“Clinical Trial CERE-110”
Chairs’ Message
June, 2011

At the completion of our department’s first orbit as a unique merger of all the clinical and research components of Neurosciences, we sit at the dawn of the next era having had our first external review. This has been a year of what may have felt like a roller coaster of changes, yet our department thrives on change. Although we have much left to accomplish, the outside reviewers applauded our achievements as a unique department, with a living academic vision of an environment where researchers and clinicians work closely together in creating new knowledge and treatments for disease. The success to date is a testament to everyone’s engagement with this vision, and the vision has been endorsed for future growth. Dean Pisano has given us a thumbs up – the experiment must go on and we are promised a co-Chair in Neurology to help us realize our shared vision. As he steps down from leadership in Neurology, we are most grateful to David Bachman for his past 6 years of tireless work to catapult Neurology into a fiscally sound clinical division, nearly doubling the faculty and helping to build widely recognized programs in Neurology. Although we are losing one excellent leader, we welcome another, Dr. Jonathan Edwards as the Interim Chief of Neurology.

Over the last 6 years we have built the department beyond what many would have thought possible at MUSC, and are part of the emergence of MUSC from a sleepy teaching college to a major force in clinical care and research. There are more challenges ahead. Integrating our space is going to mean a period of hardship this year while CSB 3rd floor renovations are completed. We know that even more integrated space is needed, such as for our clinical research groups in Alzheimer’s, Stroke and Movement Disorders, to name a few. We are very hopeful that the new process being put in place by the college for space allocations will bring us what we have so desperately needed for the past 6 years. Many thanks to all of you for your patience – we certainly see light at the end of this tunnel. Financial challenges lay ahead: health care reform hits our door, state support dwindles at a head-spinning rate, clinical reimbursements fall and NIH funding is harder to come by. None the less we are very confident that the department will once again adapt and discover ‘different’ ways of doing business. We must add words like collaboration, integration, affiliation and networking to our vocabulary if we want to succeed and ride the wave into the future. We believe this is already the norm for this department, and are confident of success.

So while the challenges are abundant, our glass is half full and we move into this next fiscal year with optimism and enthusiasm and having forged confident collaborations within the new structure and leadership in the College. We embrace the vision of the College as it pushes for growth in research, integrated health care through affiliations and continued innovations in its education mission. Our department has been in the lead in many of these areas, and we are very optimistic that these higher-level changes will allow us to reach the vision for our department.

Have a wonderful summer!
Sunil and Peter
Clinical Trial CERE-110
April 29, 2011
Catalyst
---Beginning of Article---

Gene Therapy By Dawn Brazell, Public Relations

In what could be a science fiction scenario, Dvora Beeri became MUSC’s first patient to undergo brain surgery March 29 as part of a clinical trial to see the effectiveness of CERE-110, a new type of gene therapy treatment for patients with Alzheimer’s disease.

Jacob E. Mintzer M.D., co-principal investigator with neurosurgeon Istvan Takacs, M.D., said Beeri is the first in the state and the 19th in the world to have the procedure done as part of a Phase 2, double-blind study involving patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease.

“We’re skeptically optimistic. We’re opening a new door that we don’t know where it’s going to lead us, but we’re opening it locally in a way that puts us on par with the top centers in the world,” Mintzer said.

MUSC is one of 10 leading centers across the U.S. that has been selected to be a part of the study, which is being conducted in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Disease Cooperative Study (ADCS). Mintzer, who is director of the Department of Neurosciences a Division of Translational Research, said the trial is a sign of the success of ADCS, a national research consortium funded by the National Institute on Aging that conducts multi-center clinical trials.

Given the prevalence and devastation of Alzheimer’s disease, this work required a network of sites with state-of-the-art capabilities where any new treatment or approach could quickly and effectively be put in the pipeline and tested, Mintzer said. It was noticed that true innovation wasn’t necessarily coming from pharmaceutical companies but from small biotech companies who oftentimes did not have the resources to move the science forward.

The ADCS selected the 10 top centers in the country to form a network to aid these small companies and implement clinical trials on a national level to move this science forward faster through its grant system. Of those centers, 10 were selected for this study.

The science being promoted in this case studies how best to get NGF or nerve growth factor to a critical area of the brain called the Nucleus Basalis of Meynert (NBM), a brain region where cell degeneration occurs in Alzheimer’s disease. CERE-110 is composed of an adeno-associated viral vector carrying the gene for NGF, a naturally occurring protein that maintains the survival of nerve cells in the brain.

CERE-110 is surgically injected into the NBM, where it is hoped the delivery of NGF gene using a “virus” will allow NGF to replicate itself through the patient’s own cell machinery and stop the progression of the disease or even potentially cause improvements.

“We have to get it in the right place in a way the cell can incorporate it,” said Mintzer. “We need to get the cell to generate it by itself on an ongoing process. The only way you can do that is by injecting new DNA into a cell.”

Beth Safrit, left, and Dvora Beeri

Beth Safrit, nurse practitioner III and clinical director of the Department of Neurosciences Alzheimer’s Research and Clinical Programs, will oversee the monitoring of the five to 10 patients who will be participating in the trial. The patients are followed for 24 months.

“It’s the only thing out there that can offer any true hope of improving,” she said of the study, which accepts patients with only a mild level of Alzheimer’s. “If these patients can stabilize themselves or maybe even get a little bit better with this one-time treatment, because that little virus is producing for the rest of their lives, it’s an amazing thing. If it proves to be effective, it’s going to change their lives forever.”

Mintzer said one of the main challenges is pushing the science forward, while managing people’s expectations. It will be years before a therapy can be developed should the therapy prove effective. Having begun his research into Alzheimer’s disease in 1981, Mintzer said he’s seen impressive changes from when it was difficult just trying to convince people that such a disease existed.

“We’re skeptically optimistic. We’re opening a new door that we don’t know where it’s going to lead us, but we’re opening it locally in a way that puts us on par with the top centers in the world,” Mintzer said.

Mintzer said one of the main challenges is pushing the science forward, while managing people’s expectations. It will be years before a therapy can be developed should the therapy prove effective. Having begun his research into Alzheimer’s disease in 1981, Mintzer said he’s seen impressive changes from when it was difficult just trying to convince people that such a disease existed.

“Now we have come to a moment where we are inserting new genetic material into cells.”

It’s been a complex process to bring the study to MUSC, with more than 400 people having to be trained in the MUSC family, from the pharmacists and doctors involved to the person cleaning the OR. Safrit holds up a thick file folder of all the employees who had to be checked off. Though they received no extra pay, they were willing to do the training.

“They were enthralled with what we were accomplishing here,” she said. “They were happy to be a part of it.”

The other critical part that enables the study to proceed are the patients who are willing to take the risk of a double-blind study, which means they will have their head shaved and may go through a “sham” surgery where they don’t receive the gene therapy. The patients and researchers won’t know until the end of the two-year study who received the real treatment, although eligible patients who received the sham surgery will be offered the therapy at the end if they want it.

Mintzer said it takes a very strong commitment from the person. It takes a commitment from MUSC as well.

“A few years ago, this appeared to be science fiction. I’m excited not only about this particular study but about the possibilities it opens for us scientifically. It lays the groundwork for gene therapy for other organs. There is a path that has been laid out, and that puts MUSC clearly on the forefront for this type of research and eventually, this type of therapy.”

MUSC has one of the few neuroscience programs in the country to have neurosurgery working with neurology and Alzheimer’s specialists, which is not a common event, he said.

“This project requires a very close collaboration between neurosurgery and the dementia specialists. We have both together at MUSC. The core of our MUSC mission is to bring to South Carolina what would not be available if the resources of a university of this caliber were not here.”

For more information call 740-1592, ext. 14 or visit http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/arcp/.
Alzheimer’s patients hope gene therapy study works

Avri Beeri knows his research.

He can tell you everything there is to know about Alzheimer’s disease—about the myriad of clinical trials, the vitamins and supplements thought to slow the process, and how he helped his wife be part of an elite group of only 50 people who will be in Phase 2 of the CCER-110 clinical trial. He can tell you what it’s like to live with a spouse who suffers from a disease that requires him to be matching “10 eyes all the time what is going on.”

He smiles lovingly at Dvora, his wife of 44 years, who has returned to MUSC for a check up following her brain surgery March 28, where she may have received gene therapy as MUSC’s first patient to enroll in the trial. Their hope is that this therapy will stop and possibly even improve her condition.

Sporting a new cap to cover her closely cropped hair, Dvora smiles at her husband. “I just need to remember,” she said of her decision to enter in a double-blind clinical study that required her to have a portion of her head shaved for a treatment she may or may not have received when she underwent surgery.

Beeri nods at his wife’s response. He needs to know he did everything he could to help her do just that.

He’s the memory keeper for both of them now. Beeri met his wife when he went to take music lessons from her brother. “He invited me to come home with him, saying ‘I will teach you some lessons.’ I never learned how to play the guitar, but I learned her,” he said, smiling.

Beeri found out his wife had Alzheimer’s four years ago, when his life researching the disease began. He reads everything he can to try and find out what can break the cycle and stop the disease. “I’m constantly Googling all over the world to find out what study she could go on.”

When he ran across the nerve growth factor research, he knew he wanted to get her into a study. On a wait list at Duke University, the couple decided to move forward with doing the clinical trial at MUSC, where they had participated in a previous study.

“I was following it very closely to see where it was going to be, and when I found out it was going to be here, I thought, ‘Good. I know these people.’”

Beeri said they’ve been to MUSC so much, his car comes on auto-pilot now. The decision to participate in the study came after several discussions with his wife about it. “It’s the only thing I could do. If my wife had it, I would do it. If anything could stop it, it’s worth trying it even with all the pain.”

Consulting with their internist in Charlotte, Beeri said he was relieved it took the doctor 10 seconds to advise to do it. “We talked to him together. He said he would do it for himself.”

Dealing with the disease takes patience. He advises other caregivers to know how fast the research changes and how much more there is to know about how to help those who suffer from the disease. If his wife had the “sham” surgery, he wants her to get the gene therapy should the trial show promising results.

Beeri knows it might not work, but still thinks it was worth doing.

“It will help for the future, even if it doesn’t help us right now.”

---End of Article---
MUSC’s Brain Tumor Action Week events continue to grow each year because of the increasing interest and support from our patients, their friends and families, healthcare professionals and the local media. Thank you to all for your participation and encouragement. We are very excited to announce that this year, we have raised over $10,000 and donations are still coming in! We continue to be contacted by individuals interested in making direct donations as well as t-shirt purchasing requests from those who heard about these events, but were unable to attend.

We are so grateful to all who were involved in the planning of this year’s events, and welcome new and existing participants in planning for next year.

“If anyone is interested in volunteering to assist in next year’s Brain Tumor Action Week events, please contact Rachel Beard, administrative assistant in the Brain & Spine Tumor Program: (ph) 843-792-6592 (email) beardr@musc.edu

To view more photos of Brain Tumor Action Week visit:
http://www.facebook.com/MUSCBrainandSpineTumorProgram

MUSC Researchers Discover Garlic Kills Brain Cancer Cells
CHARLESTON, S.C., Aug. 27 /PRNewswire
---Beginning of Article---

Scientists Determine that Garlic Compounds Eradicate Brain Cancer Cells

For the first time, organo-sulfur compounds found in garlic have been identified as effective against glioblastoma, a type of brain tumor equivalent to a death sentence within a short period after diagnosis.

Swapan Ray, Ph.D., Naren Banik, Ph.D., and Arabinda Das, Ph.D. studied three pure organo-sulfur compounds (DAS, DADS, and DATS) from garlic and the interaction with human glioblastoma cells. All three compounds demonstrated efficacy in eradicating brain cancer cells, but DATS proved to be the most effective. The study will be published in the September issue of the American Cancer Society’s journal, Cancer.

Cancer cells have a high metabolism and require much energy for rapid growth. In this study, garlic compounds produced reactive oxygen species in brain cancer cells, essentially gorging them to death with activation of multiple death cascades.

“This research highlights the great promise of plant-originated compounds as natural medicine for controlling the malignant growth of human brain tumor cells,” Ray said. “More studies are needed in animal models of brain tumors before application of this therapeutic strategy to brain tumor patients.”

Ray and Banik are optimistic about the possible applications of their discovery to patient care.

“Our basic studies will eventually be translated to clinics for patient care. We may have to wait several years before its application to humans, but the significance of this discovery is enormous,” Banik said. “The benefits from this research to brain cancer patients will bring great satisfaction to researchers and clinicians who are trying to find a successful treatment for this devastating cancer.”

Garlic-derived organo-sulfur compounds are small molecules that would not necessarily require complicated methods of delivery for treating brain tumor patients, the scientists said, and their natural origin is probably better for the human body than synthetic treatment options.

To take advantage of any potential anti-cancer benefits from garlic now, certain rules apply. Ray said to cut and peel a piece of fresh garlic and let it sit for fifteen minutes before eating or cooking it. This time allows for the release of an enzyme (allinase) that produces the anti-cancer compounds. Eating too much garlic can cause diarrhea, allergies, and internal bleeding, so it is important to monitor garlic consumption.

”It does not cease to amaze me that physicians and general public still continue to contact me about the wonderful action of the garlic compounds, which we have used for killing the human brain tumor cells in culture. What I can say now is that garlic is good to the taste buds and it can also help keep the brain protected from the deadly brain tumor.”

- Swapan Ray, PhD

---End of Article---
To see a full listing of clinical trials at MUSC visit: http://www.muschealth.com/clinicaltrials/

Clinical Trials

TRU Studies Actively Enrolling Subjects

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<td>ADNI GO</td>
<td>20004</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Grand Opportunity</td>
<td>National Institute of Aging</td>
<td>Jacobo Mintzer MD, M.B.A, and David Bachman MD</td>
<td></td>
<td>843-740-1592</td>
<td><a href="mailto:masoncr@musc.edu">masoncr@musc.edu</a></td>
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<td>CERE-GENE</td>
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<td>A Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled (Cham Surgery), Randomized, Multicenter Study Evaluating CERE-110 Gene Delivery in Subjects with Mild to Moderate Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>National Institute of Aging and Caregiva, Inc.</td>
<td>Jacobo Mintzer MD, M.B.A, and David Bachman MD</td>
<td>Beth Safrit, NP</td>
<td>843-740-1592</td>
<td><a href="mailto:masoncr@musc.edu">masoncr@musc.edu</a></td>
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<td>BAPI</td>
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<td>A Phase 3, Multi-Center, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel Group Efficacy and Safety Study of Bapineuzumab in Subjects with Mild to Moderate Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>Pfizer Pharmaceuticals</td>
<td>Jacobo Mintzer MD, M.B.A, and David Bachman MD</td>
<td>Jan Watts, RN</td>
<td>843-740-1592</td>
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<td>A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Two-Dose Arm, Parallel Study of the Safety and Effectiveness of Immune Globulin Intravenous (HUMAN) 10% (IGIV 10%) for the treatment of Mild to Moderate Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>National Institute of Aging and Baxter Healthcare Corporation</td>
<td>Jacobo Mintzer MD, M.B.A, and David Bachman MD</td>
<td>Arthur Williams</td>
<td>843-740-1592</td>
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<td>CITAD</td>
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<td>A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Clinical Trial Study of Citaglam for the treatment of Agitation in Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>National Institute of Health</td>
<td>Jacobo Mintzer MD, M.B.A, and David Bachman MD</td>
<td>Marilyn Stuckey, RN</td>
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<td>Apathy in Dementia Methylphenidate Trial</td>
<td>National Institute of Health</td>
<td>Jacobo Mintzer MD, M.B.A, and David Bachman MD</td>
<td>Jane Ann Swiney, RN</td>
<td>843-740-1592</td>
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For more information on these studies, please visit the Clinical Trials page on the MUSC website: http://www.muschealth.com/clinicaltrials/
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<td>Glioblastoma, Adjuvant (1)</td>
<td>101547</td>
<td>BTTC 08-01: A Phase II study of Bevacizumab and Erlotinib after Radiation Therapy &amp; Temozolomide in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma without MGMT promoter methylation.</td>
<td>Pierre Giglio, MD</td>
<td>John Keller</td>
<td>Clinical Trials Office (Hollings Cancer Center)</td>
<td>Brain Tumor Trials Collaborative / Genetech</td>
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<td>Glioblastoma, Adjuvant (2)</td>
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<td>RTOG 0837: Randomized, Phase II, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled trial of conventional chemoradiation and adjuvant temozolomide plus cediranib versus conventional chemoradiation and adjuvant temozolomide plus placebo in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma.</td>
<td>Pierre Giglio, MD</td>
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<td>RTOG 0837</td>
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<td>Glioblastoma, Recurrent</td>
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<td>A Phase II Study of Intraventricular Depocyt (Orphan Drug Designation 06-2348) in Patients with Recurrent Glioblastoma.</td>
<td>Bruce Frankel, MD</td>
<td>Michele DeCandio, RN</td>
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<td>Anaplastic Glioma, Adjuvant (1)</td>
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<td>The Effect of Garlic Compounds on Fresh Human Glioma Biopsies</td>
<td>Arabinda Das, PhD</td>
<td>Michele DeCandio, RN</td>
<td>Translational Research Unit (Neurosciences)</td>
<td>The CATNON Intergroup Trial (RTOG 834)</td>
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<td>Anaplastic Glioma, Adjuvant (2)</td>
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<td>Phase III Intergroup Study of Radiotherapy versus Temozolomide Alone versus Radiotherapy with Concomitant and Adjuvant Temozolomide for Patients with p16/hrq deleted anaplastic glioma.</td>
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<td>Low Grade Glioma, Progressive</td>
<td>101399</td>
<td>ECOG E1504: Phase III Study of Radiation Therapy With or Without Temozolomide for Symptomatic or Progressive Low-Grade Gliomas.</td>
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<td>Meningioma, Adjuvant</td>
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<td>Phase II Trial of observation for low-risk meningiomas and of radiotherapy for intermediate and high-risk meningiomas.</td>
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## Neurosciences: Fiscal Year 2011 3rd Quarter Grants

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<td>Stroke with Transfusions Changing to Hydroxyurea (SWITCH)</td>
<td>St. Jude Children’s Hospital</td>
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<td>Brivaracetam Efficacy and Safety Study in Subject with Partial Onset Seizures</td>
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<td>An Open-Label, Multi-Center, Follow-Up Study to Evaluate the Long-Term, Safety and Efficacy of Brivaracetam Used as Adjunctive Treatment in Subjects Aged 16 Years or Older with Partial Onset Seizures</td>
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<td>Icon Clinical Research, Inc.</td>
<td>Lundbeck, Inc.</td>
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<td>Parkinson’s Disease Neuroprotection Clinical Trial Center</td>
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<td>Joseph, Jane E.</td>
<td>Exploring the Neurobiological Response to Anti-Drug Media Messages with fMRI</td>
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<td>Mintzer, Jacobo</td>
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<td>VTA Glutamate and Orexin Involvement in Cue Reinstatement of Drug Seeking</td>
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<td>Mintzer, Jacobo</td>
<td>Open-Label, Extension for Alzheimer’s Disease Patients Who Complete One of Two Semagacestat Phase III, Double-Blind Studies (H6L-MC-LFAN or H6L-MC-LFBC)</td>
<td>Quintiles Pacific, Inc., Eli Lilly</td>
<td>37,200</td>
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<td>Mulholland, Patrick J.</td>
<td>Chronic Alcohol Induced Plasticity of the mPFC: Role for SK Channels</td>
<td>Oregon Health Sciences University</td>
<td>NIH/NIAAA</td>
<td>44,685</td>
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<td>Mintzer, Jacobo</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Initiative</td>
<td>Univ. of California, San Diego</td>
<td>NIH/NIA</td>
<td>52,731</td>
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<td>Mintzer, Jacobo</td>
<td>A Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized, Multi-Center Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Eighteen Months of Treatment with PF-04494700 (TTP488) in Participants with Mild-to-Moderate Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>Univ. of California, San Diego, Pfizer, Inc.</td>
<td>113,680</td>
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<td>Parsegian, Aram</td>
<td>Impact of Meth Self-Administration on Glutamate and Dopamine in the Corticoaccumbens Pathway</td>
<td>NIH/NIDA</td>
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<td>Reissner, Kathryn J.</td>
<td>Cytoskeletal Mechanisms of Cocaine-Induced Neuroplasticity</td>
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<td>Schwendt, Marek</td>
<td>The Role of Pick 1 in Altered Protein Trafficking and Behavioral Plasticity Resulting from Chronic Methamphetamine Self-Administration</td>
<td>NARSAD</td>
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<td>Schwendt, Marek</td>
<td>Striatal RGS4 Interacts with mGluR5 Signaling in Relapse to CocaineSeeking</td>
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<td>112,500</td>
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<td>See, Ronald E.</td>
<td>Striatal Mechanisms of Relapse to Cocaine Seeking</td>
<td>NIH/NIDA</td>
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<td>Stickle, David E.</td>
<td>Clinical Trial of Ceftriaxone in Subjects with ALS</td>
<td>Massachusetts General Hospital</td>
<td>NIH/NINDS</td>
<td>240,422</td>
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<td>Woodward, John J.</td>
<td>Neural Actions of Tolbutane</td>
<td>NIH/NIDA</td>
<td>207,193</td>
<td>83,892</td>
<td>291,085</td>
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<td>Waters, Robert Parrish</td>
<td>PACD Scholar: Dr. R. Parrish Waters</td>
<td>Univ. of South Carolina</td>
<td>NIH/NCRR</td>
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<td>Walker, Aljoosen</td>
<td>Randomized Evaluation of Recurrent Stroke Comparing PFO Closure to Established Current Standard of Care Treatment</td>
<td>Aga Medical Corp.</td>
<td>144,995</td>
<td>36,249</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>$3,533,955</td>
<td>$996,447</td>
<td>$4,530,402</td>
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NIH 2010 Overview

In 2010, MUSC’s Department of Neurosciences was ranked #1 out of 45 departments of Neurosciences in the nation, with $15,512,937 in NIH awards, behind only UCSD and Johns Hopkins.

11 of the top 150 NIH-funded neuroscientists in the country are in the MUSC Department of Neurosciences. Our own Marc Chimowitz, MD, is ranked #4 in the nation with $4.2 million in awards.

Stroke Center Updates

CME courses for SC Hospitals, sponsored by MUSC Stroke Center and SE VIEW’s Stroke Risk Reduction Initiative, will have “live” videoconferencing by AHEC. These CME courses are presented by Drs. Adams, Jauch and Laclande of the Department of Neurosciences. These presentations are recorded and will become enduring materials for future education.

April 7, 2011 - AHEC Presentation: Robert J. Adams, MD “Diagnosis and Treatment of Stroke in South Carolina: An Application of Tele-Medicine”

April 19, 2011 – AHEC Presentation: Edward C. Jauch, MD, MS “Stroke: The First 3+ Hours Initial Management and Implications for the Emergency Department”

May 10, 2011 - AHEC Presentation: Daniel T. Laclande, DrPH “Hypertension and Diabetes: Stroke Risks in South Carolina”

REACH MUSC, the telemedicine program for stroke, has added three new sites for a total of 15 hospitals participating in the program. As of April 20, 2011, a total of 1,139 remote consults for acute stroke have been provided to patients at these sites.

REACH’s 1000th Consult

Congratulations to REACH MUSC! They have delivered their 1000th TeleStroke Consult. This program plays an instrumental role in the advanced treatment of stroke victims, some of whom may not have been optimally or even adequately treated without REACH.

Stroke Program GWTG Update

Congratulations to the Stroke Program! They have continued to climb up the Get With The Guidelines (GWTG) award ladder. Their Stroke Gold Plus award has been approved.

The Stroke Program has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes MUSC’s commitment and success in implementing excellent care for stroke patients, according to evidence-based guidelines.

To receive the award, MUSC’s Stroke Program achieved 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Quality Achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month intervals and achieved 75 percent or higher compliance with six of 10 Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Quality Measures, which are reporting initiatives to measure quality of care.

These measures include aggressive use of medications, such as IV, antithrombotic, anticoagulation therapy, DVT prophylaxis, cholesterol reducing drugs and smoking cessation, all aimed at reducing death and disability and improving the lives of stroke patients.

Dr. Sachs Recognized

February 14, 2011

Barton L. Sachs, MD was recognized as one of the top 10 spine surgeon leaders of American Medical Centers by Becker’s Orthopedic & Spine Review. To view the article visit: http://beckersorthopedicandspine.com/spine/1165-10-spine-surgeon-leaders-of-academic-medical-centers-to-know.html

Jonathan Butler Finalist for Distinguished Graduate of the Year

May 19th, 2011

12pm, Room 125 of the Gazes bldg.

Jonathan Butler, a graduate assistant in neurosciences research, was nominated by his mentor, Naren Banik, PhD, for the “Distinguished Graduate of the Year Award for 2011”. This year the committee had a very hard choice to make among 9 outstanding candidates. Butler was voted a finalist by the committee and as such will receive a plaque, monetary award and may list “PhD with Distinction” on his CV.

Congratulations to Butler on his outstanding accomplishment.

Article Published in Neurosurgery

Post Acceptance, 26 February 2011

“History and Current State of Neurosurgery at the Medical University of South Carolina” was published in the world’s premier neurosurgery journal: Neurosurgery. This a very competitive journal, and is distributed worldwide.

The primary authors are Vibhor Krishna, MD and Phanor Perot, MD. The other contributing authors are Raul, Yasmeen MBBS, Patel, Sanil MD, Glazer, Steve MD, and Elegala, Dilantha MD.

Neurosciences Research Day

May 15th, 2011

The Department of Neurosciences organizes an annual “Neurosciences Research Day”. It is an initiative to promote academic research among the residents and faculty. The residents and fellows of Neurology and Neurosurgery participate by presenting research projects. Faculty experts from the divisions of neurosurgery, neurology and basic neurosciences judge these presentations and award the participants.

The following residents won respective awards: Nolan Williams, MD - Best Case Report Rup Sanjiv, MD - Best Neurology Presentation Vibhor Krishna, MD - Best Neurosurgery Presentation Leonardo Bonilha, MD - PhD - Best Overall Presentation

Neurosciences Resident News

Dr. Yana Mikhaylov received a Teacher of the Month nomination.

To find out more about Neurosciences Research Day or to read this years’ abstracts visit: www.MUSC.edu/neurosciences/education/neurosurgery/
Nursing Awards

Nurse Manager of the Year

I am pleased to announce that Leah Ramos has been selected as the MUHA 2011 Nurse Manager of the Year.

She was honored and recognized at the Nursing Excellence Awards Ceremony on May 6th, held at St. Luke’s Chapel along with the MUHA Resource Nurse and Staff Nurse of the Year. Please join me in congratulating Leah!

Resource Nurse of the Year

Cindy Steffen was nominated for 2011 Resource Nurse of the Year.

Unit Nurse of the Year Winners

9 East - Donna Williams and Tina Daigle
9 West - Jessica Litchfield
NSICU - Duane Jewell

Physicians Lecture at Spine Bioskills Workshop

March 12, 2011

Drs. Frankel and Sachs both were among the speakers present at the Nursing Continuing Education Spine Bioskills Workshop at MUSC. The goal of this workshop was to provide an educational opportunity for operating room personnel participating in the care of the spinal surgery patient. A variety of topics were presented through a dynamic combination of lectures and practical sessions. Hands-on practical sessions provided participants the opportunity to take an active role in the application of spinal instrumentation on sawbones models.

“The MUSC Spine Center sponsored teaching day had a wonderful turnout Saturday. With Dr. Sachs and Paige Fowler’s leadership, this was an incredible success.” - Bruce Frankel, MD

Dr. Frankel speaks at SAS11 Annual Meeting

April 26-29, 2011

Venetian Congress Center

Dr. Frankel discussed “Posterior MIS Treatment of Thoraco-lumbar Spinal Neoplasms” at the SAS11 Annual Meeting.

In April of this year, the SAS celebrated the 11th Anniversary of their Annual Scientific Meeting. This year’s meeting was the most ambitious meeting yet in terms of faculty, topics, and in scientific quality. The Program Committee’s primary goal was to select original works with the highest level of scientific integrity and value.

ISASS (The International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery) is a global, scientific and educational society organized to provide an independent venue to discuss and address the issues involved with all aspects of basic and clinical science of motion preservation, stabilization, innovative technologies, MIS procedures, biologics and other fundamental topics to restore and improve motion and function of the spine for: surgeons, scientists, inventors and others. ISASS is dedicated to advancing major evolutionary steps in spine surgery.

Vera Lecture - Dr. Ojemann

May 19th, 2011

11am - 12pm

George Ojemann, MD, Professor-emeritus of Neurological Surgery at the University of Washington, was the guest speaker at this year’s Cristian Vera, MD lectureship. Dr. Ojemann presented his lecture “Investigating Basic Mechanisms of Cognition during Functional Neurosurgery” on May 19th at 109 SEI from 11am to 12pm. The lecture is sponsored by the Department of Neurosciences, Division of Neurosurgery and the South Carolina Association of Neurological Surgery.

Electroneurodiagnostic (END) Week

April 17 - 23, 2011

Electroneurodiagnostic Week was celebrated nationwide and at MUSC from April 17-23, 2011. Neurodiagnostic Week is that time of year when the contributions of neurodiagnostic professionals are honored and celebrated. Neurodiagnostic Week is a week-long event to demonstrate pride in the profession and in the individual accomplishments of neurodiagnostic technologists throughout the country. It is also an opportunity to educate others, recruit new students into the profession, and to promote Neurodiagnostic awareness in the community.

Neurodiagnostics is the study of the brain and nervous system. Procedures performed by technologists include electroencephalography (EEG), evoked potentials (EP), intraoperative neuromonitoring (IONM), long-term monitoring (LTM), nerve conduction studies (NCS), and polysomnography or sleep studies (PSG). Technologists play an important role in performing these various tests to aid in diagnosing such illnesses and problems as epilepsy, sleep apnea, migraine headaches, strokes, and carpal tunnel syndrome.

Recently, two patients with the rare neurodevelopmental disorder Dravet syndrome were treated with the ketogenic diet as a last resort treatment option.

“I am now on the National Bone Marrow Registry, and was hoping that all of you would be interested in getting on as well. The process is very easy, the web site is below. You have to fill out information and they mail a kit to your house to swab your mouth and you mail it back. Simple! Please consider joining the registry.”

- Sarah L. Denham ANP-BC

To find out more visit: http://www.marrow.org/JOIN/index.html

Bone Marrow Registry

Thousands of patients with leukemia and other life-threatening diseases depend on bone marrow treatments to save their lives. For many patients their family members are not compatible for bone marrow transplants. They must rely on a registry to find a match.

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To find out more visit: http://www.marrow.org/JOIN/index.html

Researchers in the Department of Neurosciences, Division of Neurosurgery and the South Carolina Association of Neurological Surgery

Recent Clinical Faculty Promotions

May 17, 2011

The Department congratulates the following Clinical Faculty on their recent promotions:

Dr. Bruce Frankel - Professor
Dr. Jonathan Edwards - Professor
Dr. Mark Wagner - Professor
Dr. Abhay Varna - Associate Professor
Dr. David Sticker - Associate Professor
Dr. Jonathan Haffli - Associate Professor

Become friends with the Brain & Spine Tumor Program on their Facebook page:

http://www.facebook.com/MUSCBrainandSpineTumorProgram

Latest Stroke Video


Bone Marrow Registry

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- Sarah L. Denham ANP-BC

To find out more visit: http://www.marrow.org/JOIN/index.html

Bone Marrow Registry
Employee Update

Goodbye and Good Luck
Christine Houser  NP
Marcene McCurdy  Admin. Asst.
Mary Beth Gaffney  Fiscal Analyst
Sheila Whaley  Admin. Asst.
Jackie Mappus  Admin. Asst.
Muntz-Pope, Bonnie  RNII
Gilliard, Theodosia  Prog. Coord I
Starkab, Patricia  Student/Other
Thomas, Michael  Program Coord I
Richard, Erin  Prog. Coord I
Simone Wilson  Admin. Asst.

Welcome New Employees
Stacey Little  Admin. Asst.
Kristen Thurby  Admin. Asst.
Masi Woods  Clinical Instructor
Chrisy Anderson  Fiscal Analyst
Sarah Alota  Receptionist
Keren, Noam  GA
Cox, Brittany  GA
Hughes, Ben  GA
Canty, Sam  GA
Smith, Alex  GA
Straight, Natalie  GA
Cleveland, Joseph  Accountant/Fiscal Analyst
Scotfield, Michael  PD
Quinlan, Gabriel  PD
Young, Amy  GA
Ohi, Eric  RSI
Saggy, Shahri  PD
Pusser, Emily  Admin. Asst.
Tatrick, Leaha Aene  Prog. Asst.
Watts, Amanda  RSI
O’Neill, Courtney  Prog. Coord
O’Herron, Phillip  Post Doc
Hoehn, Kenneth  RSI
Brown, Truman  Dual Professor
Helpern, Joe  Dual Professor
Amy Delambo  Clinical Instructor
Melissa Hill  Clinical Instructor
Kristin Waller  Scheduler

Interested in becoming part of the Department of Neurosciences?
To see available positions please visit:
http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/hrm/career_opps/index.htm

Administrative Professionals Day 2011
April 27, 2011

Since 1952, the International Association of Administrative Professionals has honored office workers by sponsoring Administrative Professionals Week. Today, it is one of the largest workplace observances outside of employee birthdays and major holidays.

In the year 2000, IAAP announced a name change for Professional Secretaries Week and Professional Secretaries Day. The names were changed to Administrative Professionals Week and Administrative Professionals Day to keep pace with changing job titles and expanding responsibilities of today’s administrative workforce.

Over the years, Administrative Professionals Day has become one of the largest workplace observances. The event is celebrated worldwide, bringing together millions of people for community events, educational seminars and individual corporate activities recognizing support staff.

Today, there are more than 4.1 million secretaries and administrative assistants working in the United States, according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, and 8.9 million people working in various administrative support roles. More than 475,000 administrative professionals are employed in Canada. Millions more administrative professionals work in offices all over the world.

Thank you to all of our administrative staff for your hard work and sacrifice.

Thank you to all of our administrative staff for your hard work and sacrifice.

With best wishes,
Raymond J. Greenberg
President

May 4, 2011

Dear Colleagues: As academics, you come to a close, I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for the outstanding work that you are doing. The Medical University is thriving during challenging times because of your hard work and dedication.

All across campus, we see evidence of your efforts. In the hospital, we have seen record numbers of admissions with demand for our services continuing to grow. Our patient satisfaction results remain very high and we are demonstrating continued improvement in quality measures, such as hospital-acquired infections.

On the university side, our investigators are making important discoveries concerning a wide range of diseases. With the opening of two new research facilities in a few months, we will expand our scientific capabilities further, in areas such as drug development, bioengineering, biomedical imaging and genetics.

Our educational programs remain highly competitive, with record numbers of applicants and rising academic credentials for those admitted. Our emphasis on interprofessional education continues to garner national recognition.

In an entity as large as the Medical University, with over 11,000 employees, one can sometimes feel that his or her own work is such a small piece of the enterprise. While each of us may make modest contributions, through our collective efforts we are improving the lives of the people whom we serve.

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for all that you do. It is a great personal privilege to be associated with such outstanding colleagues and I offer my thanks for all you do.

With best wishes,
Raymond J. Greenberg
President

The equal opportunity employer, promoting workplace diversity.
Thank you for your contributions.
For questions, comments or to make a submission please contact:

Emma C. Vought at vought@musc.edu
or
Rachel Beard at beardr@musc.edu