Science Day at NKI returned on May 23rd after a three-year hiatus due to COVID. Organized by the Community Building Committee, Science Day featured short presentations by five young researchers, followed by refreshments and then a poster session. Forty-five posters were accepted for the exhibition. The full program and abstracts, along with additional photos, can be found on the NKI website.
Dr. Michael ("Miki") Kohn passed away on May 16th at the age of 90. Miki arrived at NKI (then called the Research Facility at Rockland State Hospital) in 1957 and worked here for the rest of his life. His 66 years of service will surely remain a record for longevity. To him, NKI was simply “the place”. On May 16th, 2022, the NKI auditorium was dedicated in his honor, recognizing his many contributions to the Institute over the years.

Miki Kohn was born in Budapest, Hungary, and he survived the Holocaust before coming to the U.S. in 1950. When he arrived here, he had two dollars in his pocket and barely spoke English. Nevertheless, he put himself through high school and then City College. Later, he earned a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from NYU. For more about Miki’s career, see the June 2022 issue of The Informer.

Dr. Kohn is survived by two sons and six grandchildren. He and his life partner, Elinor Grayzel, recently celebrated 35 years together. In addition to his dedication to NKI, Miki loved opera, travel, and books.

On June 27th, colleagues and friends gathered to celebrate the retirement of Arthur Saltzman after 32+ years at NKI. Arthur originally worked in the lab of Seymour Levine before joining Steve Ginsberg’s lab. He plans to move to Florida for his retirement.
The seventh year of the NKI Summer Scholars Internship Program is entering the home stretch for 2023. This year’s students were mentored by Internship Program Co-Directors Kristin Dietz Trautman, LCSW, and Anna MacKay-Brandt, PhD; Chelsea Reichert, PhD; Stan Colcombe, PhD; Babak Ardekani, PhD; Eduardo Gonzalez-Moreira, PhD; Jean-Pierre Lindenmayer, MD; and Sharifa Williams, PhD. At least four of this year’s Summer Scholars obtained competitive awards through their academic institutions for stipends to support their unpaid NKI internships. These are: Riya Chaturvedi (Temple); Isabel Coca (Wheaton); Nicole Deng (Wesleyan); and Jonathan Yohannan (Cornell).

NKI faculty presented the Wednesday afternoon internship seminar series. Speakers were Drs. Anna MacKay-Brandt, Stan Colcombe, Chelsea Reichert, Sharifa Williams, Pam Butler, Alex Franco, Russell Tobe, and Matt Hoptman. The series will wrap up on August 2nd with a session led by Kristin Dietz Trautman and Anna MacKay-Brandt in which the Summer Scholars will give presentations and receive career development feedback.

The Summer 2024 application window opens in mid-September and preliminary interviews are conducted in January. Faculty interested in participating in the 2024 Summer program as a mentor or seminar presenter are welcome to contact the internship directors for more information.

### The 2023 Summer Scholars

- Ibrahim Bukhari: NYU
- Riya Chaturvedi: Temple University
- Isabel Coca: Wheaton College
- Nicole Deng: Wesleyan University
- Mia Giaever: Middlebury College
- Aditi Jayaraman: Dartmouth College
- Lexuan Jiang: Teachers Coll., Columbia
- Mohan Liu: NYU
- Andrea Vijil Morin: Macalaster College
- Sankhepo Ndlovu: S. New Hampshire U.
- Giovanna Novi: Colby College
- Furqan Qureshi: Colby College
- Andrea Suazo Rivas: Grinnell College
- Jocelyn Wang: NYU
- Zhiyan Yang: NYU
- Jonathan Yohannan: Cornell University

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**GRANTS RECEIVED**

**Drs. Charles Schroeder** and **Michael Milham** (Center for Biomedical Imaging & Neuromodulation) received a five-year renewal of the Silvio O. Conte Centers for Basic Neuroscience or Translational Mental Health Research P50 grant titled “Neurobiology and Cognitive Role of Slow Brain Network Fluctuations.”

**Dr. Charles Schroeder** (Center for Biomedical Imaging & Neuromodulation) with his collaborator at Columbia University, Dr. Serge Przedborski, received a two-year UG3 award titled “Circuit-specific, chemogenetic neuromodulation in nonhuman primates.”

**Drs. Dan Javitt** (Schizophrenia Research), **Sam Neymotin** (C-BIN), **Noelle O’Connell** (C-BIN), and **Robert Sears** (Emotional Brain Institute) received an R01 titled “Auditory event-related potentials as in vivo preclinical assays of circuit engagement for E/I-based therapeutic development.”

**Dr. Tarek Sobeih** (Information Sciences) and **NKI’s Innovative Clinical Research Solutions** (ICRS) will be providing data management support for the R01 grant titled “A Multimodal Imaging Study of Dopamine in Early Psychosis.” This R01 grant is a collaboration with Dr. Ragy Girgis at NYSPI.

**Dr. Helen Scharfman** (Center for Dementia Research) received a five-year renewal of the R01 grant titled “The Role of Hippocampal area CA2 in Epilepsy.”

In collaboration with Dr. Amit Anand at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, **Dr. Katherine Collins** (Clinical Research) received a grant from **Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute** (PCORI) titled “Rapid Reversal of Suicidal Depression: Comparative Effectiveness of ECT vs. Ketamine Over the Lifespan.”

**Dr. Nunzio Pomara** (Geriatric Psychiatry) received a subcontract from the University of Southern California for the clinical trial titled “Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI4).”
Welcome (Back) Aboard

A familiar face is back at NKI with a new role. Anina Klein, JD, MSW, CCRA, worked here for 11 years as a Senior Clinical Research Associate with the Innovative Clinical Research Solutions (ICRS) group. Now Anina has returned as the Director of Research Education. She will be based at NKI but oversee research education for all OMH researchers.

Judy A. Moore, MPH, is the new Regulatory Core Director for the NYS Office of Mental Health Human Research Protection Program. In this position, Judy will oversee legal and institutional requirements related to reliance agreements; review IRB submissions and grant materials for internal congruency; and evaluate ongoing research activities to check for potential participant safety issues. Judy has a Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree from CUNY Lehman. Before joining OMH, she spent over 15 years as an Oncology Clinical Research Manager at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Westchester Medical Center where she was involved in overseeing the daily operations of all departmental protocols.

The next issue of the Informer will include a description of the OMH Human Research Protections Program.

ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION®

On June 24th, the Geriatric Psychiatry department held a memory screening event in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Association at the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Nyack, NY. The event was titled “Healthy Living Education Program” and after the educational event, Dr. Pomara’s team conducted mobile memory screenings for any community members who attended.

From left to right Antero Sarreal, Chelsea Reichert Plaska, Vita Pomara, Annie Schatz, Giovanna Novi, and Ann Marie McGrory.
Center for Dementia Research

Dr. Pasquale D’Acunzo (Levy Lab) gave the CDR Neuroscience Seminar Series presentation on May 4th. His topic was “Mitovesicles: a novel subtype of brain extracellular vesicles altered with aging and disease.”

Friday afternoon pickup soccer has returned to NKI for the summer. Everyone is welcome to join in, Fridays at 5:00 next to the parking lot in front of building 35. For those who are interested, there is also a new chat link for this: https://chat.whatsapp.com/GQCkSiGNLm49vPDJfJJK

Center for Dementia Research Director Dr. Ralph Nixon contributed his latest comments on new papers to the Alzforum website. One of these comments was coauthored by CDR investigator Dr. Ju-Hyun Lee.

PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

nature

Regina Sullivan (Emotional Brain Institute) is a coauthor of this article recently published in Nature.


nature reviews neuroscience

Helen Scharfman (Dementia Research) coauthored this Perspective piece appearing in Nature Reviews Neuroscience.


Psychiatric Services

This Open Forum piece in Psychiatric Services was coauthored by Marilena Lekas, Crystal Lewis, and Kerstin Pahl (Social Solutions & Services).

This recent paper coauthored by Lila Davachi (Biomedical Imaging & Neuromodulation) was published in PNAS.


Center for Biomedical Imaging & Neuromodulation Director Michael Milham is the senior author of this paper recently published in Nature Methods.


Clinical Evaluation Center Director Russell Tobe is the corresponding author of this clinical trials report published in Neropsychopharmacology.


Katherine Collins (Clinical Research) is a coauthor of this recent paper in The New England Journal of Medicine. The publication was highlighted in a posting by the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation: “Trial Finds Ketamine and ECT About Equally Effective for Most Patients with Resistant Major Depression”


A letter to the editor by Nunzio Pomara (Geriatric Psychiatry) and a colleague also recently appeared in The New England Journal of Medicine.


Karl-Heinz Nenning, Alex Franco, Arielle Tambini, Stan Colcombe, and Michael Milham (Biomedical Imaging & Neuromodulation) are among the authors of this open access article in Neuroimage.

NKI authors contributed to two recent papers published in *The American Journal of Psychiatry*. Director of Clinical Research Dan Iosifescu is a coauthor of this clinical trial report, which was featured in a *Psychiatric News Alert*:


And Ayana Jordan (Social Solutions & Services) is a coauthor of this Review & Overview:


NKI investigators contributed to two chapters in this book on *Translational Methods for PTSD Research*, part of the *Neuromethods* book series. The first chapter is by Regina Sullivan, Christopher Cain, and colleagues (Emotional Brain Institute):


And Mohammed Milad (Clinical Research) is the corresponding author of this chapter:


Dan Iosifescu (Clinical Research) is a coauthor of this review of photobiomodulation therapy published in the June issue of *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*.

This clinical trial report appearing in *Biological Psychiatry* is by first author Pejman Sehatpour, corresponding author Joshua Kantrowitz (Schizophrenia Research, and coauthors including Dan Iosifescu and Connie Shope (Clinical Research).


These two papers recently published in the open access journal *Frontiers in Neuroscience* are by Mariko Saito, John Smiley, Donald Wilson, and NKI colleagues.


Stephen Ginsberg (Dementia Research) coauthored this editorial published in *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*.


Eduardo Gonzalez-Moreira (Biomedical Imaging & Neuromodulation) is the first author of this open access article in *Brain Sciences*.


This systematic review in the open access journal *Life* is by corresponding author Umit Tural, Allison Sparpana, Elizabeth Sullivan, and senior author Dan Iosifescu (Clinical Research).

FindSupport.gov is a new website launched by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is designed for the general public, to help people identify available resources, explore unbiased information about various treatment options, and learn how to reach out to get the support they need for issues related to mental health, drugs, or alcohol.

Another new web page provides consumer-friendly information about the No Surprises Act, which protects people from unexpected medical bills.

In the last six months or so, artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT have exploded into the mainstream. Some see AI as a threat to life on earth, while others think that it is going to save humanity. What seems certain is that AI is going to have far-reaching consequences in many areas of our lives. To give just one example, AI has already created a stir in the world of scientific publishing, prompting a debate about the appropriateness and ethics of its use in the production of articles. See “Is ChatGPT a Friend or Foe of Medical Publishing” on Medscape for a discussion of some of the issues.

Season 8 of the public television series Healthy Minds with Dr. Jeffrey Borenstein is now available to watch on PBS.org. The Emmy nominated series is produced by the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation. Episodes from previous seasons can be viewed here.

April 30th marked the 30th anniversary of the public launch of the World Wide Web, an event which forever changed the way the world works, plays, and learns. This piece on NPR ran on the anniversary day.

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, etc.).
Center for Biomedical Imaging and Neuromodulation Science Series

Held on Mondays at 11 am via Zoom

https://childmind.zoom.us/j/87444738909?pwd=TEl4T VduMVp1WS9QV0VWUKVU2xvQT09&from=addon

Meeting ID: 874 4473 8909
Passcode: 987767

Ernst Schwartz, PhD
Medical University of Vienna

*Evolution of cortical geometry and its link to function, behavior, and ecology*

July 31st

Carolina Makowski, PhD
UC San Diego
August 7th

Erika Raven, PhD
NYU Langone
September 11th

Center for Dementia Research Neuroscience Seminar Series

Held on Thursdays in the Miki Kohn conference room.

Christine A. Denny, PhD
Columbia University

*Identification and manipulation of individual memory traces in cognitive and psychiatric diseases*

September 14th

Victor Luna, PhD
Temple University

*Hippocampal neurogenesis and aging-related cognitive decline*

September 21st

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.
Lucia Tu, a senior research assistant in NKI’s Clinical Evaluation Center (CEC), presented her work at the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting in Stockholm in May:


CEC Director Dr. Russ Tobe also presented at the meeting:


Dr. Crystal Lewis, Director of Social Solutions & Services, presented at the Population Health Innovation Summit on June 6th in Albany. The topic of her talk was “Minoritized Women Involved in Substance Use: A Call to Action”.

Dr. Esther Blessing (Clinical Research) presented on “Age-related brain temperature alterations and tau pathology in Alzheimer’s disease” at the 13th Annual NYU Neuroscience Retreat, held in April at the Edith Macy Conference Center in Briarcliff Manor, NY.

Dr. Robert Smith (Neurochemistry) presented a poster at the Schizophrenia International Research Conference held in Toronto in May:

Odor Discrimination and identification in Schizophrenia: Relationship to mRNA in Lymphocytes and MATRICS Battery scores.

Neurochemistry colleague Dr. Henry Sershen was the principal coauthor of this work.
Below is a list of references that have been added to the NKI publications database since the previous update. The full database contains over 7,200 items dating back to 1995 and can be searched from the myNKI website.


