The Nathan Kline Institute wishes to recognize the skills, dedication, and service of the staff of the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory at NKI. By celebrating Laboratory Week 2021 we can show them our gratitude for creating a successful, high quality laboratory serving the OMH community.

The NYS OMH operates 25 facilities throughout the State, serving over 700,000 individuals. It provides hope and recovery for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances. The laboratory recently opened a new section providing molecular testing utilizing PCR. This new section will allow for the molecular diagnosis of various influenza viruses including Sars-Cov-2, CT/NG, HPC, and Flu/RSV. The lab hopes to expand its test menu even more in the future.

The technicians, technologists, doctors, and administrative staff of the NYS OMH clinical laboratory provide the nurses and doctors of NYS OMH facilities with the much-needed data they need for the proper care of their patients. We therefore thank the laboratory staff for their dedication and excellent work.

Members of the Clinical Laboratory staff.
The OMH Clinical Laboratory at NKI recently acquired new equipment (the Hologic Panther System) enabling the lab to do in-house molecular microbiology testing. Previously, these tests had to be outsourced to a reference laboratory, and the move to expand laboratory testing capabilities was the result of a cost-benefit analysis. The expanded microbiology services were implemented after examining the high costs associated with outsourcing these tests and assessing the lower costs and increased revenues that come with running the tests in-house. (Tests are reimbursed by Medicare according to the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule.) Processing these tests in-house also substantially improves turnaround time. The new Molecular/Microbiology lab services are estimated to cut those costs by over 35% per year.

Deputy Director Tom O’Hara and Shereen Kamel at the ribbon cutting for the new Panther system.

Clinical Laboratory news contributed by Shereen Kamel, Harvey Lichtblau, and Elizabeth Muenzer

KUDOS

Eunju Im from the Nixon Lab (Dementia Research) has been awarded a prestigious research fellowship award by the New York Korean Biologists Society. The prize/fellowship includes $500 cash and a presentation opportunity. Dr. Im will present this month at the 13th annual NYKB conference.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed more demand on clinical laboratory specimen testing than ever before. For a bit of context, see “‘Nobody Sees Us’: Testing-Lab Workers Strain Under Demand” from The New York Times.
**PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE**

**Daniel Javitt** (Schizophrenia Research) and colleagues from NKI, Columbia, and elsewhere published this new paper in *Brain*.


**Dan Iosifescu** (Clinical Research) cowrote the ASCP Corner article, on antidepressant use in bipolar disorder, in the latest issue of the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*.


**Xavier Castellanos** (Clinical Research) is the senior author of this publication in the open access journal *Molecular Autism*.


NKI authors have two papers in the *Journal of Neuroscience* this month. **Edênia Menezes, Cátia Teixeira** (Emotional Brain Institute) and NKI colleagues published research on the effects of perinatal fluoxetine exposure in mice.


The second paper is by **Justin Botterill, Helen Scharfman** (Dementia Research) and NKI colleagues. An image from this article was selected for the *March 17 cover*.


This new open access article by **Victor Dyakin** and colleagues appears online in *Symmetry*.

Pasquale D’Acunzo, Efrat Levy (Dementia Research) and numerous NKI colleagues have a new paper in the open access journal Science Advances.


Goi Khia Eng (Clinical Research) is a lead author of this open access paper recently published in Scientific Reports.


Crystal Lewis (Social Solutions & Services) contributed this piece to Psychiatric Annals with an NYU colleague.


Jean Pierre Lindenmayer (Manhattan Psychiatric Center) coauthored this systematic review in JAMA Psychiatry. The article was the subject of a Psychiatric News Alert.


Dr. Lindenmayer also coauthored this review of transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) for schizophrenia in Current Opinion in Psychiatry.


Salvador Dura-Bernal and Sam Neymotin (Biomedical Imaging & Neuromodulation) are coauthors of this new paper in Journal of Neurophysiology.

Dan Iosifescu (Clinical Research) is a coauthor of this evidence synthesis on ketamine treatment of depression published in the American Journal of Psychiatry.


INFO UPDATE

Library services continue uninterrupted. As always, if you need documents, assistance with literature searching, or have reference questions, the NKI librarian is at your service.

NKI employees are eligible to register with the New York State Library in order to access the Library’s substantial electronic resources. (Note that all New York residents can register, but NYS government employees have access to a lot more.) Instructions to register are here:

http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/apply.htm

(If you need assistance verifying your agency employment while at home, the NKI librarian can do that for you.)

ClinicalTrials.gov, a resource maintained by the National Library of Medicine and containing information on tens of thousands of studies conducted around the world, is undergoing a modernization effort. You can learn more about this project from the recent webinar that is archived here.

Health, United States is an annual report on trends in health statistics from the National Center for Health Statistics. The 2019 edition is now available here. Among the many useful features are the Spotlight Infographics and an At-a-glance Table.

Don’t get scammed! COVID-19 has led to a rise in fraud. Here are five tips to avoid falling prey.

The NKI librarian is always available to assist with literature searching, citation searching (Web of Science, Scopus), bibliographic reference management, and the like. When you have any information needs, or questions about available resources, don’t hesitate to turn to us.

The library offers a comfortable, quiet space for reading, work, and small meetings. To use the library’s Wi-Fi network, ask the library staff for the password.

You can link to the NKI Library’s website from myNKI. The Library site includes quick links to the NYU Health Sciences Library and to the New York State Library, as well as links to NKI’s own library resources (journal finder, online catalog, PsychiatryOnline, etc.).
New York State recently launched Excelsior Pass, a free and voluntary platform for businesses and individuals that can be used to easily demonstrate proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test. The Passes can be printed or stored using an app.

New York is the first state to release a vaccine “passport”, though others are likely to follow. Such passports raise a variety of ethical questions as well as political ones.

The COVID pandemic has been with us for over a year now. But where does it go from here? The course of the pandemic depends on many variables, but here are a couple of interesting takes on what the future may hold. Some “Models Predict a ‘Considerable Surge’ of COVID” next winter. And in the longer term, one doctor predicts that we are likely to see COVID “More Than Polio and Less Than Flu”.

The Urgency Illusion

Do you ever feel like you are constantly dealing with “urgent” matters but somehow never getting to the really important things? If so, take a look at “The Urgency Illusion: Are You Running Around with Your Hair on Fire? Here’s Why!” from the Leadership Freak blog.

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

NKI All Career Trajectories (ACT) Series

The NKI All Career Trajectories (ACT) Series is scheduled to present its fourth speaker on Monday, May 10th at 12pm.

The goal of this series is to provide scientists at all career levels – from undergraduates to research technicians to post-doctoral fellows – information on alternative careers in science and how these scientists made their career choices. Throughout the series we will bring in (through zoom calls) scientists in various careers such as government, industry, library sciences, data analysis, and more, who will discuss their career paths and how they made important life and career choices.

The series takes place on the following zoom channel: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89540284886

CBC Community Space Discussions

The Community Building Committee (CBC) is launching periodic “Community Space” discussions. The goal is to build community and provide a forum for discussions about topics of interest. The first Community Space discussion will be held on Monday, April 26th at noon. The topic is Mentoring and Networking. There will be a brief presentation followed by a community discussion, moderated by the CBC. Please join us to talk about experiences of being mentored and being a mentee, what was helpful and what was not.

Center for Cognitive Neurology Research Day

Save the date for the annual NYU Langone Center for Cognitive Neurology Research Day on Wednesday, May 26th from 1pm – 5pm. This year’s virtual Research Day Symposium will be focused on the “Underlying Mechanisms that Link Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Disorders”.
Art of the Brain Exhibition

The Art of the Brain is a virtual exhibition of photographs, paintings, illustrations, and videos that celebrate the beauty of the brain as seen through the eyes of some of the world’s leading researchers. With the aid of the latest technological advances, as symbolized by these images, scientists are better able to understand how the brain works and to accelerate the development of new treatments for many brain disorders including Alzheimer’s disease, autism, drug addiction, schizophrenia, and Parkinson’s disease.

This year’s exhibition is presented by the Mount Sinai School of Medicine’s Friedman Brain Institute and the Dana Foundation to mark Brain Awareness Week 2021. The online exhibition runs through May 28th.

Statewide Grand Rounds

Cops, Clinicians, or Both?
Collaborative Approaches to Responding to Behavioral Health Emergencies

Presenters

Margie Balfour, MD, PhD
Chief of Quality & Clinical Innovation at Connections Health Solutions

Denise Balzer, LCSW
Director of Crisis Services, Division of Adult Community Care, NYS OMH

Jennifer Goldman, MD
Medical Director, Crisis & Community Services, NYS OMH

Wednesday, April 21st, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

The archived recording of February’s Grand Rounds program on COVID-19 and Schizophrenia-Spectrum Disorders: What We Learned & What We May Discover presented by Katlyn Nemani, MD, Clinical Research Psychiatrist at NKI, is now available for viewing at https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/bps/.

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) regularly hosts an interactive video broadcast covering the latest research, technology, and treatment implementation in the fields of psychiatry and psychology. These programs are recorded, and the archived Statewide Grand Rounds programs can be viewed on the OMH website.

NKI ON THE (VIRTUAL) ROAD

Dr. Crystal Lewis, Director of the Division of Social Solutions & Services at NKI and the Laurie M. Tisch Scholar for Racial Equity in Mental Health at NYU presented on “Racism as a Social Determinant of Health” as part of NYU’s Health Equity Speaker Series. Video recordings of this speaker series can be found here.
Below is a list of references that have been added to the NKI publications database since the previous update. The full database contains over 6,500 items dating back to 1995, and can be searched from the myNKI website.


Frangou S, Modabbernia A, Williams SCR, Papachristou E, Doucet GE. Cortical thickness across the lifespan: Data from 17,075 healthy individuals aged 3-90 years. Hum Brain Mapp. 2021 Feb 17. PMID: 33595143.


