dr.

**Contact:** 312.695.1304

**Fee:** \$15.00 registration

<http://www.cancer.northwestern.edu/walk/>

### **Twentieth Annual Scientific Poster Session**

*All students and postdoctoral fellows in laboratories of any Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University member on the Chicago, Children's Memorial or Evanston campus are invited and strongly encouraged to participate and to present a poster.*

**Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2009

**Time:** 5p.m.—7p.m.

**Location:** Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center - Atrium

**Contact:** Megan Mitchell 312.695.1391

*Event organizers are encouraged to submit calendar items on [Plan-it Purple](#). For more events, visit [www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/research/calendar/](http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/research/calendar/).*

## Funding Opportunities

### ***Translational Research in Pediatric and Obstetric Pharmacology (R21)***

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-156.html>

LOI Deadline: 8/16/2009

Amount: Because the nature and scope of the proposed research will vary from application to application, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary. The total amount awarded and the number of awards will depend upon the mechanism, numbers, quality, duration, and costs of the applications received.

Synopsis: This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) issued by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development encourages research grant applications to conduct studies to improve existing drug safety and efficacy, and to develop new drugs for pediatric and obstetric populations. The overall goals of this FOA are to support: (1) pharmacological studies addressing the special differences of drug actions and responses among children at various developmental stages, between children and adults, and between pregnant and non-pregnant women; (2) development of new drug targeting children and pregnant women; (3) multidisciplinary collaborations between basic and physician scientists to improve the use of therapeutics in obstetrics and pediatrics.

### ***Translational Research for the Prevention and Control of Diabetes and Obesity (R18)***

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-176.html>

LOI Deadline: 7/1/2009

Amount: Budgets for direct costs of up to \$500,000 per year and project duration of up to 5 years may be requested for a maximum of \$2,500,000 direct costs over a 5-year project period. Budgets over \$500,000 in direct costs per year must receive prior approval.

Synopsis: The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) encourage NIH Research Demonstration and Dissemination Project grant (R18) applications from institutions/ organizations to test the effectiveness of interventions for the prevention and control of diabetes and obesity that have a high potential to be adopted, and sustained in applied health care settings. The approaches tested must be based on widely accepted interventions previously demonstrated to be efficacious in clinical trials. Research must target the prevention or reversal of obesity, prevention of type 2 diabetes, improved care of type 1 and type 2 diabetes, or the prevention or delay of the complications of these conditions. The interventions proposed under this FOA should have the potential to be widely disseminated to clinical practice, individuals and communities at risk.

For more funding opportunities, visit:

[www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/research/funding-opportunities/](http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/research/funding-opportunities/)

**We want to hear from you!**

**Your feedback and suggestions are always welcomed!**

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