Kirby Center News & Updates

Announcements

Annapurna Poduri, MD, MPH, was promoted to Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School. Congratulations, Ann! (photo credit: Boston Globe)

Alexander Rotenberg, MD, PhD, was promoted to Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School. Congratulations, Alex! (photo credit: HBI)

Congratulations to Zhigang He, PhD, BM, a Visionary Prize Winner of the 2020 Sanford and Susan Greenberg Prize to End Blindness "for uniquely valuable research having the greatest impact toward advancing restoration of vision in human patients."

Jeffrey Holt, PhD, & Gwenaelle Géléoc, PhD, along with Dr. Andrew Griffith, won the ARO Pioneer Award in Basic Science for 2021 for "their joint work leading to significant advance in hearing and vestibular science: the identification of the ion channel proteins (TMC proteins) that sense sound and head motions in the inner ear, and water displacement in lateral line organs." Congratulations to Jeff and Gwen!

Gwenaelle Géléoc received the 2020 NIDCD Director's Recognition Award, a "group award for supporting or leading the first virtual EARssentials course, allowing for inner ear expertise to be passed to the next generation of inner ear researchers on an international scale during a global pandemic."
Congratulations, Gwen!

Rosamund Stone Zander, through her J.P. Fletcher Foundation, has committed more than $25 million to expand the capabilities of the TNC, to help speed the development of therapies for neurodevelopmental disorders and enable their widespread use in pediatric clinical practice. Under the direction of Mustafa Sahin, MD, PhD, the Rosamund Stone Zander Translational Neuroscience Center will bring together clinicians and investigators from across Neurology, Developmental Medicine, Psychiatry, Genetics and Neurosurgery, as well as the Kirby Center, to focus on teasing apart the nature of neurodevelopmental disorders and using this to introduce new therapies. Congratulations to Mustafa and the TNC!

Congratulations to the following scientists on their recent promotions:
Research in the News

The axon regeneration work of Zhigang He is featured in Discoveries article, New strategies for restoring myelin on damaged nerve cells, (image credit Discoveries)

Jeffrey Holt collaborated on a ground-breaking study reported in the Tel Aviv University News article, Scientists at TAU develop new gene therapy for deafness.

Wired article, Lab-grown organs could solve the transplant crisis, highlights work that Karl Koehler, PhD, and his team have done with skin growth, using human stem cells.

Boston Children’s Hospital Newsroom reports Four leading children’s hospitals announce IPCHiP on a collaborative study on infant epilepsy. Ann Poduri leads the BCH-based contribution to the project.

In Scientists Identify Changes in Toxic Tau at Various Stages of Alzheimer’s Disease Neurology Today features work that Judith Steen, PhD, and her team are conducting, using high-resolution proteomics mapping technology. Discoveries also covers this story. Vote for this paper in Stat Madness!

Employee Lactation Support Program

A lactation room was installed on the Center for Life Science Building 12th Floor. The private station, available on a first-come-first-served basis, is equipped with hospital-grade electric breast pumps, which require a personal kit for individual use. Click here to learn more. (logo: Mamava)

Graduate Student News

Recent Dissertation Defenses: Congratulations, PhDs!

Postdoc News

Support for Fellows Entering the Job Market

If you are entering the market and would like assistance, please email Lynn Bruning and Mike Do well in advance of your first deadline. We will convene a committee of Kirby faculty members who are appropriate for your research. This committee will

1. Review a draft of your application.
2. Provide coaching on preliminary interviews.
3. Offer feedback on your job talk.
4. Take you through a mock chalk talk.
5. Provide advice on closing the deal.

When reaching out to us, please copy your advisor and ask them to give the green light for this process. We are most effective when your application, talk, and chalk talk are each at the fine-tuning stage.
Hannah Goldberg (Géléoc lab). Novel gene therapy strategies for Usher syndrome.

Jerry Wang (Kreiman lab). Mesoscopic physiological interactions in the human cortex reveal small-world network properties and associations with behavior.

Note that BCH offers a related service. Please choose one to avoid overburdening our faculty. I recommend ours because it is a fine way to strengthen ties within Kirby. This assistance is meant to be highly individualized. If you communicate your particular needs (e.g., "I am a biophysicist with neuroethological leanings for whom English is a second language"), that would help us arrange the appropriate committee.

Kirby Center Awards & Publications

Recent Awards

Chinfei Chen, MD, PhD, was awarded an HMS/Blavatnik grant for her project entitled, Visual restoration in cortical blindness: a new protocol to promote fast recovery.
- Dr. Chen and the Cellular Imaging Core received an ECRAC award to purchase an Upgrade of the Olympus Multiphoton Excitation Resonant Scanning microscope with addition of blue light detector and photostimulator.

Mike Do, PhD, was awarded an NIH/NEI R21 grant for his project entitled, Origins and Transformations of Signals for Circadian Regulation.

Xi He, PhD, received funding from the American Cancer Society to support his project entitled, Understanding Wnt-Notch crosstalk in cancer and stem cell biology.

Zhigang He and the Viral Core received an ECRAC award to purchase a Countess II FL Automated Cell Counter.
- Dr. He and the Viral Core also received an ECRAC grant to purchase MaxQ 4000 Benchtop Orbital Shakers.

Jonathan Lipton, MD, PhD, received an ECRAC award to purchase an Akta Go Liquid Chromatography System.

Alex Rotenberg received funding from the Simons Foundation for his project entitled, Somatosensory Contributors to Autism Spectrum Disorders (prime institution: BIDMC).
- Dr. Rotenberg and the Integrated Behavior and Physiology Core received an ECRAC grant to purchase an Electrophysiology rig with light microscope.

Mustafa Sahin received a Rett Syndrome Research Trust award for his project entitled, Rett Syndrome Clinical Trial Consortium.
Dr. Sahin also received the following funding:
- U.S. Department of Defense - The contribution of Rapamycin-insensitive processes to neurological symptoms in TSC.
- ECRAC - (with Human Neuron Core) Benchtop orbital shaker.
- ECRAC - (with Human Neuron Core) Nikon Eclipse Ti2E inverted microscope.

Thomas Schwarz, PhD, was awarded a Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research grant for his project entitled, Investigating mitochondrial trafficking deficits across PD models.

Judith Steen received an ECRAC award to purchase a Thermo Scientific NanoDrop OneC Microvolume UV-Vis

Recent Featured Publications

Rotenberg lab

Holt lab

Z. He lab

Crickmore lab

Koehler lab
Beth Stevens, PhD, received a grant from Cure Alzheimer's Fund for her project entitled, Understanding the consequences of non-coding AD risk alleles on microglia function.

- Dr. Stevens was also awarded a Simons Foundation grant for her project entitled, Glial mechanisms by which sleep preserves cognitive function and plasticity in aging.

Darius Ebrahimi-Fakhari, MD (Sahin lab), received funding from BPAN Warriors for his project entitled, Development and Characterization of a Novel In Vivo Model of BPAN Using CRISPR/Cas9-based Knockout of wdr45 in Zebrafish.

Julie Jurgens, PhD (Engle lab), was awarded a Hearst Fund fellowship for her project entitled, Genetic dissection of cranial motor nerve development in zebrafish.

Mariko Okuyama, MD (Anthony lab), received a fellowship from the Hearst Fund for her project entitled, Early Life Stress Effects on Addiction and Defensive Circuity.

Feng Tian, PhD (Z. He lab), was awarded an NIH/NEI K99 grant for his project entitled, Epigenomic mechanisms regulating RGC survival and axon regeneration.

Woolf lab

(photo credit Nat Biotechnol)

Lee lab

Benowitz lab
Chemokine CCL5 promotes robust optic nerve regeneration and mediates many of the effects of CNTF gene therapy. Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. USA. March 2021.

For a listing of additional recent Kirby Center publications, please visit PubMed:

- last name A-K
- last name L-Z

Boston Children's Hospital
Where the world comes for answers

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL