CUMC Celebrates

DECEMBER 2011

CUMC Celebrates is a monthly publication that acknowledges faculty, staff, and students at Columbia University Medical Center who receive research grants ($1 million and above), who receive major awards, who are elected to honorary societies, or who take leadership positions in professional organizations. Celebrates also gratefully acknowledges the gifts made by donors and friends of the Medical Center and highlights faculty who have appeared in the news recently.

If you have an award or honor that you would like to have listed in Celebrates, please fill out the online form available at http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/award-honor-submitting. Please note: all federal grants are automatically included based on institutional data. For more information about Celebrates, please write to mjs2219@columbia.edu.

RESEARCH GRANTS

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

William Fifer, PhD, Department of Psychiatry-Developmental Psychobiology, and Michael Morgan Myers, PhD, Department of Psychiatry-Developmental Psychobiology, have received $3.68 million over five years from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for “Prenatal Alcohol in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Stillbirth (PASS) Network.”

Catherine Monk, PhD, Departments of Psychiatry and Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Bradley S. Peterson, MD, Department of Psychiatry, have received $3.1 million over five years from the National Institute of Mental Health for “The Effects of Prenatal Stress & Poor Nutrition on Brain and Cognition.”

Scott Small, MD, Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and the Aging Brain, has received $2.7 million over five years from the National Institute of Mental Health for “Longitudinal Imaging of Patients at Clinical Risk for Psychosis.”

Julie Canman, PhD, Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, has received $2.4 million over five years from the Office of the NIH Director for “IR-LAMP: Optogenetic Technology to Spatially Manipulate Protein Function In Vivo.”

Andrea Califano, PhD, Department of Biomedical Informatics, Institute for Cancer Genetics, has received $1.4 million over two years from the National Cancer Institute for “Profiling Signatures of Synergistic Chemical Perturbations in Diverse Cellular C.” Dr. Califano also has received $1.3 million over two years from the Falconwood Foundation Inc. for “Elucidating the Mechanisms of Neuroendocrine Tumor Initiation & Progression.”

Elizabeth Shane, MD, Department of Medicine-Endocrinology, has received $1.4 million over four years from the Food & Drug Administration for “Phase 2 Teriparatide for Tx of Idiopathic Osteoporosis in Premenopausal Women.”
Andrew Moran, MD, MPH, Department of Medicine, has received $1.3 million over three years from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for “Comparative Effectiveness Analysis of Treat-to-Target and Risk-based Blood Pressure Control Guidelines.”

Peter Grabham, PhD, Center for Radiological Research, has received $1.07 million over three years from the National Aeronautics & Space Administration for “Effects of Space Radiation on the Function of Human Brain Capillaries and the Blood-Brain-Barrier: Implications for Neurodegenerative Disorders.”

David Sulzer, PhD, Department of Psychiatry, has received $1 million over three years from the JPB Foundation for “Mechanisms of Parkinson's Disease Pathogenesis.”

Ezra Susser, MD, DrPH, Departments of Epidemiology and Psychiatry (P&S), and Sandro Galea, MD, DrPH, Department of Epidemiology, have received $3.3 million over five years from the National Institute of Mental Health for “Regional Network for Mental Health Research in Latin America.”

Mady Hornig, MD, Department of Epidemiology, has received $3.25 million over three years from the Chronic Fatigue Initiative Inc. for “Pathogenesis and Pathogen Discovery in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.”

Paul Colson, PhD, ICAP, has received $3 million over five years from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for “The Development and Establishment of an International Accredited Training Center in South Africa under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) - NY.”

Batya Elul, PhD, Department of Epidemiology, has received $2 million over two years from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for “Overcoming Barriers to Occupational Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Reporting and Case Management (ESIS Task Order 0003).”
Helen-Maria Lekas, PhD, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, has received $1.9 million over three years from the National Institute of Mental Health for “Understanding Discontinuation of Outpatient Care among HIV-positive Inpatients.”

Yuanjia Wang, PhD, Department of Biostatistics, has received $1.1 million over four years from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Efficient Methods for Genotype-Specific Distributions with Unobserved Genotypes.”
AWARDS & HONORS

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Norma Stephens Hannigan, DNP, MPH, FNP-BC, DCC, has been inducted as a member of the New York Academy of Medicine.

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Alwyn T. Cohall, MD, Departments of Sociomedical Sciences and Population and Family Health, has received the Allan Rosenfield Award for Public Health and Social Justice from the Public Health Association of New York City for his achievements in the field.

Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, Departments of Epidemiology and Medicine (P&S), has received the 2011 Society Citation Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America for her outstanding contributions to the field of infectious disease.

Robert E. Fullilove, EdD, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, was named one of 20 “Positive Changemakers” by the AIDS Service Center NY for his vision and inspiration to those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Salim Abdool Karim, MD, PhD, and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, PhD, Department of Epidemiology and the Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), have received the inaugural Olusegun Obasanjo Prize from the African Academy of Sciences for their work on the use of the microbicide, Tenofovir gel, to prevent HIV infection and genital herpes in women. Salim Abdool Karim also has been named Outstanding Senior African Scientist by the European Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership. Quarraisha Abdool Karim also has received the Distinguished Woman in Science Award in the Life, Natural and Engineering Sciences for 2011 from the South African government Department of Science and Technology.

Richard G. Parker, PhD, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, was re-elected to a third term (from 2011-2014) as a member of the board of directors by the International Planned Parenthood Federation-Western Hemisphere Region.

Steven D. Stellman, PhD, MPH, Department of Epidemiology, was selected by the College of Science and Mathematics, Montclair State University, Montclair, N.J., to deliver the Margaret & Herman Sokol Science Lecture.
AWARDS & HONORS

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH (continued)

**Ezra Susser**, MD, DrPH, Departments of Epidemiology and Psychiatry (P&S), has received the 2011 Rema Lapouse Award from the American Public Health Association for outstanding contributions to the scientific understanding of the epidemiology and control of mental disorders.

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

**Ira B. Lamster**, DDS, celebrated his 10th anniversary as dean of the College of Dental Medicine.

**Jeremy Mao**, DDS, PhD, has received the 2011 Henry Spenadel Award from the New York County Dental Society in recognition of his contributions in dental and craniofacial regeneration.

**Panos N. Papapanou**, DDS, PhD, was named the 2011 Finley Lecturer at the Ohio State University (OSU). This endowed series of lectures is presented to OSU faculty and postdoctoral residents and is cosponsored by the American Academy of Periodontology.

The Columbia chapter of the Hispanic Dental Association was awarded first place in the 2011 Procter and Gamble Orgullo (Pride) Competition for poster presentations at the HDA 19th Annual Meeting held in San Diego, Calif., in November. The HSDA chapter is led by Annia-Beatrice Legoff and Jose Carlos Castillo, co-presidents.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

**Cory Abate-Shen**, PhD, Department of Urology, has been named interim director of the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center.

**Rita Charon**, MD, PhD, Department of Medicine, has received the John Stearns Medal for Distinguished Contributions in Medicine from the New York Academy of Medicine. The medal, established in 1992 and named for John Stearns, the first president of NYAM, is awarded for extraordinary contributions to medicine.
Anne Davis, MD, MPH, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, has received the 2011 Physician Advocacy Merit Award from the Institute of Medicine as a Profession. The award gives national recognition annually to three physicians for their commitments and accomplishments in the advocacy arena.

Jon T. Giles, MD, Department of Medicine-Rheumatology, and Jonathan T. Lu, MD, PhD, Department of Medicine-Cardiology, have been named the first winners of the inaugural Marianne J. Legato Research Scholar Awards in Gender-Specific Medicine by the Department of Medicine and the Partnership for Gender-Specific Medicine. Dr. Giles’ proposal is titled “Gender Differences in Adipose Tissue Inflammation and Distribution in Rheumatoid Arthritis: Associations with Subclinical Atherosclerosis and Arterial Inflammation.” Dr. Lu’s proposal is titled “Gender Specific Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell Models of Congenital Long QT Syndrome.”

Richard B. Krueger, MD, Department of Psychiatry, has been selected for the Working Group on the Classification of Sexual Disorders and Sexual Health by the World Health Organization Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research.

Franck Oury, PhD, Department of Genetics and Development, has been named a winner of the Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists by the New York Academy of Sciences. The Blavatnik Award acknowledges and celebrates noteworthy young scientists and engineers in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Kelley Remole, PhD, and Catherine Jensen, PhD candidate, Department of Neuroscience, Columbia University Neuroscience Outreach program, have received the Society for Neuroscience Next Generation Award, recognizing members who have made outstanding contributions to public communication, outreach and education about neuroscience. They shared the award with Heather McKellar, PhD, a 2011 graduate of the Integrated Program who is now at the NYU Neuroscience Institute.

Robert J. Winchester, MD, Department of Medicine, has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation for contributions to understanding the cause of autoimmune disease.
Drugs Used for Psychotics Go to Youth in Foster Care • November 21, 2011
Foster children are being prescribed cocktails of powerful antipsychosis drugs just as frequently as some of the most mentally disabled youngsters on Medicaid, a new study suggests. “It’s a significant and important finding, and it should prompt states to improve the quality of care in this area,” said Dr. Mark Olfson, a professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University who did not contribute to the research.

Flu Can Be Fatal in Children With MRSA • November 7, 2011
A nationwide study has found that previously healthy children hospitalized with flu were significantly more likely to die if they were also infected with MRSA, or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. “There’s a message here about vaccines: that even otherwise healthy children are still at risk, and they are at risk of death,” said Dr. Lisa Saiman, a professor of clinical pediatrics at Columbia.

Countdown to a Food Coma • November 22, 2011
You have seconds on turkey and thirds on stuffing. The top button is unfastened to make room for the pumpkin pie. It is time to step away from the table. This post-meal recovery period is being studied by scientists who are increasingly finding that what happens in the body after eating a big meal doesn’t just bring on sleepiness, commonly known as food coma. It can also increase the risk of later health problems. Another possibility is that food coma isn’t related to food or digestion at all, says Robert Basner, director of Columbia University Medical Center’s sleep-studies program. Derek Chong, a professor of clinical neurology at Columbia, agrees that a person’s circadian rhythm can play a major role in meal-time lethargy.

Shot or Party? Avoiding Chicken Pox’s Worst • November 22, 2011
Chicken pox used to be a childhood rite of passage: a week of itchy misery, followed by immunity for life. Today a vaccine is rapidly making chicken-pox complications a thing of the past in the U.S., but it has met with resistance from skeptical American parents and experts overseas. Studies suggest people vaccinated against chicken pox are less likely to get shingles than people who had it as children, says Anne Gershon, director of the division of pediatric infectious disease at Columbia University Medical Center in New York.

Future Cancers From Fukushima Plant May Be Hidden • November 20, 2011
Even if the worst nuclear accident in 25 years leads to many people developing cancer, we may never find out. Looking back on those early days of radiation horror, that may sound implausible. But the ordinary rate of cancer is so high, and our understanding of the effects of radiation exposure so limited, that any increase in cases from the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster may be undetectable. A child exposed to 20 mSv for a year would face a calculated risk of about 1 in 400 of getting cancer someday as a result, says David Brenner of Columbia University. That would add 0.25 percent onto the typical lifetime cancer risk of about 40 percent, he said.

Just How Powerful IS Positive Thinking? • November 27, 2011
“That’s dangerous nonsense, to think that you can think your way out of cancer, or think your way out of heart disease,” said psychologist Richard Sloan. A professor of behavioral medicine at Columbia University Medical Center, he has done extensive examinations of survival studies.
The Eight Germiest Places in the Mall • November 26, 2011
During the craziness of the holidays, the last thing you want is to get sidelined with a cold, flu, stomach bug — or worse. But while you’re checking items off your shopping list, you may be exposing yourself to germs — like flu viruses, E. coli, and staph — that can make you sick. Even if you see the table being wiped down, that doesn’t mean it’s clean, says panelist Elaine Larson, Ph.D., a professor of epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University: “The rags themselves can actually spread harmful bacteria such as E. coli if they are not changed and washed regularly.”

Peds Group Says All Children Should Get Cholesterol Tests Earlier in Life • November 11, 2011
All children should be screened for cholesterol levels between ages 9 and 11, and again between ages 17 and 21, even those who are not at an increased risk of high cholesterol and heart disease, according to new guidelines endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. “I’m just very concerned about the premature and possibly aggressive use of medications in growing children,” said Dr. Lee Goldman, dean of the faculties of health sciences and medicine at Columbia University.

Suicide Prevention Tool Useful in Teens, Adults • November 9, 2011
A short suicide questionnaire used millions of times by jails, schools, hospitals, police and defense forces worldwide not only identifies suicidal thoughts and behavior, but also helps predict which people are likely to try ending their lives, researchers announced. Lead study author Kelly Posner, director of Columbia’s suicide risk assessment program, said the idea behind the questionnaire was to improve suicide prevention by more precisely identifying those youngsters and adults at risk of ending their lives. Dr. Jeffrey Lieberman, psychiatry chairman at Columbia, noted the tool’s potential to make a dent in the current volume of suicides.

Upset Stomach May be the Cause of a Bad Mood • November 7, 2011
Prevailing logic and countless antacid commercials suggest that high stress and a bad mood will lead to an upset stomach. But it might be the other way around. According to Michael Gershon, a professor of pathology and cell biology at Columbia University, who was consulted for the article, the two systems are linked in intricate ways: “Given all of the neurotransmitters in your gut, it’s equally likely that it’s happening from the bottom up,” he explains.

Charlie Rose Brain Series 2, Episode 1 • November 3, 2011
“The Charlie Rose Brain Series 2: Neurological, Psychiatric and Addictive Disorders” featured Eric Kandel of Columbia University, Gerald Fischbach of the Simons Foundation [and Columbia], Cornelia Bargmann of Rockefeller University, and Nora Volokow of the National Institute for Drug Abuse and Thomas Insel Institute of Mental Health. The program discussed the physical and emotional ties to addictive behavior.