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MOOR Accomplished Scientist Seminar

**MOOR
 Microgrants
 Annual
 Research
 Update**

*Irina Petrache, MD
 Evans Fernandez, MD, MS
 Anuj Mehta, MD
 Kris Genelyn Dimasuay, PhD*

**Wednesday
 Dec. 11**
 12pm – 1pm
 Heitler Hall



Chris Wendt, MD
 Professor
 Section Chief
 VAMC
 Univ of Minnesota

*Distinct Cancer-Promoting
 Stromal Gene Expression
 Patterns in COPD*

**Wednesday
 Dec. 18**
 12pm – 1pm
 Heitler Hall



Cystic Fibrosis Research Update – Jennifer Taylor-Cousar, MD, MSCS



Prior to 2012, therapies approved for Cystic Fibrosis (CF) were directed at the signs and symptoms of the disease. Subsequently, a new class of drugs was introduced that, for the first time, impact the basic defect in CF: Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator (CFTR) modulators. CFTR modulators improve the cellular location and/or function of the CFTR protein. The first drug approved in this class was ivacaftor—it provided highly effective CFTR modulation, but only for approximately 4% of people with CF (Ramsey et al., NEJM, 2011). Since that time, two combination therapies with modest CFTR modulation were approved that impacted approximately 50% of people with CF, those homozygous for the most common, CFTR mutation, Phe508del (F508del). (Wainwright et al., NEJM 2015; Taylor-Cousar et al., NEJM 2017) At that point, there was still no therapy for people with a single copy of F508del.

My colleagues and I, on the **Next Generation Clinical Development Steering Committee**, aided in the design of two phase III randomized, international studies to evaluate triple combination therapy with elexacaftor-tezacaftor-ivacaftor. Nine people with CF who attend the CF clinic at National Jewish Health were enrolled in the trial at our site. Elexacaftor-tezacaftor-ivacaftor led to improvements in lung function and quality of life in people heterozygous or homozygous for F508del that exceeded those of the previous CFTR modulation benchmark. (Middleton et al., NEJM, 2019; Heijerman et al., Lancet, 2019).

Based on these exceptionally positive results and an acceptable safety profile, the FDA approved triple combination therapy on October 21, 2019, 5 months ahead of schedule. Currently approved for people with CF heterozygous for F508del ≥12 years of age, it is expected that this highly effective CFTR modulator combination will ultimately impact more than 90% of people with CF. A local young woman with CF and severe lung dysfunction spoke on CBS about her experience on the new therapy:

<https://denver.cbslocal.com/2019/11/19/cystic-fibrosis-treatment-trikafta-national-jewish/>

Research Support News

Our NJH Institutional Review Board (IRB)/HRPP Office is offering one-on-one guidance on our new IRBManager: Electronic Protocol Management system. Stop in for assistance!

- Wednesdays, December 4th and 11th: 1:00-3:00 in Computer training room, Hanley F217
- Wednesday, December 18th: 1:00-3:00 in HRPP Office, BB building M211

Clinical Research Corner - D Sundström, Katherine Sanner, Mary Gill

Featured Trial of the Month: **Knee Osteoarthritis Study** – sponsored by Fidia Pharmaceutical Company
Clinicians: *Do you have a patient age 21-80 with mild-to-moderate knee osteoarthritis?*



Perhaps they could benefit from this study to look at knee joint fluid proteins which can maintain or break down cartilage. Our researchers are trying to understand how Hymovis injections help reduce knee pain in osteoarthritis patients by measuring proteins in the joint fluid. All subjects will receive 2 injections of this FDA approved gel like drug into one knee using ultrasound guidance.

This study consists of 5 visits over the course of 12 months

Principal Investigator: Richard Meehan, MD

Clinicians: please contact Mary Gill at 303-398-1443 for more information

Grants Management Announcement – Lesley Patrick, PhD



I am excited to announce that Shromona Bose-Bigelow has joined the Grants Management Specialists team. She has worked as a portfolio manager for the Brown County United Way (WI) for the last 4 years where she managed the pre- and post-award functions of federal, state, and foundation awards. She graduated from Lady Sri Ram College and holds a master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Over the next few weeks she will accompany Grants Management staff as they meet with faculty and staff in the Department of Medicine. Please join me in welcoming Shromona to our team and National Jewish Health. She can be reached in room M104, at extension 1056.

Administrative Professionals News – Irena Bjelanovic



Please welcome Aniela Johnson to our DOM Administrative Professionals Team! Aniela started on November 4, 2019 and has been supporting several Pulmonary and Critical Care faculty, as well as assisting the Division of Hospital and Internal Medicine.

Aniela has a Bachelor's Degree from Metro State University of Denver in Behavioral Science. Aniela has years of experience in office management and executive assistance, out of which, most recently, she was an Office Manager in the property management field.

NEW NIH Funding Opportunities

Following is a special selection of new NIH funding opportunities, announced since October 27, 2019.

<i>To view any of these opportunities, visit: https://grants.nih.gov/searchGuide/search_guide.cfm</i>	
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute 3 new entries for NHLBI	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences - 3 new entries for NIEHS
National Institute on Aging 9 new entries for the NIA	National Institute of Nursing Research 1 new entry for NINR
National Cancer Institute 6 new entries for NCI	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases - 4 new entries for NIAID
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences - 1 new entry for NCATS	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases – 2 new entries for NIDDK
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health – 0 new entries for NCCIH	<i>Apply for any of these opportunities with the support of our Grant Writing Workshops program.</i>