Being In Compliance with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

The use of laboratory animals is an essential component of biomedical research, and humane and effective use of animals is a necessary and important element of such research activities. The NIH Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) provides oversight of animal research in the NIH Intramural Research Program and provides a full range of resources related to policy, training, guidelines, and regulations. Investigators conducting research with animal subjects have an ethical and legal responsibility to ensure humane care and use. At NKI, in order to comply with the Federal regulations, we have an IACUC committee whose role is described below. Any investigator (and technical staff or volunteer) working with animals must complete an online training prior to working with animals, and have an occupational health clearance. The IACUC Training for Animal Care and Use is posted on myNKI, under Institute Learning Resources.

The next step for an investigator conducting animal research is to fill out an IACUC Protocol Form. Shortly, we hope to be utilizing a new online InfoED Animal Studies/IACUC Solution eForm to complete IACUC protocols and reviews. So, it is also a good time to review compliance issues as they relate to the IACUC. One of the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) policy requirements is that “all personnel involved with the care and use of animals must be adequately educated, trained, and/or qualified in basic principles of laboratory animal science to ensure high-quality science and animal well-being.”

In addition to considering how the animals are handled, OLAW requires investigators and the IACUC committee to review certain criteria as a protocol is being developed and as the study is being conducted. We and the investigator must consider the following points as we decide on using animals in our research:

- **Ethical and scientific justification for using animals;** consider ethical costs and benefits.
- **Replace** the use of animals with alternative techniques, or avoid the use of animals.
- **Reduce** the number of animals used to a minimum, to obtain information from fewer animals or more information from the same number of animals while not causing or increasing suffering for any one animal.
Refine the way experiments are carried out, to make sure animals suffer as little as possible. This includes better housing and improvements to procedures which minimize pain and suffering and/or improve animal welfare. The above is known as the 3Rs of ethical research using animals.

The NKI IACUC committee has a number of responsibilities, including:

- Protocol review – initiate program oversight/post-approval monitoring, develop and monitor the IACUC structure, program of veterinary care, animal environment, husbandry, occupational health and safety, physical plant, qualification and training of investigators, collaboration, and promoting science.

- Policy and procedures for anyone to report concerns related to animal welfare, in confidence and without fear of reprisal.

- Agreements between collaborating institutions, specifying who has oversight and responsibilities.

- Oversight of all areas where animals are housed and used.

- Certification that all care and use of animals in research activities follows guidelines set forth in the NIH “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.”

For the investigator, the design of experiments should follow NIH guidelines for promoting rigorous, transparent, and reproducible research. The expectation is that the IACUC will ensure that research protocols are sound; that the experimental design is unbiased and appropriate statistics are used; and that biological variables, such as sex, are incorporated into the study. Details on each of these are required.

On the institutional level, the cost associated with animal studies (housing and care) keeps increasing. If a protocol does not have ‘cage per diem’ charges associated with it, and the protocol request is to start a study prior to grant funding, the protocol must first be approved by the Pilot Review Committee.

The IACUC committee is available to help you navigate compliance issues. For assistance, or to report any violations or animal welfare concerns, please contact Henry Sershen, IACUC Chair, or Mark Klinger, NKI Veterinarian.

### GRANTS AND FUNDING

**Charles Schroeder** (Schizophrenia Research) has received a two year R21 Grant entitled “Effects of brain stimulation on neuronal dynamics and behavior” from the National Institute of Mental Health.

**Helen Scharfman** (Dementia Research) received a five year R01 Grant entitled “Hilar mossy cells and dentate gyrus function” from the National Institute of Mental Health.

**Ralph Nixon** (Dementia Research) has received a Supplement to the grant entitled “Cell and Molecular Pathobiology of Alzheimer’s Disease” from the National Institute on Aging.

**Justin Botterill** (Scharfman Lab), who recently completed his PhD at the University of Saskatchewan, received a postdoctoral fellowship from the Savoy Foundation to support his research on “Dissecting normal from abnormal hippocampal neurogenesis.”
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

2017 Young Investigator Research Grant

The Blas Frangione Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2017 Blas Frangione Young Investigator Research Grant at New York University.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Application deadline: October 1, 2016
Who is eligible: Qualified applicants can hold any level of faculty appointment up through assistant professor; US and non-US citizens
Amount: $50,000 for one year with the potential for renewal
Contact person: Questions about the application should be directed to Dr. Blas Frangione blas.frangione@nyumc.org

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications are encouraged from early career scientists active in research within the field of neuroscience, brain aging, Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative conditions. A project proposal following the R03 NIH format, along with a biosketch should be submitted to Camy Sleeman at camy.sleeman@nyumc.org by October 1, 2016.

The awardee will be notified on December 9, 2016. Anticipated start date of award is January 1, 2017.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The goal of the Frangione Foundation, established in 2009 by Blas Frangione, MD, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Psychiatry, is to support research in neuroscience relevant to neurodegenerative diseases.

FROM AROUND THE INSTITUTE

Labs Get a Makeover

Consonant with Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 88 which established a goal of 20% energy savings for NYS buildings by 2020, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) undertook a major project designed to improve the energy efficiency of the new lab building 39, which is nearing its 20-year anniversary. The project began in early June with the vacating of each lab for 7-10 days. Before work commenced, all removable items (hazardous chemicals, glassware, all sensitive equipment, freezers, refrigerators, etc.) were placed in adjoining labs or in the hallway. The HVAC work was conducted by outside contractors who needed total access to the ductwork and HVAC controls, in order to upgrade them to the latest technology. Much of the work involved the chemical fume hoods located in each lab, adding new controls that will allow them to perform more efficiently.

Once the HVAC work was completed, our able maintenance staff began the much-needed refurbishing, which included painting the walls, and coating the floors with an epoxy sealant. This work was conducted in the evenings and on weekends. Once the walls and floors were ready, the task of moving back in provided an opportunity to rearrange the labs to fit current work projects. It also allowed for the chance to remove old chemicals and outdated equipment. As the project nears its completion, Dennis Case and his staff have kept this major undertaking on schedule, and with the least amount of disruption.

Contributed by Ray Suckow

A lab is prepared for the contractors by removing all equipment...
... which is placed in the hallway for the next week.

Dennis prepares the paint.

Vance, Keith, and Mariusz getting ready to prime the walls.

Mariusz dons protective equipment while coating the floors with an epoxy finish.

The refurbished lab – like new!

Innovative Clinical Research Solutions, the data management group in ISD, congratulates Audrey Bauzó-Rosario on the successfully passing the Certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP) test. In addition to this, she is certified as a Clinical Data Manager (CCDM, and she holds a Masters Degree in Psychology. Audrey has been part of the data management team in ICRS for the past 13 years. She has broad experience in clinical trials from inception to closure, both for academic and industry sponsored trials. She has been the Project Manager for several ICRS/ISD large scale trials. Audrey is married with two young girls, and lives in Brooklyn.
In a recent research commentary piece on the Alzforum website, Ralph Nixon (Dementia Research) is quoted, and his prior work is cited.

**Scientific American**

Dr. Nixon’s research is also highlighted in a recent article in *Scientific American* online – “Could Trashing Junk Proteins Quash Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, ALS and Huntington’s?”

**USA Today**

Comments by Cameron Craddock (C-BIN) appear in a *USA Today* article on the psychology of hate (following the shooting in Orlando). Dr. Craddock notes that while neuroscientists have made progress in understanding brain function through imaging, there’s still a way to go in understanding hate and violent anger.

**Medscape**

Jacinto Convit García, the father of NKI Deputy Director Antonio Convit, appears on a list of the most influential physicians in history. (This list, published by Medscape, consists of the top picks suggested by readers.) Much of Jacinto Convit’s very long career was devoted to research on leprosy and other tropical diseases, and to the care of those patients. The senior Dr. Convit passed away in 2014, at the age of 100. (Note: In case Medscape asks you to login, try linking from the Google search here.)

**Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart 50**

Judy Sugarman, a part time research assistant in the Social Solutions and Services department, is also a world class double bass player with an extensive performance and teaching resume stretching over 30 years. Currently, she can be seen on stage with the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra at Lincoln Center!

**Walk to End Alzheimer’s**

Please join the Geriatric Psychiatry Division at NKI in supporting the Walk to End Alzheimer’s Disease! The walk is October 9th, so mark your calendar and of course, please encourage family and friends to join us as well.

- **When:** Sunday, October 9th, 2016 at 10:00 am
- **Where:** Provident Bank Park, Pomona NY
- **Team Name:** Nathan Kline Institute GERI Program and Friends

[Here is the link](#) if you want to sign up.
The Rockland Living Museum invites you to our WEAVING exhibit at the Orangeburg Library
20 S. Greenbush Road
July 14 – August 18

You can read more about the Rockland Living Museum (part of the Recovery Center at RPC) in the September/October, 2012 issue of The Informer.

Coinciding with this exhibit, the August issue of OMH News focuses on “The Arts: Expression and its Role in Mental Health Therapy”. There, you can learn more about the Rockland Living Museum, as well as its predecessor, the Living Museum at Creedmoor.

Susan Delano, who served as Deputy Managing Director of the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene (RFMH) for nearly 14 years, recently retired. On June 16, at the Century House in Latham, she was honored by RFMH for her service.

PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

NeuroImage

As part of the international open neuroscience collaborative called “Neuro Bureau”, Cameron Craddock (Center for Biomedical Imaging and Neuromodulation) and colleagues describe the development of the ADHD-200 Preprocessed dataset in Neuroimage.


The Journal of Neuroscience

Two papers from the Wilson Lab (Emotional Brain Institute) appeared in the Journal of Neuroscience during the month of June.


**Joseph LeDoux** (Emotional Brain Institute) is a coauthor of this *Nature Neuroscience* paper. The “findings suggest an alternative view of amygdala circuits in resolving ambiguity during aversive learning”.


**Sang Han Lee** and colleagues in the Center for Biomedical Imaging and Neuromodulation coauthored this paper on the prediction of progression from mild cognitive impairment to Alzheimer’s disease.


**Masuo Ohno** (Dementia Research) contributed this editorial to a forthcoming special issue of *Brain Research Bulletin*.


**Nunzio Pomara** (Geriatric Psychiatry) and colleague Davide Bruno contributed this commentary piece for a forthcoming issue of the *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*.


Two reviews by Center for Dementia Research investigators were recently published in *Ageing Research Reviews*.


**Matthew Hoptman** (Schizophrenia Research) is a coauthor of this review appearing in *Current Behavioral Neuroscience Reports*.

My how time flies! PubMed was first released in 1996, and has gone through a continuous process of development and improvement ever since. You can recap some of that history in this article from the National Library of Medicine. Currently, PubMed provides a free access point for more than 26 million biomedical literature citations, and supports millions of searches each day.

Two APA Practice Guidelines have been added to PsychiatryOnline:

- The American Psychiatric Association Practice Guideline on the Use of Antipsychotics to Treat Agitation or Psychosis in Patients with Dementia
- The American Psychiatric Association Practice Guidelines for the Psychiatric Evaluation of Adults, Third Edition

Keep in mind that PsychiatryOnline puts a wealth of psychiatric literature at your fingertips, including the DSM Library, a number of textbooks, patient education resources, and the APA journals.

Joshua Gordon, MD, PhD, has been selected to be the next director of the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Gordon is currently with Columbia University Medical Center and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Here is the press release with more details.

SAMHSA (the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) has begun a Wellness Initiative. While this initiative is designed especially for those with behavioral health conditions, the Eight Dimensions of Wellness it describes are applicable to everyone. To learn more about this program, you can watch this brief video or download “Creating a Healthier Life: A Step-By-Step Guide to Wellness”.

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 still offers a comfortable, quiet space for reading, work, and small meetings. And we now have Wi-Fi. Just 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.). Remote access is available using NKI’s VPN.
Have you ever wondered whether foods are still ok to eat after their “sell by/use by/best by” date? This question was addressed recently in the Ask Well column of The New York Times. The writer notes that, “As a general rule, most foods can be consumed days, weeks or even months past the dates printed on packaging.” But read the rest for more context and details.

Arts & Culture Online

Google Arts & Culture, created by the Google Cultural Institute, is an extensive online platform for a large array of artistic and cultural content. It’s possible to browse this material in a number of ways – for example, by artist, or medium, or movement. And an artist’s work can be organized by date, by popularity, and even by color. So in a click you can see different groupings of Monet’s paintings, or the colorful evolution of van Gogh’s!

NKI ON THE ROAD

John and Diana Van Lancker Sidtis, along with Irina Vaynshteyn and Seung-yun Yang (Brain and Behavior Research Lab) recently traveled to Vilnius University in Lithuania for the Formulaic Language Research Network (FLaRN) 2016 conference, where they presented a number of papers and posters.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Mary Jane Alexander (Social Solutions & Services) presented a workshop at the NAMI National Convention in Denver on July 8th, along with Parachute NYC colleagues from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Visiting Nurse Service of New York. The workshop was titled “Crisis as Opportunity: Integrating Peers into Crisis Alternatives in Parachute NYC”. Dr. Alexander reports that “We got a great deal of interest in the model from NAMI affiliates – both professionals, family advocates, and, especially, peers.

In September, BBRF’s monthly Meet the Scientist Webinar Series will be presented by Xavier Castellanos, MD, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at NKI and NYU. Living Well with ADHD: Scientific Guideposts to Improved Outcomes Tuesday, September 13th, 2:00 - 3:00 PM
Below is a list of references that have been added to the NKI publications database since the previous update. The full database contains over 5,300 items dating back to 1995, and can be searched from the NKI web site.


Nixon R. Protein indigestion in aging neurons and neurodegenerative disease: how do you spell relief? Gerontologist 55[Suppl. 2], 819. 2015. [Abstract]