



# Miami VA Research & Development

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**Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**Medical Center**

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## From Paper to Virtual: Thinking Green and Doing more for less!

As we all know, we are living in economically challenged times. Those of us in research face the challenge of maintaining operations using diminishing resources. But, we can do more with less. To rise to this challenge, Research Service is reviewing policies and procedures to increase our efficiency, reduce waste, save time and all the while, thinking green.

In February, the R&D Committee switched from a paper based review system to an electronic forum. The 20 folders, which on average were 2 inches thick with paper, were replaced with computers. To provide computer access for all members, the meeting was conducted in the computer lab located in Trailer 13, which houses 20 computer workstations.

Behind the scenes, the Research staff diligently worked with IRMS to provide all Committee members access to the Research "R" Drive. The "R" Drive contains the R&D Committee folder, which is organized into subfolders to match the agenda. All materials are scanned into the computer and placed in their respective subfolders. During the meeting, each member of the committee accessed this R&D Committee folder to retrieve the documents under current discussion. All-in-all, it was a huge success; doing more for less - thinking green.

Forecasting the future, by the end of calendar year 2009, it is projected that all subcommittees of the R&D Committee will conduct meetings electronically. Individuals who currently serve on any of the research committees may wish to proactively obtain access to the R: Drive for your particular subcommittee. Please email Luis Gonzalez, Administrative Officer for Research your computer IP address and EE number so that access can be granted to the appropriate folders. As an added bonus, you may request the establishment of your own research folder on the R: Drive too.

The Research Service would like to extend a special "Thank you" to Alvan Goldstein, Learning Resource Center, for his guidance and technical support in the computer lab in Trailer 13.



## Enhance Fitness Program in Older Veterans at the Miami VA

Preventing functional decline in older adults is a national priority. The Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System (VAHCS) has become an important venue for health promotion activities in South Florida through the implementation of evidence-based programs which may improve the quality of life of our veterans.

The Health Foundation of South Florida awarded Geriatric

Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC) investigators, Hermes Florez, Bernard Roos, and Joseph Signorile with a grant to implement the Enhance Fitness program at the Miami VAHCS. This is part of the Healthy Aging Initiative in South Florida ([healthyagingsf.org](http://healthyagingsf.org)), which will target nearly 35,000 older adults living in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties over the next 5 years.

This initiative includes three additional programs for: chronic disease self-management (Living Healthy), fall prevention (Matter of Balance), and depression screening and management (Healthy Ideas).

Enhance Fitness is a multi-component group exercise program that includes balance, strength, endurance, and flexibility exercises. *(continue Page 6)*

### VA Research and Development Distinct Competences:

*Through innovation and discovery that has led to advances in health care for Veterans and all Americans, the VA Research and Development program:*

**Offers a promise for a brighter tomorrow**

*Discovery and innovation are focused wholly on meeting the full continuum of Veterans' needs, from prevention to rehabilitation.*

**Serves as a model of research excellence**

*Foster the development of patient-centered evidence for clinical care decision-making and serves as a model for conducting superior bench-to-bedside research.*

**Attracts exceptional investigators**

*VA investigators have won three Nobel prizes, six Lasker awards, and numerous other distinctions.*

**Fosters dynamic collaborations**

*Fosters strong collaborations with federal agencies such as the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health as well as private industry sponsors*

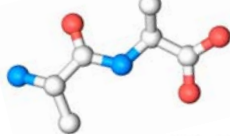
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## In The News

### Dr. Andrew V. Schally Receives the Meienhofer Award for Excellence in Peptide Chemistry

*"I am honored to be mentioned in the same company with one of my great mentors"*



Roche Colorado Corporation announced the Meienhofer Award for excellence in peptide chemistry to Dr. Andrew V. Schally at the Roche Colorado Corporation Peptide Symposium (RCCPS 08).

Dr. Schally is Chief of the Endocrine, Polypeptide and Cancer Institute at the Miami VA Healthcare System in Miami, Florida. Dr. Schally, an endocrine oncologist by training, is best recognized for his discovery of hypothalamic hormones. This discovery, which earned him the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1977, laid the foundation for modern endocrinology and launched Dr. Schally's pioneering application of hypothalamic hormone analogues to the fields of cancer treatment, including the current

standard of care for treating prostate cancer.

Presenting the Meienhofer Award to Dr. Schally, Roche Colorado Business Development Director Ralph Di Libero said, "Dr. Schally's career spans the entire history of peptide therapeutics. He helped to establish the viability of peptides as drugable candidates and, even today, his science touches virtually every new peptide drug candidate in development." "Clearly," Mr. Di Libero concluded, "Dr. Schally is a significant contributor to the generation of life saving drugs that our industry has produced."

The Meienhofer Award is named in honor of Dr. Johannes Meienhoffer, one of the leading pep-

tide scientists of the 20th century and a pioneer of the modern chemical biology field. Dr. Meienhoffer is best recognized for achieving a number of seminal total syntheses, notably actinomycinD and the first large-scale production of thymosin-alpha. He also edited the nine volume series, *The Peptide: Analysis, Synthesis, and Biology*.

"I am honored to be mentioned in the same company with one of my great mentors," said Dr. Schally. Dr. Schally remembers fondly the opportunity he had in the 1950's to collaborate with Dr. Meienhoffer. "This award is a great tribute to the men and woman who helped to shape my own work in peptides, including Dr. Meienhoffer."

### Reversal of Arthritis Misfortune— Dr. Herman S. Cheung

Herman S. Cheung, senior Veterans Affairs Research Career Scientist, James L. Knight Professor of Biomedical Engineering and professor of medicine and orthopedic surgery, is making strides toward reversing cartilage breakdown caused by osteoarthritis. Dr. Cheung, a member of University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's new Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute, embedded mesenchymal stem cells in a growth medium and mimicked conditions joints undergo when a 150-pound person walks four miles per hour. The cells successfully produced growth factors needed to become chondrocytes (cells found in cartilage). Dr. Cheung will edit the *Rheumatology Review Journals*' "Stem Cells, Osteoarthritis and Cartilage Repair" issue and serve as editor in chief of Bentham Science Publishers' e-book *Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine*.



## Upcoming Event



### National VA Research Week May 3-9, 2009 "Turning Hope into Reality"

VA Research Week celebrates the achievements of VA researchers in providing high quality care for veterans and advancing medical science. It also serves to educate veterans, the public, and the media about the research being conducted at medical centers, and its impact on treating and preventing disease and disability.

For over 60 years, the Veterans Affairs (VA) Research and Development program has been improving veterans' lives. The VA Research program is unique

in that it is the only research program focused wholly on conducting groundbreaking research to meet the full spectrum of veterans' medical needs, and is advantageously part of an integrated health care system with a state-of-the-art electronic health record. Through this dynamic combination, the VA Research program has become an acclaimed model for conducting superior bench-to-bedside research; is positioned to attract the best and brightest investigators, many of whom also work as VA clinicians;

(Continue Page 6)

*"VA's Research and Development program is an essential part of our mission to provide cutting-edge health care to our Nation's Veterans. As we seek to transform VA, three fundamental attributes mark the starting point for framing a 21st Century Organization: people-centric, results driven, and forward-looking; these attributes require continued and increased emphasis on discovery, innovation, and best-practices."*

*Eric K. Shinseki  
Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs*

## New Workshop

### First Study Coordinator Workshop Held



On February 27 the Research Compliance Office sponsored its first workshop designed specifically for clinical research coordinators. The workshop included a presentation on understanding Unanticipated Problems in Research (UPR) and Unexpected Adverse Events (UAE) and when they should be reported to the IRB, and a short discussion on consenting requirements, which included a "cheat-sheet" handout provided to all attendees. The presentations and handouts from the workshop are available on the shared drive folder entitled "Research Compliance

Officer -Presentations".

Workshops will be held quarterly and your suggestions for future topics are encouraged. Although attendance is not mandatory, we highly recommend that you attend the workshops since changes are continuously occurring within the research world. The workshops are an ideal venue for clinical research coordinators to keep up-to-date with new information pertinent to their work performance as well as an opportunity to "brainstorm" with experienced study coordinators.

The second workshop is scheduled on

Friday, May 29 at 1:00 pm in the Research Conference Room 207. The tentative agenda includes a discussion of the VA IRB requirements, which are different from other IRBs (ei. University of Miami IRB) and how to prepare for a regulatory audit. Suggestions for additional agenda items are welcomed and can be send to Gladys Benedi, Research Compliance Officer at [gladys.benedi@va.gov](mailto:gladys.benedi@va.gov).



## South Florida VA Foundation for Research and Education, Inc.

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VA		Miami VA	
Amgen	VA Master CRADA for Phase III & IV CT	<b>Master CRADAs in finalization:</b>	
AstraZeneca		Novartis-Phase III CT	
Avigen		Novartis-Phase III CT	
Bristol-Myers Squibb		Pfizer-Phase III-CT	
Genentech		AstraZeneca-Phase III CT	
Lilly & Lilly			
Novartis		<b>Local CRADAs under negotiation:</b>	
Pfizer		GlaxoSmithKine-Phase III CT	
Roche		ZymoGenetics-Phase I CT	
Sanofi-Aventis		Ideallife-Device CT	
Sucampo		Bayer-Phase III CT	
			Schob
			Jackson
			Martinez-Arizala
		Quartin	
		Mendes	
		Jeffers	
		Dang	
		Quartin	
If you have a project you would like to pursue, please stop by SFVAFRE. We are happy to help you.			

- Awarded:**
- Klimas USAMRMC PTSD grant
- Executed:**
- Karmacharya Endologix Educational training grant
- Golden American Elder Care grant
- Submitted:**
- Yu NIH R01 Impact of Aging on SDF-1/CXCR4 Signaling Pathway
- Klimas NIH R01 Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Pathophysiology and Treatment
- Florez American Heart Association Effect of Exercise on Progenitor Cells and Endothelial- Dependent Vasodilation in Obese Older Adults with Prediabetes
- In finalization:**
- Schally Zentaris
- Gailey CHAMPS II (DOD sub-award)
- Tunuguntla Pfizer Educational grant



The SFVAFRE has launched a new website. We hope that our website will play a critical role in developing better communication among our research community, provide current information that will enhance job performance as

### Visit our new website at SFVAFRE.org

well as provide a media that will showcase the quality of our research to larger audiences.

Some areas of the website are still under construction. We hope to incorporate interactive links to several documents that are not currently available online.

We welcome your suggestions on how to enhance our website. Please send your comments to Dan Heller at [dheller@varesearchmiami.org](mailto:dheller@varesearchmiami.org).

Visit our new website at [www.sfvafre.org](http://www.sfvafre.org).





## Enhance Fitness Program in Older Veterans at the Miami VA Healthcare System *(Con't)*

Enhance Fitness may improve physical and psychological functioning in older adults, and could be an effective way to prevent functional decline and obesity-related co-morbidities, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, in older veterans.

Enhance Fitness will promote physical activities in older veterans enrolled in our local weight management program (MOVE!) and is primarily targeting those willing to maintain good levels of physical activity. Participants enrolled in the program at the Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center are exercising one hour daily at least three times per week. Patient enrollment is expected to start soon with veterans at the Broward County VA Outpatient Clinic. For additional information, please contact Dr. Lisset Dropesa, Enhance Fitness Program Coordinator at (305)575-7000 Ext. 3628 or e-mail her at [lisset.dropesa@va.gov](mailto:lisset.dropesa@va.gov).



## Chair of the International Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Pain Data Set Committee



### Eva Widerström-Noga, DDS, PhD

is the chair of the international Spinal cord injury (SCI) pain data set committee which is a collaborative effort between major SCI organizations such as the International Spinal Cord Society and the American Spinal Injury Association, and pain

organizations such as the International Association for the Study of Pain and the American pain society. The first work of this committee published in December last year, aimed to create a standardized basic pain dataset that could be useful for both clinical and research purposes and facilitate collaboration among clinicians and centers involved in the care of individuals with SCI and chronic pain.

The International SCI pain dataset committee recently met in London, UK to continue to work on a more extensive pain dataset specifically for research purposes. This meeting was combined with an International consensus meeting regarding SCI pain classification sponsored by the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Dr Widerström-Noga is also serving as guest editor for the next issue of Journal of Research and Development on a single topic issue on SCI and pain. The goal with this issue was to bring together an international community of clinical and basic SCI pain researchers and to emphasize the importance of collaboration—within VA, and nationally and internationally. One of the problems is that there are relatively few people with SCI, compared with other medical conditions. Through collaborations, it is possible to translate basic research findings into the clinic and conduct studies that are large enough to draw conclusions and develop treatments faster.

Widerström-Noga E, Biering-Sørensen F, Bryce T, Cardenas DD, Finnerup NB, Jensen MP, Richards JS.  
The international spinal cord injury pain basic dataset.  
Spinal Cord 2008;46:818-23

## Upcoming Event *(continued)*

### National VA Research Week May 3-9, 2009 "Turning Hope into Reality" *(Con't)*



and is able to promote the quick translation of research findings into advancements in care.

As part of the 2009 VA Research Week, the Miami VA Research Service will once again host a poster presentation session.

Please submit a one-page abstract describing your proposed project to Isabel Perez at [iperez4@med.miami.edu](mailto:iperez4@med.miami.edu). Abstracts will be reviewed by the planning committee and other selected experts. The three categories are Basic Science, Clinical Science/Health Services and Young Research Investigators. Poster submissions will be judged and the top 3 posters in each category will received awards. Applicants will be notified of acceptance.

For further information and to request the Abstract Submission Form please call (305)-575-7000 ext. 3722 or e-mail [iperez4@med.miami.edu](mailto:iperez4@med.miami.edu).

You are invited to participate in the Miami VA Research Day Poster Presentation Session

This event will be held in the TC Doherty Auditorium  
On May 12, 2009  
Time: TBA

Stay tuned for more information

## Research Highlights



### at the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center of the Miami VA

Members of the GRECC have been very active on various VA and NIH grant and career development award study sections, as well as NIH workshops.

**Dr. Guy Howard**, VA Senior Research Career Scientist and GRECC Research Director, recently served as an ad hoc member of the VA ENDO-A Merit Review Board. This review panel deals with a variety of applications involving endocrinology in general (including thyroid, diabetes, etc.)

Dr. Howard is a member of three other national VA review panels that each convened earlier this spring. The Research Career Scientist and Promotion Review Committee evaluates applications from relatively senior PhD scientists within the VA for consideration for salary awards beyond their respective research grant funding. This committee also reviews applications and makes recommendations for promotion of VA scientists to the GS-14 and GS-15 grade levels. The Non-Clinician PhD Eligibility Committee reviews applications from PhD scientists who are requesting permission to submit a VA Merit Review grant application. The VA Career Development Awards Study Section meets to review grant applications from young MD and PhD investigators seeking support for their respective research projects.

Dr. Howard also served recently as an ad hoc member of the NIH Skeletal Biology, Development, and Diseases Study Section (SBDD). The areas of research in this study section are fairly well defined by the name of the study section.

**Dr. Carlos Perez-Stable** and co-workers Dr. Teresita Reiner, Ms. Alicia de las Pozas, and Dr. Lourdes Adriana Gomez published a journal article in *Cancer Letters* (276:21-31; 2009) entitled "Low dose combinations of 2-methoxyestradiol and docetaxel block prostate cancer cells in mitosis and increase apoptosis". This work showed that in human prostate cancer cell lines and in a transgenic mouse model of aggressive prostate cancer, only low dose combinations of two antimetabolic drugs were more effective than either drug alone. Dr. Perez-Stable contributed additional comments on this article in "Beyond the Abstract", a feature of the website UroToday.com on Feb. 5, 2009. Also, part of this work was presented by Dr. Perez-Stable as an invited speaker at the EHRlich II - 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Magic Bullets in Nürnberg, Germany, October, 5, 2008. Finally, Dr. Perez-Stable contributed a review on cyclin B1 (CCNB1) for the *Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Haematology* published in Jan. 2009.

**Dr. Alex Sanchez**, Geriatrics fellow, has had an abstract of his work accepted for presentation at the upcoming 91st annual meeting of The Endocrine Society, to be held June 10-13, 2009 in Washington, DC. The title of his abstract and the authors are: "Lower quality of life scores in obese older adults with hypertension and suboptimal glycemic control" A.A. Sanchez, L. Dropesa, W. Valencia, M. Seghal, J. Dahn, B. Roos, and H. Florez.

**Dr. Bruce Troen** recently visited Columbia, South Carolina and gave a lecture on February 7, 2009 at the 8th Annual Geriatric Symposium for Primary Care Providers, sponsored by the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. The talk was entitled "Vitamin D: Skeletal Health and Beyond (a stealthy epidemic)". Dr. Troen will also speak on April 3, 2009 at the Miami Science Museum as part of the Senior Science Series presented by the American Federation for Aging Research of Florida. The talk will also be entitled "Vitamin D: Skeletal Health and Beyond (a stealthy epidemic)" but will be aimed at a lay audience.

Dr. Bruce Troen co-authored the chapter in the just published (April 3, 2009 - official date) Hazzard's Principles of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology entitled "Osteoporosis" with Dr. Gustavo Duque, Associate Professor of Medicine at the Nepean Clinical School in The University of Sydney (Australia). The "Hazzard" textbook is the premier geriatric medicine textbook in the United States

Dr. Bruce Troen gave the talk entitled "Metabolic Insights Into Longevity at the Endocrine Grand Rounds on December 11, 2008.

**Dr. Silvina Levis**, GRECC Clinical Research Director, was recently invited to participate in a Vitamin D Workshop by the National Institute on Aging (NIH). The goal of the two-day session, which included 10 experts in the field and staff from different NIH institutes, was to gather the latest knowledge on vitamin D-related clinical trials.

Members of the GRECC and The Geriatrics Institute are actively working on a clinical research project entitled "Vitamin D in the Elderly", headed by Dr. Silvina Levis. This study will determine if a dose of vitamin D that is higher than the Recommended Daily Allowance is safe and effective in correcting vitamin D levels in older men and women. The study will also test if raising vitamin D blood concentrations results in improved physical performance and in beneficial changes in the DNA that could help explain why persons with higher vitamin D levels have lower risk of certain cancers.

**Dr. Luis M. Salgueiro**, post-doctoral fellow, gave an oral presentation of his research work at the 2nd Annual University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine Cardiovascular Research Symposium, Thursday, March 12th, 2009. The title of the presentation and the authors were: "Subclinical inflammation moderates the relationship of insulin resistance with endothelial progenitor cell number." Luis M. Salgueiro, Hermes Florez, Lissette Dropesa, Bernard Roos, Bruce Troen, and Barry Hurwitz

**Dr. Paul Schiller**, GRECC Investigator, a member of the VA ENDO-B Merit Review Board took part in their recent semi-annual review session. This review panel deals mainly with applications involving research on various aspects of skeletal formation and repair, bone and cartilage.



**Endocrine, Polypeptide and Cancer Institute**

4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Translational Research and Pre-Clinical Strategies in Radiation Oncology  
Geneva, Switzerland. March 11-13, 2009

Abdel-Wahab M, Schally AV, Szalontay L, Zarandi M, Varga JL, Pollack A, Rick FG. *Antagonists of growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH) radioprotect tumors in vivo.*

Abdel-Wahab M, Schally AV, Szalontay L, Rick FG, Varga JL, Zarandi M, Pollack A. *Use of antagonists of growth hormone releasing hormone for protection during whole body radiation.*

St. Gallen Breast Cancer Consensus Conference,  
St. Gallen, Switzerland, March 13, 2009

Seitz S, Schally AV, Papadia A, Rick FG, Szalontay L, Ortmann O, Engel J, Koster F, Buchholz S. *Combination of antagonists of growth hormone-releasing hormone with docetaxel as potential therapy in breast cancer in a pre-clinical study.*

2009 American Association for Cancer Research,  
Denver CO, April 18-22, 2009

Wu HM, Cheng JC, Zarandi M, Varga JL, Schally AV, Leung PCK. *The role of MAPK and p21 in the induction of anti-proliferative and apoptotic effects of growth hormone-releasing hormone antagonist in endometrial cancer cells.*

AUA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 25-30, 2009

Rick FG, Schally AV, Block NL, Szalontay L, Siejka A, Rincon R, Engel J. *Reduction in prostate size after treatment with Cetrorelix in a rat model of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).*

ASCO Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, May 29-June 2, 2009

Seitz S, Schally AV, Rick F, Szalontay L, Ortmann O, Buchholz S. *Effective treatment of triple negative breast cancer with targeted cytotoxic somatostatin analogue AN-162 [AEZs-124].*

Liu, S, Schally AV, Xiong S, Cote R, Hawes D, Fazli L, Gleave M, Cai J, Brands J, Engel J, Pinski J. *Expression of LHRH receptors in prostate cancer cells prior to therapy, following castration, or following treatment with LHRH agonists.*

**Geriatric Research, Education, & Clinical Center and Research Service**

International Society for Cellular Therapy  
San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA,  
May 3 – 6, 2009

Carmen Rios, Kevin Curtis, Jimmy El Hokayem, Megan Reiger, Gianluca D'Ippolito, Guy Howard, Paul Schiller. *Self-Renewal Mechanisms of Human Stromal MIAMI cells*

Elisa Garbayo<sup>1,2</sup>, Kevin Curtis<sup>3</sup>, Gianluca Dippolito<sup>1</sup>, Claudia Montero-Menei<sup>4</sup>, Guy A. Howard<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Ami Raval<sup>5</sup>, Miguel Perez-Pinzon<sup>5</sup>, Paul Schiller<sup>1,2,3</sup> *Neuroprotective effect of marrow-isolated adult multilineage inducible cells in an ex vivo model of ischemia.*

Gianluca D'Ippolito<sup>1,2</sup>, Amirali Rahnamai Azar<sup>3</sup>, Lourdes A. Gomez<sup>1</sup>, Teresita Reiner<sup>1</sup>, Carlos Perez-Stable<sup>1,2</sup>, Bernard A. Roos<sup>1,2</sup>, Si Pham<sup>3</sup>, Paul C. Schiller<sup>1,2,4</sup>. *Human Stromal MIAMI Cells Promote Vascularization and Function in a Limb Ischemia Model of Balb/C mice.*

ISSCR – International Convention Center  
Barcelona, Spain, July 8-11, 2009

Gaëtan Jean-Robert DELCROIXI, Kevin CURTIS<sup>2,3</sup>, Laurence SINDJII, Jean-Pierre KARAMI Olivier THOMASI, Jean-Pierre BENOITI, Paul Christian SCHILLER<sup>2,3,4</sup>, Claudia Noelani MONTERO-MENEI INSERM U646, *EGF-bFGF pre-treatment and Neurotrophin 3 containing, laminin-coated Pharmacologically Active Microcarriers to improve human stromal MIAMI cells survival and differentiation in a rat model of Parkinson's Disease*

D'Ippolito, Gianluca<sup>1,2</sup>, Azar-Rahnamai, Amirali<sup>3</sup>, Gomez, Lourdes A.<sup>1</sup>, Vazquez-Padron, Roberto<sup>3</sup>, Reiner, Teresita<sup>1</sup>, Perez-Stable, Carlos<sup>1,2</sup>, Roos, Bernard A.<sup>1,2</sup>, Pham, Si<sup>3</sup>, Schiller, Paul C. Schiller<sup>1,2,4</sup> *Marrow-isolated Adult Multilineage Inducible (MIAMI) Cells Protects Against Peripheral Vascular Ischemia in a Mouse Model.*

Elisa Garbayo<sup>1,2</sup>, Kevin Curtis<sup>3</sup>, Gianluca D'Ippolito<sup>1</sup>, Claudia Montero-Menei<sup>4</sup>, Guy A. Howard<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Ami Raval<sup>5</sup>, Miguel Perez-Pinzon<sup>5</sup>, Paul C. Schiller<sup>1,2,3</sup> *Marrow-isolated adult multilineage inducible (MIAMI) cells are neuroprotective in an ex vivo model of ischemia*

**Geriatric Research, Education, & Clinical Center and Research Service**

Miami Biotechnology Winter Symposium  
Miami Beach, FL. January 24-28, 2009

Melvys Valledor Ceballos<sup>1</sup>, Paul Schiller<sup>2,3</sup> and Richard S. Myers<sup>1</sup> *Human Stem Cell Recombining*

International Stroke Conference  
San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA  
February 18 – 20, 2009

Elisa Garbayo<sup>1</sup>, Curtis Kevin<sup>2,3</sup>, Gianluca Dippolito<sup>1,3</sup>, Claudia Montero-Menei<sup>4,5</sup>, Schiller Paul<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Perez-Pinzon Miguel<sup>6</sup>, Raval Ami<sup>6</sup> *Marrow-isolated adult multilineage inducible cells prevent neuronal death in hippocampal CA1 after oxygen-glucose deprivation*

**Psychiatry**

American Psychiatric Association's annual meeting in San Francisco,  
CA, May 2009



Malphurs, J., David, D., Birkholm, M. *The Impact of Meditation as a Non-Pharmacological Intervention for Veterans with Mental Health Disorders.*

**Dr. Carlos Abaira** was invited to the Diabetes Society of Spain, April 2-5, 2009 in Tenerife, Canary Islands, to present an update of our VA Diabetes Trial.



In addition, he will present at the Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society, Washington, DC, on (June 10-15) with further data in the VADT, along with representatives of Accord (the NIH trial) and Advance (the International trial)

31<sup>st</sup> Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, TX,  
December 10-14, 2008

Seitz S, Schally AV, Papadia A, Clueck S, Calfa C, Ortmann O, Buhholz S. *Effective tumor growth inhibition of MX1 and MDA-BM-231 estrogen receptor negative human breast cancer xenografts by treatment with LHRH antagonist Cetrorelix.* Cancer Res 69(Suppl.): (2) January 15, 2009



**Greidinger EL, Zang Y, Fernandez I, Berho M, Nassiri M, Martinez L, Hoffman RW.** *Tissue targeting of anti-RNP autoimmunity: Effects of T cells and myeloid dendritic cells in a murine model.* Arthritis Rheum. 2009 Feb;60(2):534-42.

Duque, G. and **Troen, B.R.** *Osteoporosis.* In "Hazzard's Principles of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology" - 6th edition (Halter, Dauslander, Tinetti, Asthana, High, Studenski, Eds.) McGraw-Hill.

**Paul C. Schiller and Gianluca D'Ippolito** *Adult and Embryonic Stem Cells in Cartilage Repair.* Pp. 15-23 Current Rheumatology Reviews Volume 5, Number 1, February 2009 Guest Editor: Herman S. Cheung

**Zhou, M., Schulman, Leopoldo Raji, L.** *Role of angiotensin II and oxidative stress in vascular insulin resistance linked to hypertension.* American Journal of Physiology, Heart and Circulatory Physiology, 296: H833-H839, 2009.

**Endocrine, Polypeptide and Cancer Institute**

Seitz S, Hohla F, Schally AV, Moder A, Engel JB, Horn F, Varga J, Zarandi M, Ortmann O, Köster F, Buchholz S. *Inhibition of estrogen receptor positive and negative breast cancer cell lines with a growth hormone releasing-hormone antagonist.* Oncology Reports 20:1289-1294, 2008.

Valdehita A, Bajo AM, Schally AV, Varga JL, Carmena MJ, Prieto JC. *Vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) induces transactivation of EGFR and HER2 in human breast cancer cells.* Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology 302 (2009) 41-48

Engel JB, Schally AV. *Agonists and antagonists of luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) in the treatment of endometriosis* in "Endometriosis: Current management and future trends" Eds. Juan A. Garcia-Velazco and Botroz Rizk. Jaypee Medical Publishers.

Barabutis N, Schally AV. *Antioxidant activity of growth hormone-related hormone antagonists in LnCaP human prostate cancer line.* PNAS 2008; 105(51):20470-20475.

Schally AV, Block NL. Book Chapter: *Luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LH-RH) and its agonistic, antagonistic and targeted cytotoxic analogs in prostate cancer.* In: Drug management of Prostate Cancer. Edited by William Figg, Eric Small and Cindi H. Chau. Humana Press, New York, NY 2009.

**GRECC**  
Duque, G. and **Troen, B.R.** *Osteoporosis.* In "Hazzard's Principles of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology" - 6th edition (Halter, Dauslander, Tinetti, Asthana, High, Studenski, Eds.) McGraw-Hill, New York, NY, pp. xx-yy, 2009.

Troen, B.R. and Dr. Priyamvada (Priya) Rai, who joined the Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine last summer, have just co-authored a chapter on the biology of aging for the pre-eminent geriatric surgery textbook, which is now in press.

Rai, P., **Troen, B.R.** *Cell and Molecular Aging.* In: "Principles and Practice of Geriatric Surgery" 2nd edition (Rosenthal, Zenilman, & Katlic, Ed.), Springer Verlag, New York.

Gaëtan J-R DELCROIX<sup>1,2,#</sup>, Kevin CURTIS<sup>4,5,#</sup>, Laurence PREISSER<sup>6,7</sup>, Paul C. SCHILLER<sup>3,4,5</sup>, Claudia N. MONTERO-MENEI<sup>1,2</sup> *EGF and bFGF pre-treatment enhance neural specification and improve neuronal commitment of MIAMI cells*

# authors contributed equally to this work  
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**Endocrine, Polypeptide and Cancer Institute**  
Seitz S, Schally AV, Treszl A, Papadia A, Rick F, Szalay L, Szepeshazi K, Ortmann O, Halmos G, Hohla F, Buchholz S. *Preclinical evaluation of properties of new targeted cytotoxic somatostatin analogue AN-16 [AEZS-124] and its effects on tumor growth inhibition.* Anti-Cancer Drugs

Volakaki A, Lafkas K, Kassi E, Schally AV, Papavassiliou AG, Kiaris H. *Essential role of p21 waf1 in the mediation of the proliferative effects of growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH) in A549 lung cancer cells.* Journal of Molecular Endocrinology

Köster F, Engel JB, Schally AV, Hönig A, Schöer A, Seitz S, Hohla F, Ortmann O, Diedrich K, Buchholz S. *Triple negative breast cancers express receptors for growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH) and respond to GHRH antagonists with growth inhibition.* Breast Cancer Res Treatment

Lee LT, Schally AV, Liebow C, Lee PP, Lee PH, Lee MT *Dephosphorylation of cancer protein by tyrosine phosphatases in response to analogues of luteinizing Hormone releasing hormone and somatostatin.* Anticancer Research



**The Functional Outcome Research and Evaluation Center at the Miami VAMC**

During the first quarter of 2009, the Functional Outcome Research and Evaluation Center at the Miami VAMC sent three of its researchers to national scientific conferences to disseminate research results from VA supported studies. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Robert Gailey, PhD, PT and Mr. Ignacio Gaunaud, MSPT presented platform presentations at the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meetings in Las Vegas, NV. Dr. Robert Gailey discussed the findings of the VA RRD Merit Review Grant, Evidence Based Amputee Rehabilitation (EBAR) Program. The results indicated that additional comprehensive rehabilitation post amputation is required to maximize functional mobility and physical function in below knee amputees. Mr. Ignacio Gaunaud discussed the design and benefit of the exercise prescription protocol for a veteran who successfully completed the EBAR program.

On March 6 at the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium in Atlanta, GA, Research Engineer, Vibhor Agrawal, presented the research findings on the symmetry of body weight distribution when performing sit-to-stand activity. In this study, below knee amputees were asked to stand up from a chair with and without the assistance of chair arm-rests. Results indicated that people with amputations load the non-amputated limb significantly more than the amputated limb, even when rising with assistance. By consciously distributing weight equally through both limbs, veteran lower limb amputees may be able to reduce the incidence of secondary conditions such as pressure ulcers or degenerative joint diseases of the intact limb.

If you are a...	You must access the module via the following system:
VA Employees	<a href="#">The Learning Management System (LMS)</a>
Non-VA Employees Who Have Learning Management System (LMS) Accounts	<a href="#">The Learning Management System (LMS)</a>
Non-VA Employees Who Do Not Have an LMS Account	If you do not have an LMS account, you may access the General Privacy Awareness course or the VHA Privacy Policy course at <a href="https://www.ees-learning.net">https://www.ees-learning.net</a> .

### LMS Assistance/Tips for Navigating the LMS

- On the logon screen, click on "Inside LMS" (in red).
- Click on the LMS Quick Reference.
- Follow the step by step instructions to setup your VA LMS account.
- Once the setup process is complete, return to the logon screen and login.
- Upon entering, click on the right corner of the Learning Plan.
- From your Learning Plan, click on text that reads "VA Privacy Awareness Training." Follow the instructions in the course description to add the course to your Learning Plan.
- Return to your Learning Plan, and select the gray "Go to Content" button to access and begin the training you have selected.
- Once training module is completed, click on the "X" in the upper right hand corner to close the module. Locate and click on "Learning History" on the menu bar at the top of your screen. Click the "Print Certificate" button.

**To All Research Service Staff**

Information Security Awareness and VHA Privacy Training courses must be completed on LMS system or the EES system (for WOCs) by **June 15, 2009.**

Contact your local VA LMS Administrator for log-on and other assistance. Visit the [Inside LMS Website](#) to look up your local VA LMS Administrator. For additional support, contact the VA LMS Help Desk at [valmsheep@va.gov](mailto:valmsheep@va.gov) or Monday through Friday between 8am and 10pm EST at 1 (866) 496-0463.

### Privacy Training Memorandum

For any privacy questions, please contact the Privacy Officer, [Cristina M. Gonzalez](#), at 305-575-7000 extension 6464.

Submission Calendar for R & D Services			
January	February	March	April
		<b>BLRD, CSRD</b> - Proposals Due <b>HSRD:</b> March 1 - Nominations for Research Career Scientist and GS 14/15 Promotion Due <b>RRD</b> - CD Reviews	<b>All Services</b> - Career Dev (CD) LOI Cut-off for June Proposals <b>HSRD:</b> April 15 - Letter of Intent (LOI) for Career Development Due <b>RRD</b> - LOI Cut-off for June Proposals
May	June	July	August
<b>HSRD:</b> May 1 - Intent to Submit (ITS) for Merit Review, Pilot Projects, and NRI Due	<b>All Services</b> - CD Proposals Due <b>BLRD and CSRD</b> Reviews <b>HSRD:</b> June 15 - All Proposals Due (Merit Review, Pilot Projects, CD and NRI) <b>RRD</b> -Proposals Due (Merit Review & NRI) -Research Career Scientist - Proposals do require an LOI		
September	October	November	December
<b>BLRD, CSRD</b> - Proposals Due <b>HSRD:</b> September 1 - Nominations for Research Career Scientist and GS 14/15 Promotion Due <b>RRD</b> - CD Reviews	<b>All Services</b> - CD LOI Cut-off for Dec. Proposals <b>HSRD:</b> October 15 - Letter of Intent (LOI) for Career Development Due <b>RRD</b> - LOI Cut-off for Dec. Proposals	<b>HSRD:</b> November 2 - Intent to Submit (ITS) for Merit Review, Pilot Projects, and NRI Due	<b>All Services</b> - CD Proposals Due <b>BLRD and CSRD</b> Reviews <b>HSRD:</b> December 15 - All Proposals Due (Merit Review, Pilot Projects, CD and NRI) <b>RRD</b> -Proposals Due (Merit Review & NRI)- Research Career Scientist - Proposals do require an LOI



**FEEDBACK**

Faculty and staff submissions should be e-mailed to the Office of Research Communications at [iperez4@med.miami.med](mailto:iperez4@med.miami.med)  
[Isabel.Perez2@va.gov](mailto:Isabel.Perez2@va.gov)

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