

August 6, 2009

NeuroNews

A Message from Our Chairs



Dr. Sunil Patel
Co-Chair
Department of Neurosciences

Dr. Peter Kalivas
Co-Chair
Department of Neurosciences

Summer is usually a relatively quiet time at MUSC and in Charleston. I guess those days are past, we have been booming all summer. The fact that things have not slowed despite a ~30% reduction in state funding is a testament to everyone. Dr. Patel and I are very grateful for what seems a miracle (but we know to be hard work and positive perspective). I

will try to capture some of the excitement of the summer and what developments we have to look forward to in the next academic year.

It's been finalized that we have a Neuroscience Service Line Medical Director, our own Dr. Steve Glazier has taken this position. Keep an eye out for new and needed equipment and positions as a result – 'Hey Steve, isn't that a gamma knife and magneto-electroencephalogram sitting on the loading dock?' We had our first meeting with the department of Bioengineering at Clemson University. This is an energizing point in the research efforts of our neurosurgeons to expand their exciting new programs in ultrasound cerebrovascular visualization and drug delivery, as well as novel instrumentation for everything from microvascular surgery to spinal cord injury. With construction on the new bioengineering building due for completion in about 2 years, we are looking to expand this collaboration and research faculty in bioengineering. We have a new search for the Dean of the College of Medicine. Thanks to Dean Reves for his tireless efforts at balancing stable with creative leadership; a shining example of which is the creation of our own department. Note that the search is open until August 31st, so please send any suggestions to Dr. David Cole, the chair of the search committee. Tired of running between CSB and BSB to get your grants worked on or salaries figured out? The monies have finally been allocated and with a little luck, renovations will begin this winter for the new, combined front office on 3rd floor CSB. Not to worry, monies have also been allocated for the new faculty and mid-level offices, as well as expanding the wet lab research space, also on 3rd floor CSB. Special thanks to our researchers who submitted nearly \$20 million in research grants this Spring and Summer in an effort to take advantage of the NIH stimulus monies. Good luck on those submissions! Dr. David Griessemer is part of the team working with the Deans office to change the face of the first two years of medical education at MUSC. The reorganization promises to improve education, as well as the environment in which the Neuroscience faculty educate our students. A final shout-out to the clinical enterprise in general, and Kimberly McCormick and Monica Gardner in particular, for pulling our projected budget for FY2010 into the black in spite of large cuts in the state budget.

Lastly, I would like to express what a pleasure and honor it is for Dr Patel and I to work with a team so talented at riding the winds of change. ~Dr. Peter Kalivas



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Welcome New Employees!!!



Research Administrative Specialist II

Rose Budney

Lori Roten

Post Docs

Kimberlei Richardson

Tamas Tompa

Elena Vazey

Wei-Lun Sun

Program Assistant I

Deborah Ashman

Program Coordinator I

Rebecca Hardin

Research Assistant Professor

Ryan LaLumiere

Patrick Mulholland

Graduate Student

Jason Lockrow

Research Specialist I

Emily Hollings

Shane Wing

Savannah Bandurraga

Megan Hensley

Joshua Hirschhorn

Amanda King

Ashley Morse

Kyle Smith

Lourdes Nogueira

John Yang

Ilan Sondheimer

Summer Students

Katie Cribben

Cameron Gibson

Grace R. Lopez

Michael Stefanik

Thomas Edward Lewis

Chelsey Baldwin

Nicholas Boatwright

Karen Corson

Kaylin Currie

Thomas Dunn

Jenna Heissenbuttle

Lauren Jamison

Emily Knight

Andrew Stufflebean

Nakul Thakore

Research Volunteers

Michael Aldinger

David Cornish

Hanna Fields

Stephanie Gregg

Amanda Harden

Lauren Jamison

Hans Kershaw

Ashley King

Dil Patel

Harika Pullagura

Mary Shaw

Ana Weiland

Preetha Hebbar

Sanjay Menon

Yoichiro Otsuka

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Kimberly Griesemer

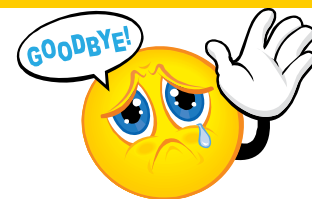
Clinical Assistant

Anthony Pieretti

Medical Records Clerk

Kayoki Fleming

Goodbye and Good Luck!!!



Assistant Professor

David Carr

Grants Admin. II

Anna Marie Calcaterra

Lab Assistant

Melissa Wiel-Nilson

Lab Specialist

Forrest Lowe

Lab Specialist I

Greg Hogate

Post Docs

Terri Schochet

Noushin Yahyavi Firooz Abadi

Travis Turner

Registered Nurse

Kim MacDonnell

Research Specialist 1

Ashley Gantt

Sarah Boatwright

Paulo Gonzalez

Sarah Deptula

Volunteers

Charly Banks

Katie Nicholas

Jennifer Trzcinski

Administrative Assistant

Merry Kara

Site Manager

Rhonda Williams

Neurosurgery PA

Catherine Kelso

Neurosurgery RNs

Christa Lizzi

Eve Balows

What's Happening?!?

5 New Bundles of Joy!!!

Congratulations to *Ale Pacchioni and Gustavo Leidhold* on the birth of their son, Agustin Leidhold. He was born June 16th and weighed 7lb, 1oz.

Congratulations to *Heather and Brian Davidson* on the birth of their son Edward Reid Davidson. He was born March 28th and weighed 8lb, 6oz.

Congratulations to *Sarah and Alberto Velasco* on the birth of their son Jordan Velasco. He was born June 24th and weighed 8lb, 4oz.

Congratulations to *Kari and Adrian Tippens* on the birth of their son, Bouden Sawyer Tippens. He was born on July 16th, weighing 9 lbs.

Congratulations to *Dr. Angela Hays and her husband, Dr. Dag Shapchak* on the birth of their daughter, Annika. She was born May 28th and weighed 7 lbs.

MUSC Neurosciences visits Clemson BioEngineering Department for "Neuro Day"



This first visit was a great success to initiate collaborations between the two departments. Clemson will be reciprocating the visit in August to learn about clinical and research endeavors here at MUSC. Several interesting collaborations are hoped to spawn from these visits. This visit was organized by Drs. Mark Swaja, Mark Kindy from MUSC and Dr Martine Laberge (Chair of Bioengineering at Clemson).

Raising Awareness for People with Disabilities and Special Needs



We are pleased to share the following press release regarding a patient of Dr. Griesemer's, Yasmeen Zakkary. As you will read, she is using her artwork to help draw attention to some of the budget cuts that have occurred to DDSN:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009

Senator Joel Lourie was presented with a painting by a young artist, Yasmeen Zakkary, in recognition of people with disabilities. Yasmeen has Atypical Rett's Syndrome, a rare genetic neurological disorder. Yasmeen is the daughter of Marti and Mike Zakkary of Columbia. Senator Lourie visited with Yasmeen, her parents, Lyssa Harvey of the Art and Play Therapy Center of South Carolina and Mary Leitner, Executive Director of the Richland and Lexington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

Senator Lourie was presented with a colorful piece titled "Dolphins." Yasmeen, who has had her pieces exhibited at Edventure Museum, has been working with the Art and Play Therapy Center for approximately four years. Her grandfather in Syria has been a particularly tremendous inspiration to Yasmeen. He is an artist and eagerly encourages Yasmeen to continue doing what she loves and what she says makes her "feel good and powerful."

Yasmeen and her family were among the many people at the state house today to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities. More than 500,000 South Carolina residents and families are impacted by severe lifelong disabilities, including autism, head injuries, spinal cord injuries, mental retardation and related disabilities. Yasmeen receives services from the Richland/Lexington Disabilities and Special Needs Board; although, in recent months her coordination service was reduced because of the recent budget cuts.

March is Disabilities Awareness Month. It is a time when we should all recognize the many contributions made by people with disabilities.

May 2009—Brain Tumor Awareness Month!!!

In recognition of Brain Tumor Awareness Month, the Neuro-Oncology team worked hard to make this year's Brain Tumor Action Week even more successful than last year's.

For those who did not know, the month of May has been declared Brain Tumor Action Month by the State of South Carolina. In honor of Brain Tumor Action Month, the Neuro-Oncology team set up their second annual informational display in Hollings Cancer Center for Brain Tumor Action Week, which was May 4—May 8, 2009. At the display, free brochures were handed out with information on brain tumors, treatments, advice for caregivers, financial assistance information, and more! Also, we had free brain tumor awareness bracelets and ribbons for all who stopped by.

We had a very successful raffle this year, with donations of gift certificates from 3 local Charleston restaurants: Infuzions, Gilligans, & The Kickin' Chicken. We also received a very special donation for our raffle from one of the members of our brain tumor support group, who donated 3 beautiful photo prints she had taken of the local Charleston area.

In addition to this year's display, we also were able to provide a Brain Tumor Vigil Service in support of those who need healing, and in remembrance of those who are no longer with us.

This vigil service took place in the Hollings Cancer Center Healing Garden on Wednesday, May 6th at 2pm. We would like to give a big thanks to Julie Houston, the President of the Brain Tumor Awareness Organization, who directed this wonderful vigil service for us, and also provided many of the brochures and supplies used at this year's Brain Tumor Action Week.

Next year, we hope to expand our efforts even broader, with events throughout the month of May in support of our brain tumor community.



Dr. Glazier—Service Line Medical Director!

We are happy to announce that Dr. Stephen Glazier is the new service line medical director for the Neurosciences Service Line. In this role, Dr. Glazier will be working closely with June Darby, administrator for the Neurosciences Service Line, in developing the strategic and operational plans for this unit.

**Dr. Glazier also serves as Chief of the Division of Neurological Surgery and the Director of Pediatric Neurological Surgery.*



Zucker Family Donates \$2M to Assist with Research!!!



Thanks to a \$2 million dollar donation by the family of the late local philanthropist Jerry Zucker, finding brain tumor cures is a much more plausible focus at the Medical University of South Carolina. Approximately \$1 million of the gift will support the Jerry Zucker Endowed Chair in Brain Tumor Research. The endowed chair will support the work of a researcher/professor specializing in the investigation of brain tumors. The gift will also support spinal cord research and allow MUSC surgeons to bring neurosurgical care and training to the people of Tanzania, Africa, where there are only three neurosurgeons in the country.

Jerry Zucker was a scientist, inventor and businessman who founded The InterTech Group, a Charleston-based polymers conglomerate that grew into one of the nation's largest privately held businesses. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2007 and died on April 12, 2008. Shortly afterward, his wife Anita Zucker met with Sunil Patel, clinical chairman of MUSC's Department of Neurosciences, to talk about ways they might work together to find a cure for the illness that took her husband's life. The discussion led to the Zucker family's decision to fund neurological research and care.

New Brain Surgery Procedure!



In May 2009, Lester Beck underwent a brand new type of brain surgery called Laser Thermal Ablation for his malignant brain tumor. The surgery was performed by Neurosurgeon Dr. Raymond Turner, who drilled a small hole about an eighth of an inch in diameter and then placed a small fiber optic laser right into the tumor using MRI navigation. Using the MRI imaging, Dr. Turner activated the laser and watched the tumor heat up and dissipate. The entire procedure took about 30 minutes, and Mr. Beck is the first person in the entire southeast to have this groundbreaking procedure. It has only been done 10 other times in the entire United States! *For the full story:* <http://www.wciv.com/news/stories/0509/625116.html>

Grant Awards Received!

<u>Agency 1</u>	<u>PI Full Name</u>	<u>CoPI Full Name</u>	<u>Fund Source</u>	<u>Submission Type</u>	<u>Budget Start</u>	<u>Total</u>
NIH/	Bhat, Narayan		Federal	New	5/15/2009	221,156
NIH/ NIAAA	Chandler, L. Judson		Federal	Competing Con- tinuation	5/1/2009	350,313
Allergan, Inc.	Hinson, Vanessa		Corporate	New	4/1/2009	68,020
NIH/NIDA	Kalivas, Peter		Federal	Non-competing Continuation	5/1/2009	0
NIH/NIDA	Kalivas, Peter	See, Ronald E.	Federal	Non-competing Continuation	5/1/2009	374,760
Premier Research	Mintzer, Jacob		Corporate	New	4/29/2009	130,982



Dr. Pierre Giglio: MUSC Outstanding Clinician of the Year!!!

It is our pleasure to congratulate Dr. Pierre Giglio, Medical Director of Neuro-Oncology, for being chosen as a recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Clinician Award from the MUSC Foundation. Dr. Giglio has received this award in recognition of his sincere commitment to excellence, his respect for others and his loyalty to MUSC. The criteria established for this award includes: substantial time allocated to practice; dedicated professionalism; national, regional and local recognition for your clinical skills; and a role model for students, residents, and other faculty. One of the letters of support stated that, "he is uncontested as the most skilled and dedicated teacher I have worked with thus far in medical school." For those who know Dr. Giglio, statements like this come as no surprise.

Congratulations, Dr. Giglio, on this well deserved recognition.

**Dr. Giglio will be presented with this award at the Fall Faculty Convocation on August 25, 2009.*



Marcene McCurdy says YES!

On Thursday, April 23, 2009, there was an awards ceremony and kickoff for the YES campaign at St. Lukes chapel. *Marcene McCurdy* was recognized for sixteen consecutive years of contributions to YES. Her record stands near the top for MUSC, and she clearly holds the distinction of contributing the most consecutive years of anyone in the Department of Neurosciences.

We thank Marcene McCurdy for her generous contributions to help support the continuing success of our Medical University!



Congratulations to Our Neuroscience Faculty Member Nominees!

We would like to congratulate the 7 Neurosciences faculty members who were nominated for the Faculty Excellence Award for teaching:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Pierre Giglio: <i>runner-up, 3rd & 4th year students</i> | 5. Christos Lazaridis |
| 2. David Griesemer: <i>runner-up, 1st year students</i> | 6. Robert Turner |
| 3. Julio Chalela | 7. Aljoeson Walker |
| 4. Stephen Kinsman | |



If you have information you would like to include in our next quarterly newsletter, please contact Rachel Beard at beardr@muscd.edu

Please have your requests for inclusion sent in NO LATER THAN Friday, October 16, 2009!

