This fall, researchers at the Feinberg School of Medicine will begin offering a clinical trial to test maintenance therapy in the treatment of nicotine addiction.

The study is being funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health in collaboration with tobacco researchers from the University of Pennsylvania. Northwestern University’s principal investigator for the study is Brian Hitsman, PhD, assistant professor in Feinberg’s Department of Preventive Medicine and member of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University.

Current treatments available for tobacco dependence, including medications and psychological therapy, are given for a relatively short period of time — between eight and 12 weeks. According to Hitsman, the combination of these treatments is most effective, yet only about 25 percent of people who enter these quit smoking programs succeed for up to a year.

“There is a growing recognition that tobacco dependence is a chronic condition,” says Hitsman. “We believe that a longer duration of treatment, or even keeping people on treatment, will be helpful. Rather than treating it acutely, we need to manage it like a chronic illness, so we can decrease the likelihood of relapse.”

The randomized effectiveness trial will test Hitsman’s theory by evaluating the benefits of maintenance therapy with transdermal nicotine patches, a treatment that is known to minimize withdrawal symptoms and benefit smoking cessation. The study aims to increase the effectiveness of the patch by giving it for a longer period of time.

(Continued on page 2)
Dr. Brian Hitsman

(Continued from page 1)

Hitsman and his colleagues were required to gain FDA approval to extend the length of treatment but have every reason to believe it will be safe.

"It’s actually not the nicotine in tobacco smoke that is harmful," Hitsman says. "It’s the carbon monoxide, tar and almost 5,000 other chemicals that are toxic. Even so, an important aspect of the study will be to document its safety. The risks for pregnant smokers haven’t been fully established, so they are not eligible to participate."

The study will compare treatment provided for one year (maintenance) to treatment provided for either six months (extended) or eight weeks (standard). Regardless of the length of treatment, all participants will receive cognitive behavioral counseling over the course of the year-long study. Hitsman emphasized the importance of psychological therapy to break the nicotine habit.

"Certainly the data indicate that extending the duration of treatment is helpful and increases quit rates," says Hitsman. "The main question is whether maintenance treatment is better."

Hitsman and colleague Bonnie Spring, PhD, professor and director of behavioral medicine in the Preventive Medicine Department, plan to recruit and treat 300 people at Northwestern, with 600 people total treated over four years at two sites. Hitsman does not have an ideal candidate in mind for the trial and believes any person who wants to stop smoking should receive treatment. However, he does have an interest in reaching minorities and people with mental illness, as these populations smoke at higher rates and have a more difficult time quitting in part due to psychological and socioeconomic factors.

Hitsman’s study also aims to assess side effects, patterns of relapse and recovery, as well as mediators like nicotine withdrawal and moderators like degree of nicotine dependence. In addition, cost implications to the smoker will be analyzed to evaluate the expense compared to the benefits seen with quitting smoking.

“One of the barriers to smoking cessation is that a smoker will say to his doctor, ‘I don’t have enough money to pay for the treatment,’” Hitsman says. "We hope to make a case with insurance providers to cover nicotine replacement therapies so more physicians can encourage management of tobacco addiction."

Currently, patches purchased over-the-counter contain an insert that explains use should be limited to 10 weeks. If the findings from this study are positive, Hitsman hopes the instructions on the insert can be modified and the guidelines made to allow for extended or even maintenance treatment for some people.

“We are hoping to influence the U.S. Public Health Service smoking cessation clinical guidelines,” Hitsman says. "If successful, we’re optimistic that health providers in the community will adopt the treatment method into their management of tobacco dependence."

He notes that the maintenance model has been effective in controlling other addictions such as heroin, where people receive methadone treatment for the rest of their lives. Yet with the highest mortality rate of any addiction, Hitsman says that tobacco dependency is one of the most complex and hardest to quit because it involves interactive psychological, biological and social influences. Unlike other drugs of abuse or alcohol, nicotine doesn’t impair occupational or social functioning, and the habit becomes tightly linked with most activities in a smoker’s daily life.

For more information about this study or research on nicotine dependence, contact Brian Hitsman: 312-503-2074 or b-hitsman@northwestern.edu.

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WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Lisa Neff, MD, joins the Feinberg School of Medicine as assistant professor of endocrinology. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and completed her Master of Science degree in clinical and translational science from Rockefeller University, New York, where she most recently served as an instructor of clinical investigation in Biochemical Genetics and Metabolism and associate attending physician at Rockefeller University Hospital. Neff’s research currently focuses on identifying effective interventions for obesity and related metabolic derangements, including insulin resistance and the metabolic syndrome. She is the principal investigator of a randomized feeding study exploring the effects of different dietary patterns (including the DASH diet and a low glycemic index diet) on metabolic syndrome.
ANIMAL RESEARCH CORNER

The Center for Comparative Medicine (CCM) is in the midst of upgrading security systems in several of the buildings that house animals. This upgrade will require the use of one less access card by shifting the access function to one’s WildCARD for the affected areas. This upgrade will impact the Hogan building on the Evanston campus and the Searle, Ward and McGaw/Olson buildings on the Chicago campus. Pancoe and Lurie building access will not be affected by these upgrades and access will remain on the white HID scan cards.

We expect the upgrade to commence in January 2010 and will need your assistance prior to ensure a smooth transition to the new system. If you are currently housing animals in Hogan, Ward, or McGaw/Olson, or need access to the Searle facilities, it is imperative that you contact the CCM Training Office ahead of time to prevent any difficulties in accessing these areas. The Training Office will require you to inform them of the 5-digit Indala number on the back of your WildCARD. If you do not have an Indala WildCARD, please visit the WildCARD Office on either campus to obtain one; there is no cost involved. To provide us with the required information, or if you have any questions, please contact the training office:

Mollie Kennedy  (312) 503-2758
mollie-kennedy@northwestern.edu

Jeremiah Dunlap  (312) 503-0638
j-dunlap@northwestern.edu

Mike Ostrowskyj  (302) 503-0679
m-ostrowskyj@northwestern.edu

NURAP: Supporting the Research Mission by Fostering Collaboration and Professional Growth

One year since first convening their steering committee, the Northwestern University Research Administration Professionals (NURAP), has already received recognition by Provost Daniel Linzer as an organization “that embodies the One Northwestern spirit.” A staff-led group, NURAP was created to connect all Northwestern University administrative and support staff involved in research and to provide a means to network, exchange ideas and knowledge, and promote professional growth.

According to Lori Palfalvi, NURAP president, the organization started as a “grassroots” effort to address emerging needs within NU’s research administration staff. Over the past ten years, research administration has developed into a defined career path, where most training occurs through on the job experience — often a process of trial and error — and networking with peers. In light of the current regulatory climate, the need for networking and support within the research community is greater than ever. With 200 registered members even before the first networking event took place, NURAP has filled a void and been embraced with great enthusiasm by the research community.

Led by an 11-member steering committee, NURAP hosts bi-weekly brown bag sessions where members convene to discuss topics such as IRB and ACUC processes, award closeouts, and other subjects proposed by members. In addition to brown bag sessions, NURAP provides travel awards to members to assist with the expense of attending research administration professional meetings and other professional training opportunities. For more information, please visit http://www.research.northwestern.edu/nurap/index.html.

Upcoming events:

- **12/2:** Finding Funding Opportunities Brown Bag, Norris 202B, EV
  Presenter: Holly Falk-Krzesinski, Director, Office of Research Team Support/NUCATS

- **12/15:** Finding Funding Opportunities Brown Bag, Hughes Auditorium, Lurie, CH
  Presenter: Holly Falk-Krzesinski, Director, Office of Research Team Support/NUCATS

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact NURAP via the secretary of the steering committee, Alden Chang at (847) 467-0043 or aldchen-Chang@northwestern.edu.
Meet Richard Gershon, PhD, Research Associate Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Medical Social Sciences

He has served as an executive for numerous companies and as a consultant for corporations like Microsoft, yet Richard Gershon, PhD, research associate professor and vice chair in the Feinberg School of Medicine Department of Medical Social Sciences, has always managed to find his way back to Northwestern.

After all, Gershon earned three degrees from Northwestern University and has held faculty appointments here since 1988. He also taught in the Medill School of Journalism, and now teaches in the medical school and in the School of Continuing Studies. He’s also an adjunct professor in the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences Department of Psychology. Given his Northwestern background, it’s no surprise that Gershon now shares his expertise with Feinberg’s newly developed Department of Medical Social Sciences.

FSM Researcher recently caught up with Gershon to learn about his research and current projects.

What are your research interests?

My primary interest is in the exploration of the intersection of assessment and technology across the full range of human behavior and function.

Most of my work has focused on the application of Item Response Theory (IRT) in both individualized and large scale assessments, typically utilizing computerized adaptive testing (CAT) to greatly shorten assessments and increase accuracy. I have developed item banks and CAT for educational, clinical, and health applications. I often analyze large datasets to understand the improvements offered by various assessment modalities.

I am particularly interested in the prospect of working with the data produced by the Northwestern University Biomedical Informatics Center (NUBIC) Electronic Data Warehouse to further explore the seemingly unlimited number of treatment and outcome variables that are tracked for every patient.

What research projects are you currently pursuing?

Right now, I am the primary investigator (PI) on two major projects.

The NIH Neurological Toolbox for Behavior and Function is a five-year contract to design a battery of tests across the broad domains of cognition, motor, emotional health, and sensory function. These include vision, audition, vestibular balance, somatosensation, taste, and olfaction. We have assembled a team of 235 scientists from around the world to create a series of very brief, cutting edge assessments for use in longitudinal and clinical trials, and I believe ultimately for use in direct clinical work as well.

I am also the PI for the NIH Roadmap Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) Technical Center. Our development team is responsible for the creation and support of online and standalone systems to deliver patient reported outcomes measures for hundreds of NIH-sponsored researchers.

For both Toolbox and PROMIS, we have access to datasets which enable our teams to have improved computerized algorithms used in assessment and to explore how patients and healthy individuals respond to various assessment modalities. Additionally, I am an active co-investigator in a National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) sponsored project, “Quality of Life Outcomes in Neurological Disorders,” designed to create patient reported outcomes measures specifically targeted at patients with neurological disorders. I also contribute to numerous university and hospital projects and serve as a member of the NUBIC Steering Committee.

What brought you to the Feinberg School of Medicine?

Earlier this year, I was offered the opportunity to move my research to Feinberg full time. I was impressed by the dedication to research and the opportunities to bring theoretical research into the practical world through potential working relationships across the medical school, Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Northwestern Memorial Faculty Foundation. I was swayed by an environment which enables research to take advantage of rapid changes in technology. I respected that at Feinberg people did not simply talk about "someday" utilizing enterprise-wide EMRs for research, but they had done it and were actively providing access to researchers to directly impact clinical care. Finally, I looked forward to working with David Cella and his vision to build the newly established Department of Medical Social Sciences into a cross-campus, interdisciplinary resource.

Richard Gershon is available via e-mail at gershon@northwestern.edu
Student Profile: Ryan Hobbs, Integrated Graduate Program in Life Sciences (IGP)

Ryan Hobbs, IGP student

Where is your hometown?
Grandview, Mo., a south suburb of Kansas City.

Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?
I graduated from the University of Missouri—Columbia in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry and a Bachelor of Arts degree in microbiology.

What are your research interests?
During my undergraduate years at Mizzou, I worked in an X-ray crystallography lab and studied the enzymes involved in *P. aeruginosa* biofilm formation. It was during this time that I became captivated with understanding how proteins interact with one another to facilitate a functional outcome. For the past four years, I have worked in the laboratory of Dr. Kathleen Green in the Department of Pathology. My thesis project focuses on determining how intracellular calcium pumps regulate the ability of epithelial cells to form cell-cell contacts.

What exciting projects are you working on?
In the Green Lab, I study the formation and regulation of desmosomes — a type of calcium-dependent intercellular junction that play crucial roles in mediating cell-cell adhesion during embryogenesis — wound healing, and epidermal differentiation.

Much of my research has focused on identifying how desmosome formation is impaired in the skin of patients with Darier’s disease. Darier’s disease is a genetic skin blistering disorder that can be caused by mutations in SERCA2, a calcium pump that resides in the endoplasmic reticulum. Using a combination of biochemical and microscopy techniques, I have been able to demonstrate that SERCA2 and PKCa signaling, which are both critical for regulating desmosome assembly, are both perturbed in Darier’s disease skin cells. It is the hope that my research may lead to a novel therapeutic for patients with Darier’s disease.

What attracted you to the IGP program?
When I was first looking at graduate programs, I was not exactly sure what field of research I wanted to pursue. The umbrella nature of the IGP program was perfect for me as there were so many research opportunities and I did not have to immediately decide on a particular field or project.

How often do you travel between the Evanston and Chicago campuses?
I have served as the chair of the Graduate Leadership Council (GLC) for the past two years. We work with University administration to ensure that the needs and concerns of all graduate students at Northwestern are not overlooked. The GLC primarily meets in Evanston, so I make the trip about once a month via intercampus shuttle.

How would you describe the faculty at Feinberg?
Whether it’s been for help with courses, use of equipment and reagents, or even personal advice, every faculty member that I’ve encountered has been very open and willing to help out at a moment’s notice. I felt early on in my time at Northwestern that we are all “in it together,” and I think that makes the faculty at Feinberg very special. Most other institutions I’ve visited do not seem to have the same sense of collegiality.

What has been your best experience at Feinberg so far?
The best experience so far was giving an oral presentation at the Society of Investigative Dermatology conference in Montreal. It was great being able to present my hard work to colleagues in my field. Runner-up goes to being awarded my first fellowship (through the American Heart Association). Although, I imagine graduating and forever being done with school will take the cake as best experience.

What do you like to do for fun?
When I’m not in the lab, you can often find me on the soccer pitch.

What are your plans for after graduation?
I plan to pursue a post-doctoral research position in an institution to be determined, and hope to achieve a lifelong career in academic science.
Staff Profile: Tim Volpe, Associate Director for Administration, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

How long have you been at Northwestern?
I recently received my five-year pin as a Northwestern University (NU) employee. However, this month marks 30 consecutive years on the Chicago campus for me, with the past 20 in the Lurie Cancer Center in a shared management position between NU and Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH).

Where are you from?
I grew up in a very rural county in Central Illinois — NU has twice as many employees as the entire county has people! But I’ve lived in Chicago now for 30 years and can’t imagine living anywhere else — it’s a fantastic city. I currently reside in the Gold Coast which affords the luxury of not having to invest time in commuting.

What’s your educational background?
My undergraduate degree was in psychology, and I subsequently earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in 1978. I came to NMH in 1979 as a staff social worker, became a department manager in 1983, a multi-department director in 1987, and then transitioned into the Lurie Cancer Center in 1989. While it might seem like an unusual background, my social work training in community organization, problem solving, negotiation and consensus building has actually been invaluable. And I still maintain an active license as a clinical social worker — just in case.

What is your role in the Cancer Center?
As the associate director for administration, I have oversight responsibilities for all of the typical administrative functions of an operating unit. As the Lurie Cancer Center has grown, my role has become one that significantly supports internal and external relationships. Internally, we work in partnership with numerous departments, centers, institutes, and the Feinberg-affiliated hospitals. Externally, the relationship with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and supporting the Center’s NCI cancer center support grant are a major focus of my effort. Likewise I am very active with the American Cancer Society and also provide the administrative support for the center’s exclusive regional membership in the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) — an alliance of 21 of the nation’s leading cancer centers dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of cancer care.

What’s a typical day like for you?
As an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center we maintain an elaborate membership and governance structure and support research programs and shared resources — all of which are an everyday part of the job.

The Lurie Cancer Center also supports a number of interdepartmental, multi-investigator grants, and we’re always looking for the next funding opportunity. Philanthropic support is critical to the center’s continued growth, and I work with very talented colleagues in the Feinberg Office of Medical Development and the Northwestern Memorial Foundation on a regular basis.

Why did you choose to work here?
I originally came to Northwestern in 1979 because of its reputation. I consider myself very fortunate that Dr. Steve Rosen, the director of the Lurie Cancer Center, chose me when he was searching for an administrator. I choose to keep working here because of the outstanding people and the contributions they make to our mission.

What do you like/dislike about your job?
Being part of a growing organization presents constant stimulation and excitement as well as a broad range of activities. We have an outstanding management staff who all go the extra mile in making the center successful. I often wish we didn’t have so many grant and project deadlines facing us — but in truth that’s what has allowed us to be as successful as we’ve been.

What are your favorite hobbies, books or movies?
I typically read two books a week and really enjoy historical fiction. Cold war/espionage and detective novels and movies are unquestionably my favorites. I have a goal to read more non-fiction. Someday I may actually get there.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I love tropical vacations. Last February I went to Costa Rica for the first time and would highly recommend it, The country has an extraordinary history, wonderful people, and incredible flora and fauna. In late January I’m heading back to Kauai; without a doubt, it is one of the most beautiful places on the planet.
From the NIH: Changes Coming to Applications in January

Quick links: Major changes to NIH applications are coming soon. Due to changes resulting from the Enhancing Peer Review initiative, applications for due dates on or after January 25, 2010 require restructured application forms and follow new instructions, including shorter page limits. These changes affect all applicants. You can learn more by visiting the NIH restructured applications page, and you can find additional resources on the training and communications page.

Feinberg School of Medicine researchers know the current NIH grant application is among the longest used by funding agencies and foundations worldwide. In response to overwhelming feedback from researchers surveyed in 2007 and 2008, the NIH has announced major changes to the application process, effective January 25, 2010.

Why change the application process? During the diagnostic phase of the peer review self-study, the overwhelming opinion from the working groups was that a significant reduction in page numbers, to a limit somewhere between seven and fifteen pages, is necessary to achieve the desired enhancements. The working groups considered the response to an NIH-issued RFI, which showed that 70 percent of all respondents preferred that applications be shorter than 25 pages. The majority of the respondents did not believe that a shorter application would compromise their ability to present scientific ideas (68 percent responded that ideas could be communicated equally well comparing 25 to 15 pages, and 19 percent indicated that shorter applications would enhance communication). Respondents also indicated that a shortened application would take either the same (27 percent) or less (50 percent) time to prepare. Thus, for more than three quarters of those responding, shorter applications would not be more burdensome.

Which applications are affected? All competing applications, including resubmissions, must use the new forms and adhere to new page limits and instructions. More details can be found on the NIH’s “Enhancing Peer Review” web site, found at: http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/restructured_applications.html

Applicants who are eligible for continuous submission may continue to use current forms and instructions through February 7, 2010 for R01, R21, and R34 AIDS applications that would otherwise have been due on January 7, 2010.

More Details By December, reissued Parent Announcements and updated funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) will be posted (which means new FOA numbers for Parent FOAs) and FOAs with receipt dates of January 25 and beyond will be updated with the new language, page limit requirements, and the new application packages. (The FOA numbers will stay the same.)

Details of this process are described in the staff FAQ section of the Enhancing Peer Review Intranet.

What can you do now? 1. Read about the requirement changes now in order to begin writing the Research Strategy.
2. In December, go back to the updated FOA or reissued Parent Announcement and download the new application package and instructions.
3. Read the new application instructions carefully.
4. For due dates on or after January 25, submit applications using the new application forms and instructions.

New Lecture Series for the Feinberg Community Focuses on Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The Dean's Grand Challenges Lecture Series in Medicine and Engineering kicked off in the Hughes Auditorium (Lurie) on Thursday, November 19, with McCormick School of Engineering Professor Mitra Hartmann’s lecture “Tactile Sensing with Whiskers.” If you missed it, video of the presentation and details on upcoming lectures in the series can be found here: http://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/grandchallenges/.

“By aligning researchers and practitioners from the fields of medicine and engineering, we can find fertile new research areas that may have greater impact than either of these groups working alone,” says J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD, vice president for medical affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean of the Feinberg School of Medicine. “We hope collaborative activities, such as the Grand Challenge Lecture Series enable an environment that fosters teamwork, interdisciplinary research and highly innovative work.”
Mentoring Success
Local student wins Siemens Regional Competition with help from the McGarry Lab

Marissa Suchyta, a senior at the University of Chicago Laboratory High School and a student in Thomas McGarry’s laboratory, recently took home top honors at the region three finals of the 2009 Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology, the nation’s premier high school science competition.

She is now invited to compete in the national finals in New York City December 3—7, where the winners of six regional competitions will vie for scholarships ranging from $10,000 to the top prize of $100,000. The Siemens Competition, a signature program of the Siemens Foundation, is administered by the College Board.

Suchyta’s biology project, “Geminin mutant reveals the mechanism to inhibit DNA re-replication,” has the potential to develop new approaches for treating cancer. She researched the mechanism by which the protein Geminin prevents DNA from replicating more than once each time a cell divides. Over-replication of DNA would lead to genetic instability, which could cause the cells to either become cancerous or die prematurely. Suchyta’s work suggests that drugs that inhibit Geminin could be useful chemotherapeutic agents.

An extraordinarily accomplished student, Suchyta would like to double major in neurobiology and molecular/cellular biology, in college and eventually become a neurosurgeon with a PhD in molecular oncology. She placed second at Nationals in the National History Day Competition and was named a Regional Winner in the Discovery Young Scientist Challenge. Suchyta competes on the Model United Nations and Varsity Science Olympiad Teams.

For more information on this project, click here.

October 2009 High-Impact Factor Journal Articles*


The experiments performed in this research are based on two recently proposed principles for the simplification of biological motor control. The first principle suggests that the nervous system uses muscle synergies to reduce the number of variables that need to be specified in the production of movements. In this hypothesis, each such ‘synergy’ controls the activation of a small group of muscles, with complex movements produced by flexibly combining multiple synergies. The second principle suggests that the nervous system exploits the intrinsic dynamics of the limb in order to increase the efficiency of motor control. In this hypothesis, the properties of the muscles and skeleton allow certain motor commands to be particularly effective in producing movements.

In this proposal, we combine these two principles in order to develop a novel strategy for the restoration of motor function following injury. In particular, we will develop and evaluate a controller based on muscle synergies which are designed to exploit the intrinsic dynamics of the limb. We have shown in simulation work that this hypothesis is capable of producing a wide range of movement efficiently and effectively. The proposed experiments will extend this simulation work and evaluate this strategy directly by using it to reanimate a paralyzed limb.

Specifically, this research will accomplish the following: 1) use experimental measurements of the musculoskeletal dynamics to identify a low dimensional representation of the rat hindlimb, 2) identify a set of muscle synergies which controls the intrinsic dynamics of the rat hindlimb, 3) finally, use these synergies to produce movements in a paralyzed limb. This research will, therefore, directly test whether this strategy of using muscle synergies to exploit intrinsic limb dynamics is capable of restoring motor function following injury.

This work will take recent novel theoretical research and translate it to an experimental situation with direct clinical relevance. The results of this research have the potential to significantly advance clinical applications using control strategies to restore movement in patients with motor impairments.

**Sponsored Awards**

**Matthew Tresch, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor, Joint Appointment, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Bioengineering*

**Project Title:** Restoration of Movement Using Muscle Synergies to Control Natural Limb Dynamics

**Sponsor:** National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

**FSM Research in the News**

- **Futurity.org** October 11  
  *Chemo combo fences in breast cancer*  
  Research by Dr. Seth Corey was featured.

- **New York Times** October 16  
  *Medicine’s elusive goal: a safe weight loss drug*  
  Dr. Robert Kushner was quoted.

- **US News & World Report** October 19  
  *Bloomberg News* October 19  
  *PSA nanotest may spot prostate cancer’s return after surgery*  
  Dr. C. Shad Thaxton’s research was featured.

- **CBS News (National)** October 21  
  *Insecticides may harm female immune system*  
  Dr. Darcy Majka’s research was featured.

- **CNET.com** October 27  
  *Antidepressants don’t work for you? This could be why*  
  Dr. Eva Redei’s research, presented at the Neuroscience 2009 conference in Chicago, was featured.

- **MSN.com** October 28  
  *Suffering from chronic pain*  
  Dr. A. Vania Apkarian was quoted.

- **Chicago Tribune** October 29  
  *Diabetes study: Interventions help prevent disease*  
  Dr. Mark Molitch’s research was featured.

- **Associated Press** November 12  
  *Illinois doctor to be the first orthopedic surgeon in space*  
  Dr. Robert Satcher was profiled.

- **Wall Street Journal** November 16  
  *For men at 40, risk of cardiac death 1 in 8*  
  Dr. Donald Lloyd-Jones’ research was featured.

For more headlines, visit: [www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/news/](http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/news/)
Funding Opportunities

**McKnight Scholar Award**
Submission deadline: January 4, 2010

**Synopsis:** The McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience supports innovative research designed to bring science closer to the day when diseases of the brain can be accurately diagnosed, prevented, and treated. To this end, the McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience invites applications for the McKnight Scholar Awards.

These awards were established to encourage emerging neuroscientists to focus on disorders of learning and memory. Applicants for the McKnight Scholar Awards must demonstrate interest in solving important problems in relevant areas of neuroscience, including the translation of basic research to clinical neuroscience.

**Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research**
http://www.amc.edu/Academic/AlbanyPrize/
Submission deadline: January 7, 2010

**Synopsis:** The prize serves to encourage and recognize extraordinary and sustained contributions to improving health care and promoting innovative biomedical research. This prestigious award is given to a physician, scientist, or group whose work has led to significant advances in fields of health care and scientific research with demonstrated translational benefits applied to improved patient care. Designed to be both a public award and an important resource for sustaining excellence, it is the expectation of the prize committee that each year’s award will be used by the recipient to further advance positive outcomes in his or her field of endeavor. Each year’s prize winner will have demonstrated, in his or her medical practice or biomedical research, significant outcomes that offer medical value of national or international importance. Prize winner activities will include, but not be limited to, disease and injury management, clinical research and basic science investigations of diseases and injuries, leading to new discoveries and improved clinical outcomes.

**Amount:** $500,000. The recipient will be recognized at an award ceremony in Albany, New York.

To view more funding opportunities, visit: www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/research/funding-opportunities/

**Featured Upcoming Events**

**9**

**The Training Program in the Neuroscience of Human Cognition Presents John Jonides, PhD**

“Suppressing Short-Term Memories”

Executive processing involves cognitive control over processes of perception, memory, and responding. Jonides’ session will focus on cognitive control over the contents of short-term memory. Is there a process responsible for controlling the contents of short-term memory separable from processes responsible for controlling perception and responding? What are the neural correlates of this process? How might this process be implicated in cognitive deficits that accompany Major Depressive Disorder, and how is it revealed in neural differences between depressed and healthy individuals?

**Date:** Wednesday, December 9
**Time:** Noon to 1:15 p.m.
**Location:** Swift Hall, Room 107 (Evanston Campus)

**Contact:** Sharon Stade (312) 503-4300

**Feinberg Cardiovascular Research Institute Seminars: “Specifying the Cardiac Niche—Lessons from the Pathogens”**

Dr. Conrad Eptig (Northwestern University) will present “Specifying the Cardiac Niche—Lessons from Pathogens” as part of the Feinberg Cardiovascular Research Institute Seminar Series. The series provides a forum in which leaders in research and medicine from the Chicago area and around the world can interact, discuss the latest developments in their fields, and leverage the rapidly expanding knowledge base in biomedicine.

The ultimate goal of the series is to ignite the imagination of investigators and trigger new, interdisciplinary collaborations to better understand basic disease mechanisms and devise novel therapeutic approaches to prevent and treat cardiovascular disease.

**Date:** Thursday, December 17
**Time:** 8 to 9:30 a.m.
**Location:** Baldwin Auditorium, Lurie Medical Research Center
303 E. Superior St. (Chicago)

**Contact:** David Zembower (312) 503-1782

For more events, visit:
www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/research/calendar/

Event organizers are encouraged to submit calendar items on Plan-it Purple.

We want to hear from you!
Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome.
Feinberg School of Medicine Office for Research
E-mail: kristin-jacobsen@northwestern.edu or n-mladic@northwestern.edu
Phone: 312-503-3129 Fax: 312-503-2790
www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/research/