

RESEARCH DAY – BRONX NY

Friday May 23, 2014

10:00AM-3:30PM, Room 1B-07

“VA Research: Making A Difference”

- 9:00AM – 10:00AM **Breakfast**
- 10:00AM **Welcome Remarks**
Erik Langhoff, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Center Director
- 10:10AM **A Tribute to Effie Mitsis**
Mary Sano, Ph.D., Associate Chief of Staff/Research and Development
- 10:20AM **KEYNOTE: The Etiology of Thyroid Autoimmunity: An Interplay of Genes, Viruses, and Epigenetics**
Presenter: Yaron Tomer, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Hilda & J. Lester Gabrilove Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease at Mount Sinai Medical Center; staff physician at JJPVAMC
- 10:50AM **Glia: the forgotten overwhelmingly majority cell group of the brain**
Presenter: V. (Harry) Haroutunian, PhD, Associate Director -VA Mental Illness Research and Education Clinical Center (MIRECC) and Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Mount Sinai
- 11:10AM **Insulin resistance microvascular function in persons with spinal cord injury**
Presenter: Michael LaFountaine, Research Health Science Specialist, VA RR&D National Center of Excellence for the Medical Consequences of Spinal Cord Injury
- 11:30AM **Assessment of Epigenetic Changes Induced by Repeated Blast Exposure**
Presenter: Fatemeh Haghighi, Ph.D, Director: Laboratory of Medical Epigenetics; Senior Scientist: James J. Peters VA Medical Center; Associate Professor: Department of Neuroscience - Mount Sinai Medical School
- 11:50AM **C Reactive Protein and Successful Cognitive Aging: A Resilient Phenotype in Old Age**
Presenter: Jeremy Silverman, Ph.D., Research and Development
- 12:10PM **Update on Blast Induced Traumatic Brain Injury**
Presenter: Gregory Elder, M.D., Neurology, Chair – Research and Development Committee

Lunch Break

1:45PM

KEYNOTE: Mental Health Needs of Veterans Receiving Palliative Care

Presenter: Melissa Garrido, Ph.D., Health Services Researcher, GRECC

2:15-3:00PM

Poster Presentations

- Nick Blair, BA – “Greater Emotion Dysregulation Measured with Psychophysiology and Self-Report in Veterans at High vs. Low Risk for Suicide” (for Erin Hazlett, PhD)
- Weiping Qin, PhD – “Therapeutic Potential of Sclerostin Antibody in Extreme Disuse-induced Bone Loss after Spinal Cord Injury: a Preclinical Study”
- Giulio Maria Pasinetti, MD, PhD - “Epigenetic Mechanisms Linking Diabetes and Synaptic Plasticity”
- Jun Wang, PhD, Giulio Maria Pasinetti, MD, PhD - “Repurposing cardiovascular drugs for Alzheimer’s disease”
- Hanna Reding, PhD, Merina Varghese, PhD, Giulio Maria Pasinetti, MD, PhD - “Paired helical filaments from Alzheimer’s disease brain induces Intracellular accumulation of tau protein in Aggresomes”
- Corey Fernandez, BA – “Resting State Functional Connectivity in Blast-related Mild TBI in OIF/OEF Combat Veterans”