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Hospital 5-year GCRC grant renewed



GCRC Program Director James G. Krueger (left), Hospital Administrative Manager Susan Richer (center) and Vice President for Medical Sciences Emil Gotschlich worked together to secure renewed NIH funding that links clinical observation to laboratory investigation. *Photo by Pavani Thagirisa.*

The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will renew its five-year General Clinical Research Center (GCRC) grant to the Rockefeller University Hospital, ensuring that the institution will receive NIH funding through 2004. Although the size of the grant has not been finalized, the GCRC informed the hospital in July that its application had received a favorable evaluation, and an August summary statement offered strong praise for the clinical investigations taking place at the facility.

"We are gratified that NIH recognizes the stellar level of research that is conducted at the Rockefeller University

Hospital," Vice President for Medical Sciences Emil Gotschlich says. "Knowing that we are funded for the next five years allows us to move forward with many important initiatives. The Hospital is going to increase its involvement with the research pursuits of the university."

The Hospital submitted its grant in February, and a site visit team of 16 visited the facility in April. The NIH representatives reviewed the Hospital's scientific programs, its organizational structure, its budget and the physical facility. The overall objective of such visits is to confirm that NIH funds will be devoted to high-quality science. An NCRR National Advisory Research Resources Council meeting in September

will finalize the level of funding to be apportioned to the hospital.

The August summary statement commended both the scientific and the administrative aspects of the Hospital. The clinical investigators were hailed for the quality of their research and their contributions to clinical medicine. The statement also praised the hospital's administrative GCRC staff for its dedication and those working in bionutrition and nursing. Overall, the Hospital was extolled for its strong institutional commitment.

"Renewal of this grant once again validates the importance of research that links clinical observation to laboratory investigation," Associate Professor James G. Krueger, program director of the Hospital's GCRC, says. "Continuity is very important to a hospital dedicated to research, and this grant ensures we that can plan and complete important long-term studies."

The RU Hospital, which opened in 1910, fostered the emergence of the clinical investigator, who serves as a link between the practicing physician and the basic scientist. The 40-bed inpatient and outpatient facility has been at the center of this century's most dramatic achievements in the fight against disease. It served as a model for the Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), opened in 1953, and similar facilities supported by federal funding at more than 75 U.S. medical centers.

New VP Alice Lustig talks

Highlights of

Petra Lang to open Peggy Rockefeller Concert Series Sept. 22

Mezzo-soprano Petra Lang will fly to New York from her native Germany to perform a special opening-night recital in the Peggy Rockefeller Concert Series in Caspary Auditorium at 8 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 22. Lang is filling in for the announced soprano, Hei-Kyung Hong, who cancelled because of illness, and for Ruxandra Donose, the announced substitute, who had a problem with travel documents. Lang will be accompanied by pianist Dennis Helmrich.

The New York Times said about Lang's performance last year in Weill Recital Hall: "The rich, enfolding color of her middle-high register is a dream, and she can project thrilling, confident radiance. Her singing was beautifully adapted to the scale of the hall... A voice like this is rare and a joy, but what is even more special about Ms. Lang is her freshness and willingness to take risks... She has an exciting future."

"This concert has set a record of sorts," says Associate Professor George Reeke, concert presenter. "It is the first time in my memory that an artist scheduled for opening night of the concert season has cancelled, and certainly the



German mezzo-soprano Petra Lang will perform at the first Peggy Rockefeller concert on Sept. 22.

first time that a substitute artist then also cancelled, although not before we put her name on all the tickets at the last minute.

"However, I consider Rockefeller University and the Peggy Rockefeller series fortunate that Lang was available. I heard her recital at Weill Hall, and I can say without hesitation that this is one of the richest voices and one of the most moving singers I have ever heard."

The recital will feature an all-German program of songs by Max Reger, Schumann, Wagner, and Richard Strauss.

Plaza construction advanced Completion scheduled for



The plaza construction progressed over the summer, with a fountain area and an accompanying grass grove. Photo by Pavani Thagirisai.

Summer research, continued from page 1

...tling viruses, bacteria and other invaders receive on and off signals from a single DNA segment, RU Professor and HHMI investigator Michel Nussenzweig and colleagues reported in Science. The discovery explains how the two genes work in concert and hints at how the genes have managed to remain partners for more than 450 million years since they first appeared in cartilaginous fish as part of an adaptive immune system.

July 15—A single injection of specialized immune system cells—removed from the bloodstream and exposed to a foreign substance—can trigger a potent immune response in humans that lasts for months, reported a team of RU researchers led by Associate Professor Nina Bhardwaj in the Journal of Clinical Investigation. The experiment provides the first conclusive evidence that one dose of dendritic cells can prompt a strong immune response, and it suggests new ways of improving vaccines and protecting against cancer.

Potpourri

GSRA Seminar

Deborah Meyers from TIAA-CREF will be on campus Wed., Sept. 29 to present the Group Supplemental Retirement Annuities Seminar. The seminar will provide important information to both current and prospective participants. The seminar will be held twice in 301 Weiss from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to

Security

Security can be reached from anywhere on campus by dialing x8295. In the event of an emergency dial x1111.

The Ninth Medical Complex Art Show

All faculty, staff and students of RU, MSKCC, NYPH, NYPGH Care Network, Weill Medical College and Graduate School of Medical Sciences and HSS are encouraged to submit

Lustig interview, continued from page 1

eral months I had an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the scientists. It has been a wonderful education; the faculty were great mentors to me. The historical achievements of Rockefeller are well known and the idea that Rockefeller is and will continue to be a great institution is virtually a given.

What was instructive was to learn about the interdisciplinary nature of the science here—the interactions among the scientists and the bringing together of approaches from many disciplines to answer questions in the biomedical world. For example, I learned of Brian Chait's collaborations with Stephen Burley, Andrej Sali, Jim Darnell, and Rod MacKinnon. And Terry Gaasterland is another example of a person who is bringing disciplines together—with bioinformatics. In addition, it is fascinating how the chemists and physicists at RU are partnering with the biomedical scientists.

I also learned how much the faculty care about the institution as a whole, not just their own science, lab or lab group. They are willing to work to serve the university—to sit on committees, to be

AL: I have looked at the organizational and administrative structure of the university. We have a very talented group of individuals supporting our research and teaching mission. I would like to see this infrastructure, our management style, mirror a style that I see in science in general. It is a style that says we're team-based, we're collaborative, we're integrated. Everybody has something to contribute and everybody understands the goals and mission. Arnie and I will be working on getting a lot of administrative departments interacting, being involved in collaborative ways, with lots of cross-communication and cross-fertilization. There isn't any group here that can do its job well if it's working in isolation. It should be easier to implement a more collaborative management style at Rockefeller because we have such a powerful model in the sciences already that reflects our mission.

I believe that executives, managers and administrators, should take the Hippocratic oath—"first, do no harm"—because good management is to not do harm in terms of bureaucracy, rules,



Alice Lustig (center) spoke to a packed hallway reception Kreek's (center left) new, renovated lab in Flexner Hall in

had the ability to design them and make them work the way we wanted them to. We also had the opportunity to renovate buildings and laboratory space and incorporate our ideas and philosophy on the use of space to support science.

As we look at the Academic Plan and think about bringing 15 to 25 new scientists on this campus, we have to look at the space that's available. We must think about what kind of science we will be doing and what kind of laboratories will be needed. We must decide whether or not our existing facilities provide adequate square footage and services for the new areas of research.

Many of the buildings at Rockefeller are old, and this is one of the charms of the campus. We have to preserve this sense of the campus and still build and renovate in order to meet the needs of the scientists who are already here and the new scientists that we will be recruiting. In addition, a self-contained campus in New York City has to grow vertically; this is a challenge because vertical integration and communication is much more difficult than horizontal.

If you look at the way the older labs have been constructed at Rockefeller

“The challenge is how to build on the achievements of Rockefeller, and go forward in creative new ways. Maintaining the status quo in science is going backwards.”

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<http://www.rockefeller.edu/rucal>

THE ROCKEFELLER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9 a.m.–5 p.m. **The Living Brain.** Mary E. Hatten, RU; Mark H. Ellisman, UC San Diego; Andrea Brand, U. of Cambridge; Nicholas Spitzer, UC San Diego; David Colman, Mount Sinai School of Medicine; and Ronald D. McKay, NINDS, NIH. New York Society of Experimental Microscopists 1999 Presidential Symposium. **714 Hunter West Building, Hunter College, 68th St. at Lexington Ave.** Contact Philip L. Leopold, 746-8808, pleopold@mail.med.cornell.edu.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

12 p.m. **High Sensitivity Stable Isotope Tracers Applied to Whole Body Polyunsaturated Fatty Acid Metabolism.** Tom Brenna, Associate Professor, Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell U. Seminar. **110B Nurses Residence.**

4 p.m. **The Phenomenology of Modulated Phases: Magnetic Films, Polymers and Membranes.** Center for Studies in Physics and Biology Seminar. **B Level Conference Room, Smith Hall Annex.** Tea, 3:30 p.m. Contact Matthew Turner, 327-8184.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

11 a.m. **Coping with Replication Complex “Train Wrecks” Using Escheria coli DNA Polymerase V, a Sloppier Copier.** Myron F. Goodman, Professor, Dept. of Biological Sciences, USC. Lecture. **305 Weiss.** Contact Tery Chin, 327-7252.

12 p.m. **Approaches to Study Functional Gene Expression in Psoriasis.** James G. Krueger, Associate Professor, RU. Seminar in Clinical Research. **110B Nurses Residence.**

12 p.m. **Direct Measurement of T Cell Kinetics in Humans Using a Stable Isotope Mass Spectrometric**

4 p.m. **Ligament Fibroblast Response to Cyclic Tensile Load in Vitro.** Jo Hannafin, HSS. “From Molecules to Mobility” Research Division Seminar. **2nd Floor Conference Room B, HSS, 535 E. 70th St.** Tea 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

12 p.m. **Role of Transcription Factors in Blood Cell Commitment.** Thomas Graf, Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Molecular Biology Seminar. **116 Rockefeller Research Laboratories, MSKCC, 430 East 67th St.**

12 p.m. **KSHV/HHV-8 in Human Malignancies.** Ethel, Cesarman,

Assistant Professor of Pathology, Dept. of Pathology, WMCCU. Immunology Seminar. **117 Whitney, WMCCU, 1300 York Avenue.** Contact Michele Lavarde, 746-6452.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

4 p.m. **NMR Studies of T-Cell Protein Interactions,** Gerhard Wagner, Dept. of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Harvard School of Medicine. NMR Structural Biology Seminar. **301 Weiss.**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

4 p.m. **From Single to Many Molecular Motors.** Frank Julicher, Institut Curie, Paris. Center for Studies in Physics and Biology Seminar. **B Level Conference Room, Smith Hall Annex.** Tea, 3:30 p.m. Contact Matthew Turner, 327-8184.

4 p.m. **Agonist Gating and Isoflurane Potentiation in the Human GABAA Receptor Determined by Volume of a TM2 Residue.** Neil Harrison, Associate Professor, Dept. of Anesthesia and Critical Care, U. of Chicago. Pharmacology Seminar. **Weill Auditorium, WMCCU, 1300 York Ave.**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

11 a.m. **Gene, Peptide and Circadian Behavior—Lessons from Misexpressing Neuropeptide Pigment-dispersing Factor in *Drosophila melanogaster*.** Marcus Taeuber, U. of Regensburg, Germany. Lecture. **305 Weiss.**

6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. **Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment at the Millennium.** Seminar. **Uris Auditorium, WMCCU, 1300 York Ave.** Contact, Marcelle Kaplan, 746-4708. Seating available for 250 people on a first come, first served basis.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

4 p.m. **0-1 Laws for Single Molecules.** Bud Mishra, Courant Institute, NYU. Center for Studies in Physics and Biology Seminar. **B Level Conference Room, Smith Hall Annex.** Tea, 3:30 p.m. Contact Matthew Turner, 327-8184.

4 p.m. **Recent Advances in Nutrition and Cancer Prevention.** Richard S. Rivlin, Program Director, CNRU, GI-Nutrition Service, MSKCC; Professor of Medicine, WMCCU; Chief, Nutrition Division, NYPH. CNRU Monthly Meeting. **103 Rockefeller Research Laboratories, 430 E. 67th St.**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

12 p.m. **Inhibitors of 11-Beta-hydroxysteroid Dehydrogenase.** David J. Morris, Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Brown U. Endocrinology and Reproductive Biology Seminar. **301 Weiss.**

3:45 p.m. **From Discovery to the Clinic: The Bryostatins.** George R. Pettit, Director of the Cancer Research Institute, Regents Professor of Chemistry and Dalton Professor of Cancer Research and Medicinal Chemistry. Seminar. **Auditorium, Rockefeller Research**