Department of Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics

NEWSLETTER

May 2019

DNET Faculty Meeting:
The next scheduled faculty meeting of DNET will be on **Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in MR-301.** If you have any items of concern for the next agenda, please contact Dr. Julie Pilitsis.

May Seminars:

**Wed., May 1, 2019; 1:30 p.m.; MS316**

Lance A. Johnson, PhD
Assistant Professor; Department of Physiology; University of Kentucky; Lexington, Kentucky

“Metabolic Reprogramming and Alzheimer’s Disease Risk: The Role of ApoE”

**Wed., May 8, 2019, 1:30 p.m.; MS316**

Gary Hon, PhD
Assistant Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; Dallas, Texas

“Unraveling biological complexity through systematic perturbation”

**Wed., May 15, 2019; 1:30 p.m., MS316 OPEN**

**Wed., May 22, 2019; 1:30 p.m., MS316**

Sarah Stern, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow; Department of Molecular Genetics; Rockefeller University; New York, New York

“Top down cortical control of learned overconsumption”

Department of Psychiatry
Journal Club presentations
Clinical Psychology Journal Club presentations are held on the 3rd Thursday of every third month at 12:00 noon.

*Ashley Kopec, PhD (DNET) will be presenting at the June 20th joint Psychology/Neuroscience Journal Club.*

2018-2019 Schedule

**Thurs, Sept 20, 2018; 12:00pm; MS-316**

**Thurs, Dec 20, 2018; 12:00pm; MS-316**

**Thurs, Mar 21, 2019; 12:00pm; MS-316**

**Thurs, June 20, 2019; 12:00pm; MS-316**

SAVE-THE-DATES
DNET WEEKEND

**Friday, October 4, 2019**
DNET Departmental Retreat

**Saturday, October 5, 2019**
4th Annual CME Conference on Pain

More Details forthcoming
**DNET Journal Club presentations:**
Journal Club presentations are held on Fridays, at 12:00 noon in MR-301. Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows will make presentations as well as the students. Please feel free to bring your lunch.

**DNET 2019-20 Journal Club will start up again in September 2019**

**Faculty Highlights:**
Please submit information to be included in this section to Pya Seidner, no later than the 25th day of the previous month.

**Faculty interviews:**
The following candidates will be here in May. If you would like to meet with them and aren’t already scheduled, please let Pya know.

- **Jayme McReynolds, PhD**  
  Second Visit  
  May 3, 2019

- **Meifan Amy Chen, PhD**  
  Second Visit  
  May 7-8, 2019

**Publications:**
**Articles:**


Rashid T, Hwang R, DiMarzio M, Hancu I, Pilitsis JG. Evaluating the role of 1.5 T quantitative susceptibility mapping for subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation. J Neurorad. [Accepted April 2019]


**Presentations:**
Sr. Patricia Grasso gave an invited presentation at Neurelis, Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company interested in possible development of her lab’s peptide for a Downs Syndrome application on March 21, 2019 in San Diego, CA. “Small Molecule Synthetic Peptide Leptin Mimetics Improve Energy Balance, Glycemic Control, and Cognitive Function in Mouse Models of Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus”. This was followed up with a second meeting on April 4, 2019 at AMC to discuss IP and legal aspects of a possible partnership.

Sr. Patricia Grasso gave a poster presentation at the 101st Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society on March 22 in New Orleans, LA. “MA-[D-Leu]-OB3, a small molecule synthetic peptide leptin mimetic, enhances the effects of insulin on glycemic control and cognitive function in streptozotocin-induced hyperglycemic male Swiss Webster mice”

Sr. Patricia Grasso was invited for a Skype presentation on April 24, 2019 organized by The Drug Commercialization Center in Taipei, Taiwan. They are interested in the obesity/diabetes application of her lab’s peptide. “Small Molecule Synthetic Peptide Leptin Mimetics: Development and Applications”

Tara Lindsley gave a presentation and consented 41 additional subjects at the University of Vermont Larner School of Medicine on April 2, 2019 for her Medical Education Scholarship Research and Evaluation (MESRE) grant, “Cranial Pursuit computer-based neuroanatomy games: Assessment of impact on learning outcomes and learner attitudes.” She attended the AAMC Northeast Group on Educational Affairs annual conference at the University of Pennsylvania’s Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA on April 4-6, 2019, where she participated in the MESRE Special Interest
Group and found potential collaborators interested in conducting the study at their medical school.

Kristen Zuloaga gave an invited talk to students of the Neuroscience Department at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York on April 17th on “Sex Differences in Vascular Contributions to Cognitive Impairment & Dementia”.

Julie Pilitsis presented the following two sessions at the 2019 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego, California on April 13-17, 2019. “The Team Approach to Opioids” and “Sensory nerve action potential recordings in low frequency focused ultrasound modulation of common peroneal nerve injury in vivo”.

The following DNET faculty and students presented at the 2019 AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego, CA on April 13-17, 2019:


News from the Mongin Lab:
Dr. Alexander Mongin gave an invited seminar at the SUNY Polytechnic Institute, College of Nanoscale Sciences. The title of his talk was “Oxidative Stress, Cellular Swelling, and Glutamate Release – the Death Triad in Ischemic Stroke”.

Dr. Preeti Dohare has joined the Mongin Lab as a Research Associate. She received her Ph.D. degree in Pharmacology from the Central Drug Research Institute (Lucknow, India) and additional postdoctoral training at Albany Medical College, New York Medical College, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Dohare’s extensive knowledge of numerous animal models of neurological diseases is a welcome addition to the DNET program.

IN THE NEWS

Dr. Julie Pilitsis and her team were featured in the Focused Ultrasound Foundation April 24, 2019 on-line newsletter in the Research News section (please click on link for more info on the abstract):

Meeting Report: American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Awards/Honors:
Congratulations to Dr. Kristen Zuloaga who received an NIH R01 award for the project “Metabolic and Hormonal Mechanisms of VCID”. This is a 5-year grant with the total funding of $1,803,565.

- Thank you message from Dr. Zuloaga:
  “Huge thank you to Abby, Lisa, and Olivia for gathering all the preliminary data, to all the members of DNET who gave me feedback on my aims, and especially to Julie, Yannick, Alex (co-investigator on this grant), and Sally...”
Temple (co-Investigator) who reviewed my entire application! I am so grateful for the support of my collaborators and DNET family!"

Sarah McCallum graduated from the 1-year AAMC LEAD program, receiving a Certificate and presenting her Applied Leadership Focus project, entitled “Leading Change- Applying Kotter’s 8 Step Model to Optimize our Institution’s Combined Degree (BS/MD) Selection Process”. The presentation and graduation were held at the Northeastern Group on Educational Affairs annual meeting, April 4-6, Philadelphia.

Review Editor/Committees:
Yannick Poitelon has been invited to become a Review Editor for the Non-Neuronal Cells section of the journal: Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience. Kristen Zuloaga was elected to a 3-year term as a Council Member for the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences.

Many congratulations to all our students and mentors who were honored at the 40th Annual Graduate Student Research & Awards Day on April 11th

- **Justin Bourgeois (Mentor: Dr. Russell Ferland)**
  - The Dean’s Certificate and Leonard Procita Prize for Excellence in Teaching

- **Corinne Wilson (Mentor: Dr. Alexander Mongin)**
  - First Place: The Richard Miller Alumni Prize for the Most Outstanding Research Presentation
  - The Dean’s Certificate for Excellence in Research
  - The Graduate Student Alumni Award
  - Recognizing Excellence in Poster Presentations (4th Year Cohort)
  - The Dean’s Certificate and The Dr. Frank C. Ferguson, Jr. Award for Excellence in the Quality of Science
  - The Dean’s Certificate and Leonard Procita Prize for Excellence in Teaching

- **Marisa DiMarzio (Mentor: Dr. Julie Pilitsis)**
  - The Richard H. Edmonds Alumni Award for Student Leadership

- **Heidi Tucker (Mentor: Dr. Damian Shin)**
  - Recognizing Excellence in Poster Presentations (3rd Year Cohort)

- **Martin Bach (Mentor: Dr. Alexander Mongin)**
  - Alumni Research Award
  - Recognizing Excellence in Poster Presentation (1st & 2nd Year Cohort)
**General Information:**
This section will include information on new employees, department meetings, such as the annual safety exam and any other items of general interest.

**Renovation Updated:**
The renovation in MS 521 will be finishing up by the end of the April, and the construction part of the renovation for MS530 has begun.

**Important dates to remember:**

2019
- Commencement - Thursday, May 23
- Orientation - August 7 – August 9
- First day of classes for incoming Basic Science students is August 12
- Medical Student Investigations Day – Tuesday, September 24 - Hilton Garden Inn at AMC
- Poster Day - Wednesday, March 4, 2020 – Hilton Garden Inn at AMC
- Awards Day - Thursday, April 9, 2020 in ME-700

**Junior Faculty Development Program**

*Please mark your calendars for the opportunity to hear JFDP participants present their research projects in 10-min talks:*

- 7:00-9:00 on Wed. May 8 in MS-169
- 7:00-9:00 on Wed. May 22 in MS-169

Sophie Belin, PhD will be presenting on May 8th @ 8:25am

2019-2020 JFDP Applications are Due May 1st

The JFDP webpage is available at [www.amc.edu/academic/jfdp](http://www.amc.edu/academic/jfdp).

**Neurosciences Grand Rounds**

**All Neuroscience Grand Rounds are now from 8:30-9:30am**

- Thursday, May 2, 2019, 8:30 a.m., Huyck Jared Campbell, MD Senior Neurology Resident AMC “Zika Virus: An Emerging Arbovirus with Neurologic Complications”
- Thursday, May 9, 2019 AAN Meeting No Conference
- Thursday, May 16, 2019, 8:30 a.m., Huyck Jiang Qian, MD, PhD Associate Professor of Pathology/Neuropathology AMC “TBA”
- Thursday, May 23, 2019, 8:30 a.m., Huyck Zachary de Cant, MD Senior Neurology Resident AMC “TBA”
- Thursday, May 30, 2019, 8:30 a.m., Huyck Valerie Arias, MD Senior Neurology Resident AMC “Neuroprognosis Post-Cardiac Arrest: Are we just rolling the dice?”

**NO MAY GSO EVENTS SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME**

2019-2020 GSO OFFICERS
- President: Janine Warren
- Secretary: Jesse Bonin
- Treasurer: Brendan O’Brien
- DNET Rep: Corinne Wilson
- MCP Rep: Brendan O’Brien
- IMD Rep: Jesse Bonin
- RCCB Rep: Pranav Maddali
- BMSC President: Abby Hellman
- BMSC Outreach Coordinator: Haley Sprague
On April 16, 2019, Justin Bourgeois successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled “A role for Abelson helper integration site-1 (Ahil) in murine muscular development and function independent of the central nervous system”. Justin had a very productive tenure while in DNET. He has published four manuscripts, from work in both Dr. Frank Rice’s and Dr. Russ Ferland’s laboratories, including two contributions as the first author. His research and teaching accomplishments were consistently recognized during AMC Graduate Award days earning such awards as: 2017 Excellence in Poster Presentation Award (Senior Cohort); 2017 & 2018 & 2019 Leonard Procrit Prize for Excellence in Teaching; 2018 The Alumni Award for Excellence in Bioethics Studies Center for Bioethics. Justin will be continuing with DNET as a post-doctoral fellow in Ashley Kopec’s laboratory.
I would like to nominate our lab tech **Maraj** for Employee of the Month. He has always been very industrious in the lab, but recently when Ting Ting moved on to greener pastures Maraj has taken on the brunt of her responsibilities as well. His positive attitude and willingness to help out really shape our amiable lab environment and make it enjoyable to come to work. I believe DNET's strength as a department is built off exemplary individuals like Maraj and granting him Employee of the Month reinforces the values we would like to encourage in our team.

*Sincerely,*  
*Paul Gavett*

**Mahabub** (otherwise known as Maraj) joined my lab in 2017. Since then, he has been simultaneously carrying on multiple independent research projects and made huge progress on his work. He is very close to wrapping up two major exciting papers. His workload and performance are nearly comparable to these senior fellows and far beyond my expectation. Beside his own research project, he also takes care of other lab routines. I recently lost a tech and he voluntarily carries an additional workload. He has been continuously displaying his unsaturable capacity. I found that he can easily handle multiple tasks with little effort. He is a superhero of my lab. I feel how lucky I am having recruited him, just like I won a lottery.  

*Yunfei Huang*
2019 The Art and Science of Pain Management: A Clinical and Research Update

SPONSORED BY ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE'S DEPT OF NEUROSCIENCE & EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS AND THE OFFICE OF CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION AND THE ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER PROVIDER UNIT FOR CONTINUING NURSING EDUCATION

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 5TH, 2019

Enjoy fall foliage in Upstate New York while getting CME/CNE credits!

The Gideon Putnam
24 Gideon Putnam Road, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

This course is designed for licensed NY prescribers and residents to meet completion of the mandated 3 hours of training in pain management, palliative care, and addiction required every three years.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONFERENCE, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION BY PHONE (518) 262-2521, FAX (518) 262-5575 OR EMAIL PRICE@AMC.EDU
DNET RETREAT

8:30 - 9:00 AM  Breakfast and Check In
9:00 - 9:30 AM  State and Vision of DNET
9:30 - 10:15 AM  Icebreaker
10:15 - 10:45 AM  Post-doc Experience at AMC
10:45 - 11:00 AM  Break
11:00 - 12:00 PM  How to Apply to Postdoc and Faculty Positions
12:00 - 12:15 PM  Annual DNET Picture
12:15 - 1:00 PM  Lunch
1:00 - 1:40 PM  Jeopardy
1:40 - 2:40 PM  Networking
2:40 - 2:55 PM  Break
2:55 - 3:55 PM  How to Budget Your Lab
3:55 - 4:45 PM  How to Tell a Good and Bad Story in Science
5:30 PM  All-inclusive Dinner at Harvey's

FRIDAY OCTOBER 4TH • GIDEON PUTNAM • SARATOGA SPRINGS • NY