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Latest News

Miami VA Hospital Selected as Women's Health Research Center

The Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center was recently selected as a VA Women's Health Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) Member Site by the Department of Veterans Affairs. As one of 37 facilities around the country, the Miami VA will be in position to help address a high priority in VA: the health care needs of women Veterans. The selection of the MVAHS as a new site in the Women's Health Research Network was a result of a competitive application submitted by Silvina Levis, M.D. Dr. Levis, professor of medicine and director of the Osteoporosis Center will head the Miami VA Women's Health initiative. Her research interest focuses on osteoporosis, vitamin D, aging and frailty. She is founder and director of the Osteoporosis Center, a joint venture between the Miller School of Medicine and the Miami VA Medical Center. The Osteoporosis Center is the



site for clinical research in areas related to musculoskeletal diseases and aging, in addition to providing expert medical care and education on osteoporosis and calcium/bone disorders for the entire South Florida region. For the last 18 years, Dr. Levis has been conducting clinical trials testing the effectiveness of drugs in the treatment of osteoporosis, addressing skeletal and other changes of menopause, and examining the musculoskeletal effects of vitamin D. For the last 12 years, endocrine and geriatric fellows have trained in the Center where they have conducted research projects in connection with their programs.

The Women's Health Research Network focuses on VA investigators with demonstrated interests in women's health research and investigators interested in adding women to their research within the practice setting. The Miami VA Research Service is pleased that Dr. Levis leads this vital endeavor.

Electronic Submission System Streamlines Application Process

Miami VA Research Service has partnered with the Boston VA Research Service to lead the VA nationwide in the development of a VA Electronic Project Submission System. This new system utilizes SharePoint technology to maintain project and credentialing data safely behind the VA firewall. It is designed to increase the efficiency of project submissions by simplifying forms, using electronic signatures, eliminating the need for multiple paper copies, and decreasing time between submission and final approval. As of today, approximately six other VA facilities have combined forces in its development of this system and another 21 have expressed interest in joining.

Each person on a research team develops a personal webpage. It contains credentialing information, including basic demographics, CVs, training, scopes of practice and professional licenses. The credentialing section provides an easy way to organize personal professional information. Individuals maintain information on their own page.

In February 2012, the Research Service launched Phase I of the transition from paper to electronic submission. Training is provided to investigators and research staff. The Research Office is currently scheduling training sessions for creating a personal webpage. Training can be provided over the phone, at an office or lab, or in the offices of research administration. Those who need a personal page should contact Mike Valeron at 305-575-7000 extension 4492 or by e-mail at Michael.Valeron@va.gov.

Later in 2012, investigators will be able to submit projects through the electronic submission system. Please stay tuned as more information on implementation s available.

Islet Function Improved with Enhanced Oxygen and GHRH Agonist in Bioartificial Pancreas

Transplantation of pancreatic islets has evolved into a treatment option for a subset of patients with type 1 diabetes. However, a number of obstacles prevent widespread application of this process. An international collaborative study with Miller School researchers has uncovered a key strategy that may provide a promising avenue for future approaches to islet transplantation, possibly opening this treatment to a greater number of patients with diabetes.

Among the challenges that limit the use of islet transplantation are a shortage of donor organs, a gradual loss in graft function over time due to poor oxygenation, and a chronic need for immunosuppression. In this study, published in the March 5 online edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, researchers addressed these obstacles with the use of a macrochamber specially engineered for islet transplantation. The device allows for controlled and adequate oxygen and provides immunological protection of donor islets against the patient's immune system. ([Read more](#))

Events



APRIL 23-27
2012 VA
NATIONAL
RESEARCH WEEK

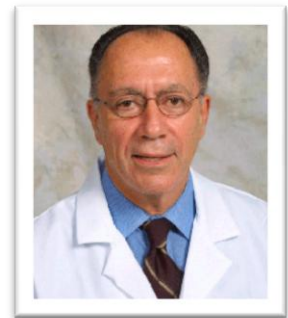
Caring for Veterans through Discovery & Collaboration

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will celebrate National Research Week April 23-27. *Caring for Veterans through Discovery & Collaboration* is the theme for 2012. As such, the highlight this year is two-fold: (1) the translation of research findings into advancements in Veterans' health care, and (2) the collaboration between VA research, academic partners, caretakers, and other federal agencies.

As part of the nationwide observance, the Miami VA Medical Center will conduct Research Week activities on April 24 and 25. On April 24, the Research Service Office will host the 5th annual poster session. All research investigators are welcome to submit abstracts for this event. Along with an abstract, investigators should include the names of collaborating representatives and compelling examples of translational research involved in their projects, if applicable. A special Grand Round presented by Dr. Nancy G. Klimas, director of research for the Clinical AIDS/HIV and Gulf War Illness research program professor of medicine, will be held on April 25. Both events will take place in the T.C. Doherty Auditorium at the Miami VAMC.

To participate in the 5th annual poster session, please submit a one-page abstract describing your proposed project. Contact Isabel Perez at iperez4@med.miami.edu or Isabel.Perez1@va.gov for a copy of the Abstract Submission Form.

Dr. Salvador Moncada from the University College London gave a talk entitled *Finding the Mechanism that Coordinates Metabolic Supply with Cell Proliferation* on January 13, 2012 at the UMMSM Clinical Research Building. Professor Moncada received numerous honors and awards from prestigious universities and institutes worldwide. Included in his countless contributions to medical and biological sciences are those linked to the discovery of prostacyclin and of nitric oxide. His current research aims to understand the molecular basis



Leopoldo Raij, MD

Research Service Highlights



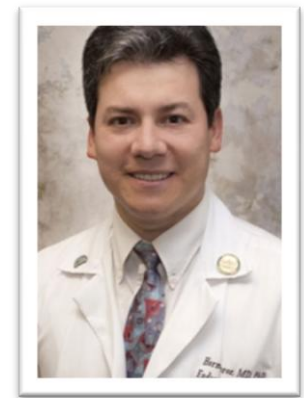
Micheline McCarthy, M.D., Ph.D. and her laboratory recently published the article entitled [*Depressed Neurofilament Expression Associated with Apolipoprotein E3/E4 Genotype in Maturing Human Fetal Neurons Exposed to HIV-1*](#) in the Journal of Neurovirology. The article has been published online and was selected for a special edition of the journal dedicated to HIV-1 and Aging.

This edition will be released at the upcoming 11th International Symposium on Neurovirology, New York City, May 29, 2012.

The data presented in the study suggest that apolipoprotein E genotype is a human host factor that could affect the development of neurocognitive dysfunction in HIV-1 infected individuals.

GRECC Focuses Efforts on Diabetes and Healthier Aging

The Miami VAHS GRECC, founded 21 years ago by Dr. Bernard Roos, recently had a successful major site visit from VA Central Office. The Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee (GGAC) came to the medical center to evaluate the performance of the Miami GRECC since the last GGAC visit in 2007. During the past 5 years the GRECC has advanced its longstanding translational research on the *Healthy Bones - Healthy Body* hypothesis and has greatly expanded research in the prevention and management of age-related diseases (i.e. diabetes, osteoporosis, and cardiovascular disease) for clinical decision support and comparative effectiveness, thereby contributing in major ways to a better patient-aligned care team (PACT) approach for aging veteran and South Florida older adults.



Hermes Florez, MD, PhD
Deputy Director, Miami
VAHS GRECC



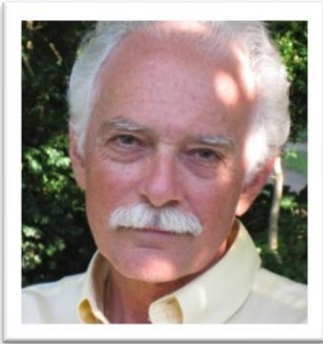
From left, Carmen Guanipa, Larry Gilstad,
and Hector Villagran

To enhance its focus on diabetes and healthier aging, the Miami GRECC team recently participated in two major national events in Washington DC: The Steering Committee meeting of the NIH-funded GRADE study (for comparative effectiveness research in diabetes) and the American Diabetes Association (ADA) consensus report meeting for older adults with or at high risk for diabetes. These efforts will help the Miami GRECC, working in close collaboration with several centers at the University of Miami and other academic institutions in South Florida, to continue its work as a center of excellence in geriatrics and aging research. The partnership with the Healthy Aging Regional Collaborative (HARC)/Health Foundation of South

Florida (HFSF) also offers a framework to optimize the care of older adults in PACT networks of primary care and specialized clinics towards interdisciplinary models of care. Larry Gilstad, Visual Information Specialist at the MVAHS, was the 1000th Veteran participant enrolled in the Million Veterans Program (MVP). Older adults enrolled in the MVP, now with more than 1300 veterans participating in the Miami VAHS, could also provide valuable information in the implementation of these clinical programs and help us understand the relationship between genetic, lifestyle, and other environmental factors. These advances and team efforts are opening a way of hope for aging veterans.

GRECC

Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center

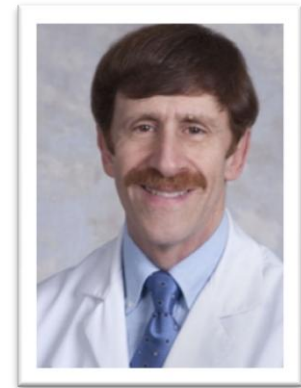


Guy Howard, Ph.D., GRECC Research Director is a member of the NIH Skeletal Biology Development and Disease (SBDD) Study Section, Center for Scientific Review. He recently participated in reviewing applications for NIH funding at a meeting held in San Francisco, CA, February 2-3, 2012.

Dr. Howard served as the Chairperson for the VA Basic Science/Clinical Science Merit Review PhD Eligibility Committee in Washington, DC in January 23, 2012.

Dr. Howard also served his final meeting as Chair of the VA Research Career Scientist and Promotion Evaluation Committee in Washington, DC, January 24, 2012.

Bruce Troen, M.D., GRECC Investigator, participated in the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Program Committee meeting in New York in the late fall. This committee selects and creates the program for the next year's annual scientific meeting (2012).



Presentations

VA Endocrine, Polypeptide and Cancer Institute

Andrew V. Schally, PhD, MDhc, DSchc

Rick F, Seitz S, Szalontay L, Block N, Zarandi M, Hohla F, Buchholz S, and Schally AV. *Growth hormone-releasing hormone antagonist inhibits growth of PC-3 human prostate cancer by inactivation of ERK and Akt.* AUA 2012 Meeting, Atlanta, GA May 19, 2012.

Rick F, Szalontay L, Fernandez-Castro G, Block N, Keller G, Szepeshazi K, Schally AV. *Effective treatment of urinary bladder cancers by targeted cytotoxic LHRH analog AEZS-108 (AN-152): a preclinical report.* AUA 2012 Meeting, Atlanta, GA May 19, 2012.

Lucas RM, Sridhar S, Gorshkov B, White R, Umapathy NS, Zemskov E, Yang G, Oseghale A, Chakraborty T, Matthay MA, Rick FG, Block NL, Schally AV. *Growth hormone releasing hormone agonist protects from pneumolysis-induced pulmonary permeability.* ATS International Conference, San Francisco, CA May 21, 2012.

Fernandez-Castro G, Schally AV, Koru-Sengul T, Merchan J, Flores A, Jorda M, Datar R, Williams A, Pasquale B, Singal R, Block N, Engel J. *A Phase I/II Trial of AEXS-108 for locally advanced unresectable, or metastatic Luteinizing Hormone-Releasing Hormone Receptor (LHRH-R) positive urothelial carcinoma (UC) patients who failed platinum based chemotherapy.* 2012 ASCO.

Schally AV. *Hypothalamic Hormones: From Neuroendocrinology to Therapy of Cancer and Other Diseases*. Presentation at the 75th Anniversary of Albert Szent-Gyorgyi's Nobel Prize Award, Szeged March 22-25, 2012. <http://www.szentgyorgyi75.com/>

Liu SV, Schally AV, Dorff TB, Tsao-Wei D, Groshen S, Xiong S, Quinn D, Hawes D, Tai YC, Block N, Engel J, and Pinski J. *A Phase I Trial of AEZS-108 in Castration- and Taxane-Resistant Prostate Cancer.* ASCO Genitourinary Cancers Symposium. Golden Gate Hall, San Francisco, CA, February 2, 2012.

Anat Galor, M.D., assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute presented the following abstracts at the Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) 2012 annual meeting:

[Refractive Outcomes of Combined Cataract and Glaucoma Surgery at a VA Hospital](#)

Christopher T. Shah, J. Tzu, A. Galor, A.K. Junk, C.W. See, S.R. Wellik

Cumulative Probability and Risk Analysis for Nd:YAG Laser Posterior Capsulotomy After Phacoemulsification

Evan N. Dunn, A. Galor, A. Junk, S. Wellik, J. Pelletier, N. Gregori.

Impact of Ocular Surface Disease on Quality of Life in Glaucoma Patients

Sarah R. Wellik, B. Pouyeh, H. Guan, A. Galor

Composite Index Scores for Dry Eye Syndrome: a Comparative Approach

Craig W. See, B. Pouyeh, R.A. Bilonick, A. Galor



Eva Widerström-Noga, DDS, Ph.D., research associate professor, Department of Neurological Surgery, Rehabilitation Medicine and Neuroscience Program, and Health Scientist Veterans Affairs was an invited speaker at the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) 10th Research Symposium on February 7-9, 2012 in Miami Beach, Florida. *The Genetics of Pain: Science, Medicine, and Drug Development* which was the first program on pain genetics of its kind, featuring world-renowned leaders in the field. Topics included translational research, the latest findings of genetic and genomic mediation of nociception, and the role of gene polymorphisms in normal and pathological modulation of pain. Her talk was entitled *Assessment of the Complex Pain Phenotype: Pain report, QST and brain chemistry.*



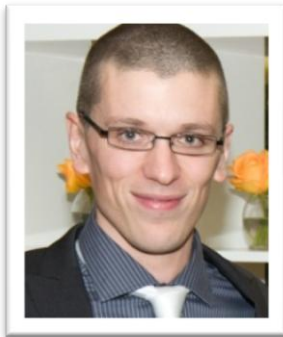
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Paul Schiller, Ph.D., GRECC investigator, was first author on an oral presentation entitled *Pharmacologically Active Microcarriers Carrying Stem Cells for Tissue Engineering in an Organotypic Model of Neurodegenerative Disorders* at the annual meeting of the Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine International Society (TERMIS), held in Houston, TX, December 11-14, 2011.



Dr. Schiller also presented a poster entitled *Regenerative Capacity of MIAMI Cells is Mediated by the Repair and Functional Modulation of Multiple Tissue Compartments* at the same TERMIS meeting in Houston, TX, in December 2011. Drs. Gianluca D'Ippolito, Kevin Curtis, Adriana Gomez and Gaëtan Delcroix, all GRECC investigators or affiliates, were co-authors on the poster.



Gaëtan Delcroix, Ph.D., GRECC affiliate, presented a poster at the MIAMI Winter Symposium 2012: Nanotechnology in Biomedicine, held in Miami, February 26-29, 2012. The poster was titled, *1-Hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (HEDP) Coated Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide (SPIO) Nanoparticles to Track Stem Cells in Rat Brain*. Dr. Paul Schiller, GRECC investigator, was co-author on the presentation.

Melvys Valledor, a UM Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology graduate student working with GRECC investigator, Dr. Paul Schiller, presented a poster entitled: *Minimal Tool Kit for Human Homologous Recombination* at the MIAMI Winter Symposium 2012: Nanotechnology in Biomedicine, held in Miami, February 26-29, 2012. Dr. Schiller, GRECC investigator, was a co-author on the poster.



The GRECC Stem Cell group, headed by Dr. Paul Schiller, presented a number of posters and oral presentations at the Joint Congress of the Cell Transplant Society and the International Xenotransplantation Association (CTS-IXA) held in Miami, October 23-26, 2011. The posters were titled:

MIAMI Cells Promote Neuronal Precursor Proliferation and Increased Neurite Complexity of Human Fetal Brain-Derived Neuroepithelial Cells with authors Paul C. Schiller, L. Adriana Gomez, Ricardo Martinez, and Micheline McCarthy.

Role of Progerin Accumulation in Stem Cell Self-Renewal and Differentiation with authors Laurin Pacheco, Adriana Gomez, Ramiro Verdun, and Paul Schiller.

Human Stem Cell Recombineering with authors Melvys Valledor, Paul Schiller, and Richard Myers.

The oral presentations were titled:

Pharmacologically Active Microcarriers Enhance the Therapeutic Effects of MIAMI Cells Transplanted in Hemi-Parkinsonian Rats with authors Gaëtan Delcroix, Elisa Garbayo, Laurence Sindji, Olivier Thomas, Claire Vanpouille-Box, Gianluca D'Ippolito, Claudia Montero-Menei, and Paul Schiller”

Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Treatment with Human MIAMI Cells with authors Masayuki Fukata, Paul C. Schiller, Maria T. Abreu, and Gianluca D'Ippolito.

Neuroprotective properties of MIAMI Cells in Rat Hippocampus Following Global Cerebral Ischemia are Enhanced when Complexed to Biomimetic Microcarriers with authors Elisa Garbayo, Kevin Curtis, Ami Raval, David DellaMorte, L. Adriana Gomez, Gianluca D'Ippolito, Teresita Reiner, Carlos Perez-Stable, Guy Howard, Miguel Perez-Pinzon, Claudia Montero-Menei, and Paul Schiller.

Dr. Howard was invited to present his work as part of the Expert EOH Research Seminar Series of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Florida International University (FIU) on January 27, 2012. The title of his presentation was *Adult Stem Cells and Reparative Medicine*.

Awards & Honors

Federal Employee of the Year Award Nominations

The Miami VA Research Service is proud to announce the nominations of Herman Cheung, Ph.D., Career Research Scientist and Mr. Luis Gonzalez, Administrative Officer for Research, for the 2012 Federal Employee of the Year (FEOY) Award. Herman Cheung, Ph.D. was nominated for the category of science and Mr. Luis Gonzalez was nominated for the category of management. The purpose of this award is to honor outstanding men and women in the federal community who have performed exceptional and meritorious work, and to encourage high standards of performance in the federal government. Nominations were based on demonstrated performance between October 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011.

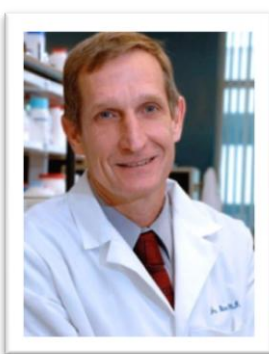
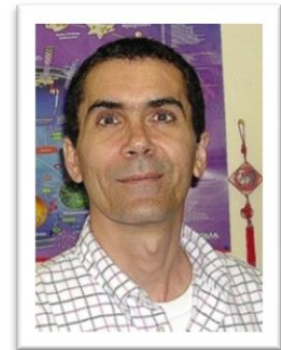
Herman Cheung, Ph.D., is a Senior Career Research Scientist with the Miami VA Healthcare System, Florida, and holds a dual appointment with the University of Miami as the James L. Knight Professor of Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Cheung has been involved in adult stem cell research for the past decade. He is one of the original investigators that reported the isolation and characterization of pluripotent stem cells from human periodontal ligament (PDL), which may potentially be useful for the treatment of diseases, thus avoiding immunogenic rejection. A full patent on these stem cells has been submitted jointly by Miami VA and University of Miami in 2010. While conducting his research, Dr. Cheung also mentors junior faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. ([Read more](#))





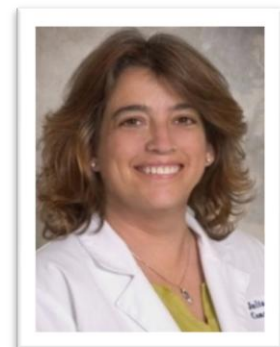
Luis Gonzalez, MHA is the Administrative Officer for the Research Service at the Miami VA Healthcare System, Florida, and the Executive Director for the South Florida VA Foundation for Research and Education. Mr. Gonzalez manages the day-to-day operations of the Research Service, which include hiring personnel, managing the budgets (overall research operations and grants), creating and maintaining working relationships with affiliate institutions, resolving infrastructure issues, negotiating space for research, ensuring computer access for research personnel, assisting investigators to locate research funding opportunities, overseeing audits from internal and external agencies, and ensuring that research committees (IRB, IACUC, Safety, and Research and Development) operate efficiently and effectively. [\(Read more\)](#)

Carlos Perez-Stable, Ph.D., GRECC investigator, was awarded an AACR Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research Award for participation in the AACR Annual Meeting, taking place March 31-April 4, 2012 in Chicago, IL, where he will present his work on prostate cancer. Dr. Perez-Stable will also participate as a judge for the undergraduate student poster competition and as a mentor for high school students during the AACR conference.



John L. Bixby, Ph.D., professor of molecular and cellular pharmacology and neurological surgery and senior associate dean for graduate and postdoctoral studies was appointed vice provost for research at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Bixby is also on the research faculty of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, and will work closely with research deans on all UM campuses. In addition, he will have oversight of research compliance, research misconduct, conflicts of interest, and the faculty conflict disclosure process at Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Bixby is a distinguished scientist with an active research program.

Julia Zaias, D.V.M., Ph.D. has been appointed as the attending veterinarian and director of the Division of Veterinary Resources at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Zaias has served in both those positions on an interim basis since last March, after a six-year stint as the associate director. The University's Division of Veterinary Resources supports a large number of investigators working in diverse animal models and is accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care.



Grants Funded

Medhi Wangpaichitr, Ph.D. received the VA Research Service Career Development Award (CDA-2) BLR&D for 5 years for the project titled *Metabolic Reprogramming: A New Paradigm for Targeting Cisplatin Resistant Cells*. Dr. Niramol Savaraj is the primary mentor and Drs. Carlos Perez-Stable, Carlos T. Moraes, and M.T. Kuo are secondary mentors.



Philip D. Harvey, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and chief of the Division of Psychology at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, has been awarded a \$3.2 million grant from the NIH's National Institute of Mental Health to study schizophrenia and improve treatment for the disorder that impairs the ability to function in everyday settings.

Guy Howard, Ph.D. was successful in renewing his VA Merit Review entitled *Human Osteoprogenitor Control by Hepatocyte Growth Factor and Vitamin D*. This award is for the period April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2016.

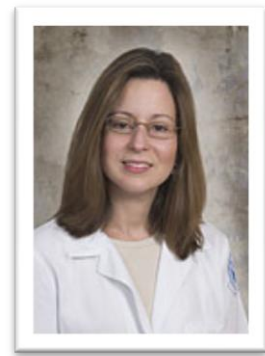
Publications

Wangpaichitr M, Theodoropoulos G, Wu CJ, You M, Feun LG, Kuo MT, Savaraj, N. *The Relationship of Thioredoxin-1 and Cisplatin Resistance: Its Impact on ROS and Tumor Metabolism in Lung Cancer Cells*. *Mol Cancer Ther*, Jan 16; 2012.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22248473>

Beigi F, Gonzalez DR, Minhas KM, Sun Q, Foster MW, Khan SA, Treuer AV, Dulce RA, Harrison RW, Saraiva RM, Premer C, **Schulman IH**, Stamler JS, Hare JM. *Dynamic Denitrosylation via S-Nitrosoglutathione Reductase Regulates Cardiovascular Function*. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, 2012 (in press).

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2012/02/23/1113319109.abstract>



Ivonne H. Schulman, MD

Bryce TN, Biering-Sørensen F, Finnerup NB, Cardenas DD, Defrin R, Lundeberg T, Norrbrink C, Richards JS, Siddall P, Stripling T, Treede RD, Waxman SG, **Widerström-Noga E**, Yeziarski RP, Dijkers M. *International Spinal Cord Injury Pain Classification: part I. Background and description*. Spinal Cord. 2011 Dec 20. doi: 10.1038/sc.2011.156.

<http://www.nature.com/sc/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/sc2011156a.html>

Bryce TN, Biering-Sørensen F, Finnerup NB, Cardenas DD, Defrin R, Ivan E, Lundeberg T, Norrbrink C, Richards JS, Siddall P, Stripling T, Treede RD, Waxman SG, **Widerström-Noga E**, Yeziarski RP, Dijkers M. *International Spinal Cord Injury Pain (ISCI) Classification: Part 2. Initial validation using vignettes*. Spinal Cord. 2012 Feb 7. doi: 10.1038/sc.2012.2.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22310319>

GRECC

Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center

Chen K, Perez-Stable C, D'Ippolito G, Schiller PC, Roos BA, Howard GA. *Human bone marrow-derived stem cell proliferation is inhibited by hepatocyte growth factor via increasing the cell cycle inhibitors p53, p21 and p27*. Bone 49:1194-1204, 2011.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21907315>

Curtis KM, Gomez LA, Schiller PC. *Rac1b regulates NT3-stimulated Mek-Erk signaling, directing marrow-isolated adult multilineage inducible (MIAMI) cells toward an early neuronal phenotype*. Mol Cell Neurosci 49:138-148, 2011. <http://lib.bioinfo.pl/pmid:22061968>

Garbayo E, Raval AP, Curtis KM, Della-Morte D, Gomez LA, D'Ippolito G, Reiner T, Perez-Stable C, Howard GA, Perez-Pinzon MA, Montero-Menei CN, Schiller PC. *Neuroprotective properties of marrow-isolated adult multilineage-inducible cells in rat hippocampus following global cerebral ischemia are enhanced when complexed to biomimetic microcarriers*. J Neurochem 119:972-988, 2011. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21496021>

Roger M, Clavreul A, Huynh NT, Passirani C, Schiller P, Vessières A, Montero-Menei C, Menei P. *Ferrociphenol lipid nanocapsule delivery by mesenchymal stromal cells in brain tumor therapy*. Int J Pharm 423:63-68, 2012.

Roche S, D'Ippolito G, Gomez LA, Bouckennooghe T, Lehmann S, Montero-Menei CN, Schiller PC. *Comparative analysis of protein expression of three stem cell populations: Models of cytokine delivery system in vivo*. Int J Pharm 2012 Jan 20.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22285475>

VA Endocrine, Polypeptide and Cancer Institute

Andrew V. Schally, PhD, MDhc, DSchc

Peer Reviewed Journals:

Stangelberger A, Schally AV, Rick F, Varga J, Baker B, , Zarandi M, Halmos G.

Inhibitory effects of antagonists of growth hormone releasing hormone on experimental prostate cancers are associated with upregulation of wild-type p53 and decrease in p21 and mutant p53 proteins. The Prostate: 72:555-565 (2012).

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pros.21458/pdf>

Klukovits A, Schally AV, Szalontay L, Vidaurre I, Papadia A, Zarandi M, Varga J, Block NL, Halmos G. *Novel antagonists of growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH) inhibit growth and vascularization of human experimental ovarian cancers.* Cancer 118(3):670-680, Feb. 1, 2012.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cncr.26291/pdf>

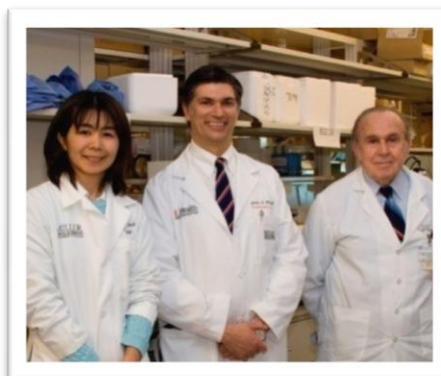
Szalontay L, Benveniste RJ, Schally Av, Vidaurre I, Nadji M, Zarandi M, Block NL, Kovacs M. *Inhibitory effects of GHRH antagonists on human GH-secreting adenoma tissue.* Neuroendocrinology: Epub ahead of print Feb. 29, 2012.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22377963>

Farkas R., Pozsgai E, Schally AV, Gomori E, Mangel L. Bellyei S. *Possible predictors of histopathological response to neoadjuvant radio-chemotherapy for rectal cancer.* J Cancer Res Clin Oncol 138:387-395, 2012.
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/k70565012k4216xx/fulltext.pdf>

Siejka A, Barabutis N, Schally AV. *CHRH antagonist MZ-5-156 increases the expression of AMPK in A540 lung cancer cells.* Cell Cycle. 2011 Nov 1; 10(21):3714-8.
<http://www.landesbioscience.com/journals/cc/SiejkaCC10-21.pdf>

Tanaka M, Schally AV, and Telegdy G. *Neurotransmission of the antidepressant-like effects of the growth hormone-releasing hormone antagonist MZ-4-71.* Behavioral Brain Research [Epub ahead of print December 19, 2011]

Kanashiro-Takeuchi RM, Takeuchi LM, Rick FG, Dulce RR, Treuer AV, Paulino EC, Hatzistergos KE, Selem SM, Gonzalez DR, Block NL, Schally AV, Hare JM. *Activation of growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH) receptors stimulates cardiac reverse remodeling after myocardial Infarction (MI).* PNAS 109(2):559-563, January 10, 2012.
<http://www.pnas.org/content/109/2/559.full.pdf+html>
<http://med.miami.edu/news/activating-ghrh-receptor-shown-to-stimulate-cardiac-damage-repair-after-myo>



From left, Drs. Rosemeire Kanashiro-Takeuchi, Joshua Hare and Andrew Schally



From left, Drs. Ferenc Rick, Andrew Schally and Norman Block

Lucas R, Sridhar S, Rick FG, Gorshkov B, Umapathy NS, Sieramappa U, Yang G, Oseghale A, Verin AD, Chakraborty T, Matthay MA, Zemskov EA, White R, Block NL, and Schally AV. *Agonist of growth hormone-releasing hormone reduces pneumolysin-induced pulmonary permeability edema.* Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 109(6):2084-2089, Feb. 7, 2012.
<http://www.pnas.org/content/109/6/2084.full.pdf+html>

Rick FG, Schally AV, Szalontay L, Block NL, Szepeshazi K, Nadji M, Zarandi M, Hohla F, Buchholz S, and Seitz S. *Antagonists of growth hormone-releasing hormone inhibit growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer through inactivation of ERK and Akt kinases.* Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 109(5):1655-1660, January 31, 2012.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/109/5/1655.full.pdf+html>

<http://med.miami.edu/news/antagonists-of-growth-hormone-releasing-hormone-inhibit-advanced-prostate-c>

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Schally AV, Engel JB, Pinski J, and Block NL. *Analogs of LHRH in Oncology.* Handbook of Biologically Active Peptides. Editor: Abba Kastin. In press. Terry Moody, Section Editor, Elsevier. (In Press)

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SFVAFRE Corner

Executed CRADAs and Other Funding:

Sponsor: Gilead Sciences, Inc., Phase II CT CRADA
Project: A Phase 2b, Randomized, Double-blind Placebo Controlled Trial Evaluating Response Guided Therapy with GS-5885 Alone or in Combination with GS-9451 with PegInterferon alfa 2a and Ribavirin in treatment Naive Subjects with Chronic Genotype 1 Hepatitis C Virus Infection
PI: Lennox Jeffers, M.D.

Sponsor: Celgene Corporation, Phase II CT CRADA
Project: A Phase 2, Pilot, Multicenter, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Sequential, Ascending Dose Study to Characterize the Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Activity of CC-930 in Subjects with Recalcitrant Discoid Lupus Erythematosus (DLE).

PI: Javier Alonso, M.D.

Sponsor: NIH-SBIR Sub award

Project: *Wheelchair with Drop-down Armrest for Sliding Transfers by User*

PI: Sandra Winkler, Ph.D.

Sponsor: NIH-R24- Sub award

Project: *Comparison of Rehabilitation Outcomes of Veterans and Medicare Beneficiaries*

PI: Sandra Winkler, Ph.D.

Sponsor: State of Florida- Sub award

Project: *Mechanisms Underlying Nicotine's proatherogenic Effects in Macrophages*

PI: Ming-Shen Zhou, M.D., Ph.D.

Sponsor: NIH- R01- Sub award

Project: *Telebased Psychosocial Intervention for Symptom Management & HRQOL in Men Living Hereinafter*

PI: Jason Dahn, Ph.D.

Sponsor: Health Foundation for South Florida

Project: *Enhanced Fitness Year 4*

PI: Hermes Florez, M.D., Ph.D.



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