In recent months, the Division of Social Solutions and Services (SSSR) and its Center for Research on Cultural and Structural Equity (C-CASE) has welcomed three new research scientists to its ranks: Drs. Qiana Brown, Helen-Maria Lekas, and Pamela Valera. Each is briefly profiled below.

Dr. Helen-Maria Lekas, PhD

Dr. Lekas joined NKI in July, 2016 as a Research Scientist and Co-Director of C-CASE. She is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Lekas earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University, where she then served as faculty in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences for 13 years, conducting NIH-funded research on infectious and chronic diseases among socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. Symptom interpretation and illness management, stigma, sexual and substance-use related risk behavior, and patient-provider relationships in resource-poor contexts are among the research topics she has explored. Her work is theoretically driven, and over the years she has developed expertise as a theoretician with an appreciation for applied research. Most recently, Dr. Lekas has focused on addressing the structural- and individual-level barriers to engagement in medical care among marginalized patient populations, including HIV-infected inpatients with mental and behavioral health disorders, patients who leave the hospital against medical advice, and patients contending with multiple intersecting stigmas.

Dr. Pamela Valera, PhD, ACSW, CCTS

Dr. Valera joined NKI in June, 2017 as a Research Scientist and Co-Director of C-CASE. She is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Valera earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University, where she then served as faculty in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences for 13 years, conducting NIH-funded research on infectious and chronic diseases among socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. Symptom interpretation and illness management, stigma, sexual and substance-use related risk behavior, and patient-provider relationships in resource-poor contexts are among the research topics she has explored. Her work is theoretically driven, and over the years she has developed expertise as a theoretician with an appreciation for applied research. Most recently, Dr. Lekas has focused on addressing the structural- and individual-level barriers to engagement in medical care among marginalized patient populations, including HIV-infected inpatients with mental and behavioral health disorders, patients who leave the hospital against medical advice, and patients contending with multiple intersecting stigmas.
Dr. Valera joined NKI in December, 2016 as a Research Scientist, with a concurrent appointment in the Department of Psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine as a Research Assistant Professor. Dr. Valera earned her Ph.D in Social Work from the University of South Carolina, College of Social Work, and was awarded a three-year NIMH postdoctoral research fellowship in human immunodeficiency virus prevention and human sexuality from Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute, and a one-year research fellowship in cancer health from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She arrives at NKI after sustaining several years of NIH-funded research in cancer health and mental health among adults with criminal justice histories at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, and Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health. Through this work, Dr. Valera has made a substantial contribution to the science of cancer health disparities among adults across the criminal justice continuum.

Dr. Qiana L. Brown, PhD, MPH, LCSW

Dr. Qiana L. Brown is an epidemiologist, with expertise in substance use disorder epidemiology and maternal and child health. She earned her PhD in drug dependence epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and completed a three-year postdoctoral fellowship in substance abuse epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. Her research focuses on how the social environment shapes substance use and other behavioral health outcomes among women, youth, and families. Dr. Brown also holds an MPH in maternal and child health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, an MSW in child, adolescent, and family health from the University of Alabama, and a BA in psychology from Auburn University. She joined the Nathan Kline Institute in 2017 as a Research Scientist with a concurrent appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Brown is also a member of the editorial board of *Substance Use and Misuse*, an international peer-reviewed research journal.

FROM AROUND THE INSTITUTE

**NKI on the March**

A number of NKI researchers participated in the March for Science in NYC on April 22. **Monika Pawlik, PhD** (Dementia Research) shares her experience of the March below.

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made important medical breakthroughs. Walking next to us was a group with large origami dolphins and penguins, and a family with children who “wanted them to see that more people think like their parents”. For a while I had an elderly lady in a lab coat with a sign and a walker in front of me who slowly but determinately made her way down the twenty blocks of Broadway. I am glad I went.

The Rockland County Times published a notice about NKI’s participation in the Alzheimer’s Prevention Initiative Generation Study. This national study will test whether two investigational anti-amyloid drugs will help prevent or delay Alzheimer’s in people who are at genetic risk for developing the disease. Dr. Nunzio Pomara (Geriatric Psychiatry) is the principal investigator at the NKI study site.

OMH Medical Director Lloyd Sederer, MD, is a coauthor of this article on comprehensive mental health care reform that recently appeared in Psychiatric Times: “Improving Mental Health Care in America: An Opportunity for Comprehensive Reform”.

Gone Fishing

After 42 years of service, ISD Director Jim Robinson is calling it a day. Colleagues, family, and friends gathered for a celebratory luncheon at Confetti in Piermont, where many highlights of Jim’s long and productive career were recounted. Jim and Linda Kline (who retired from NKI in 2016) are looking forward to spending more time at their lake house in upstate New York.
Understanding Good Clinical Practice (GCP): Investigator Responsibilities

This is part III in the Good Clinical Practice (GCP) series of Compliance Corner. This issue will focus on the role of the study team in conducting an effective research project.

The role of the study personnel in a research protocol is a very important one. Together with the Principal Investigator, the staff is responsible for compliance with the research design. This means performing all the study related activities covered by the protocol in the precise manner specified in the IRB approved procedures. This includes identifying, informing, selecting, treating, observing, recording, withdrawing, terminating, and reporting subjects. It also includes analyzing data. Delegation of study-related tasks by the Principal Investigator to other study team members is permitted, provided that those individuals have been trained, or have experience in the task, and have signed the task delegation log. The Principal Investigator should ensure that all persons assisting with the study are adequately informed about the protocol, the investigational product(s), and their study-related duties and functions. The investigators should be able to demonstrate an adequate number of qualified staff and adequate facilities for the foreseen duration of the protocol to conduct the study properly and safely. Regardless of the delegation, any error made in the protocol conduct is ultimately the responsibility of the Principal Investigator.

Investigators are responsible for ensuring that amendments are submitted to the IRB for review and written approval is received prior to implementation. All revisions, additions, or deletions to approved protocols are considered amendments and must be submitted to the IRB for review to ensure that the research remains scientifically and ethically sound. It is also important for all researchers to understand that sometimes it may be necessary to deviate from the protocol to eliminate an immediate hazard or safety risk to the research subjects. If changes are made in the study design that are not in line with the approved protocol, whether purposeful or inadvertent, it is important to document and report the deviations, and to maintain a deviation log so the deviations can be taken into consideration as the study progresses. The log should be completed and reviewed regularly in order to identify any trends or problems in the research.

When a study involves clinical intervention, the Principal Investigator has the added responsibility of ensuring that adequate medical care for all research subjects is provided. This includes ensuring that study-related medical decisions are made only by qualified physicians who are investigators or sub-investigators on the protocol; treating research subjects for any adverse events, including clinically significant laboratory values; informing research subjects when medical care is needed for intercurrent illnesses of which the investigator becomes aware; and removing research subjects from the study if the investigator feels it is in their best interest to do so. For FDA regulated studies, medical care and medical decisions are under the supervision of the Principal Investigator. This means that activities which fall under the scope of medical care must be conducted by qualified, licensed medical staff.
**PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE**

Gary Linn, PhD (C-BIN) coauthored this chapter appearing in the new *International Encyclopedia of Primatology*.


NKI Director Donald Goff, MD, is first author of this review article assessing the long-term effects of antipsychotic use. The article was highlighted in a *Psychiatric News Alert*.


Michael Milham, MD, PhD, and Cameron Craddock, PhD (C-BIN) wrote this review of advances in brain imaging with their Child Mind Institute colleague Arno Klein.

Milham MP, Craddock RC, Klein A. *Clinically useful brain imaging for neuropsychiatry: How can we get there?* Depress Anxiety. 2017 Apr 20.

Joshua Kantrowitz, MD (Schizophrenia Research) published a review of negative symptom management in *CNS Drugs*.


This review on neurofilaments is by Drs. David Yuan, Mala Rao, Veeranna, and Ralph Nixon from the Center for Dementia Research.


C-BIN Director Michael Milham, MD, PhD, is a corresponding author of this Data Descriptor article in the open access journal *Scientific Data*. Cameron Craddock and David O’Connor (C-BIN) are among the coauthors.

NKI Director Donald Goff, MD, coauthored this clinical trial report appearing in *Molecular Psychiatry*.


Drs. Michael Milham and Cameron Craddock (C-BIN) are coauthors of this paper appearing in the open access journal *Gigascience*.


Asim Mubeen, PhD and John Sidtis, PhD (Brain & Behavior Laboratory) coauthored this paper with Babak Ardekani, PhD (C-BIN) and several others.


Clinical Research Director Dan Iosifescu, MD, co-wrote this *Lancet Psychiatry* commentary piece with a former Mt. Sinai colleague.


Emotional Brain Institute Director Joseph LeDoux, PhD, published this “Scientific Life” piece in the May issue of *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.


Efrat Levy, PhD (Dementia Research) contributed this *Frontiers in Neuroscience* paper on exosomes.


Morris Baslow, PhD (Neurochemistry) contributed this editorial to the *Journal of Inherited Metabolic Disease*.

Baslow MH. *Rescuing Canavan disease: engineering the wrong cell at the right time*. J Inherit Metab Dis. 2017 Apr 3.
Barbara Coffey, MD (Child & Adolescent Psychiatry) published this editorial in the April issue of the *JAACAP*.


This paper by Alexander Opitz, PhD, Charles Schroeder, PhD, and colleagues (C-BIN) appears in the May 16 issue of *PNAS*.


JP Lindenmayer, MD (Manhattan PC) is the corresponding author of this cognitive remediation study. NKI employees Veronica Ozog, Anzalee Khan, and Isidora Ljuri are coauthors.


The new fifth edition of *The American Psychiatric Association Publishing Textbook of Psychopharmacology* has been added to *Psychiatry Online*, the site proving full text access to journals and books published by the American Psychiatric Association. The latest edition has been updated to reflect the new DSM-5 classification. It maintains the user-friendly structure of its predecessors while offering in-depth coverage of the latest research in pharmacological principles, classes of drugs, and psychiatric disorders. And its coverage of drugs approved since the last edition is thorough, encompassing new antidepressants (e.g., vortioxetine), new antipsychotics (e.g., cariprazine), and agents on the clinical horizon (e.g., ketamine).

Have you ever wondered about the copyright policies governing your use of the papers you publish? With various publisher policies and online research outlets, it can be hard to keep track. Here is a website that might help: [howcanishareit.com](http://howcanishareit.com) was created by a number of major scientific publishers to help clarify what different subscription journals allow in terms of archiving and sharing copyrighted articles online.

For some background on this topic, see “Science publishers try new tack to combat unauthorized paper sharing” from *Nature* news.
Another recent Nature piece sheds light on the darker side of open-access publishing. In “Predatory journals recruit fake editor,” the authors describe their sting operation which enticed numerous fraudulent journals to welcome an invented professor as an editor. The New York Times also covered this sting. In the brave new world of scientific publishing, it’s important to be wary.

Google images

We are all accustomed to doing online searches using text. But did you know that it’s also possible to search using images? Using reverse image search, Google allows you to do just that. This could be helpful for discovering the copyright status of an image, or for finding similar images or variations. Starting from images.google.com, there are several ways to search using an image. And you can also do image search using a phone or tablet. For more details, see this Google search help page.

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.). Remote access is available using NKI’s VPN.

DEPARTMENT OF WONDER

Fountain of Youth?

A recent post on the NIH Director’s Blog highlights research showing that blood plasma from young donors has a rejuvenating effect on old mice. Earlier work from this Stanford group used blood from young mice. But in their latest publication, the researchers show similar effects of blood plasma collected from the umbilical cords of newborn humans. Moreover, the investigators “traced many of those cognitive benefits to a specific protein called TIMP2—an unexpected discovery that could pave the way for the development of brain-boosting drugs to slow the effects of aging.”

Retro Report is a nonpartisan documentary news organization dedicated to examining stories after their headlines fade. The organization produces short documentaries about major news events, and the resulting impact on our lives. Retro Report videos appear on The New York Times site, accompanied by an essay. One recent video looks at the history of surgical treatments in psychiatry, from lobotomy to the more refined techniques currently in use. Another video, from 2014, considers diagnostic issues in psychiatry, focusing on “multiple personality disorder”, now known as dissociative identity disorder.

Fake News

Each year, on April 1 (April Fools’ Day), Google plays some pranks on its users, sometimes in the form of fake new products and services. These are often very clever, and this year was no exception, featuring the ability to translate Heptapod B, a pet-friendly search function, and Google Gnome (for a smart yard)! Wikipedia has a full list of Google April Fools jokes here.
Charles Schroeder, PhD (C-BIN) delivered the Founder’s Lecture on May 21st at the International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF) conference, held this year at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Schroeder’s topic was “Multisensory Processing from an Active Sensing Perspective”.

Menahem Krakowski, MD, PhD (Clinical Research) attended the May, 2017 Annual Meeting of the APA in San Diego, where he presented on “Risk Factors for Violence in Schizophrenia: The Role of Psychopathy, Impulsivity, Aggressive Attitudes, and Background Historical Variables”.

At the CCN Research Day held on April 27th, posters were presented by Drs. Stephen Ginsberg and Melissa Alldred:


Some photos from the event can be seen here.
Statewide Grand Rounds

[Topic to be announced]

Presenter: Helen Egger, MD
Chair, Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
Director, Child Study Center
NYU Langone Medical Center

Wednesday, June 21st
1:00 – 2:30 pm


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 PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

Below is a list of references that have been added to the NKI publications database since the previous update. The full database contains over 5,500 items dating back to 1995, and can be searched from the NKI web site.

Baslow MH. Rescuing Canavan disease: engineering the wrong cell at the right time. J Inherit Metab Dis. 2017 Apr 3.


Milham MP, Craddock RC, Klein A. Clinically useful brain imaging for neuropsychiatry: How can we get there? Depress Anxiety. 2017 Apr 20.


Siegel K, Lekas HM, Onaga M, Verni R, Gunn H. The Strategies of Heterosexuals from Large Metropolitan Areas for Assessing the Risks of Exposure to HIV or Other Sexually Transmitted Infections from Partners Met Online. AIDS Patient Care STDs. 2017 Apr;31(4):182-195.


Levy E, Perez-Gonzalez R, Gauthier S. A mechanism for enhanced exosome secretion in the brain of down syndrome patients that alleviates neuronal endosomal abnormalities. Neuro-degenerative Diseases 17[Suppl. 1], S65. 2017. [Abstract]


