

CTSI Fuels Novel Research

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI- <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/ctsi/>) at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) is a national leader in the expanding field of clinical and translational research.

CTSI is creating an environment and structure to help scientists and physicians collaborate on innovative science and technology—and then translate these results to directly benefit patient health in a efficient, effective, and safe manner. Building on the prestigious award from the National Institutes of Health, CTSI is already benefitting patients, researchers, and industry.

Novel Methodologies Award

CTSI recently awarded its 2009 Novel Methodologies Awards. These awards are designed to help overcome specifically identified limitations at either the discovery or implementation step of investigations.

The goal is to identify projects with the potential for developing widely applicable methodologies which significantly enhance the validity, accuracy, scope, or speed of translational research. The following projects were judged to fit these criteria:

- In-vivo Reflectance Confocal Microscopy as a Biomarker for Peripheral Neuropathy Clinical Trials: David Hermann, M.D., Associate Professor, Departments of Neurology and Pathology
- Novel Platform for Biomarker Discovery in Autoimmune Disease: Mark Sullivan, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Center for Oral Biology; and Iñaki Sanz, M.D., Professor, Departments of Medicine and Microbiology
- Development of In-vivo Near Infrared Imaging Technology for Longitudinal Assessment of Lymphatic Draining Function: Lianping Xing, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pathology; and

Ronald Wood, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Neurobiology and Anatomy

Office of Regulatory Support

The CTSI Office of Regulatory Support was organized to provide resources and tools to investigators as they navigate required approval processes for research proposals and to assist them when they encounter challenges. New services were recently introduced that include:

- Customized Action Plan (CAP): an online tool to develop a checklist of required approvals and available services in support of planned research projects. The CAP can be found on the Research Support page of the CTSI website or accessed directly at: <https://gcr.urmc.rochester.edu/cap/>
- Good Laboratory Practice (GLP): investigators who would like to establish GLP compliant practices in support of potential marketing for a new drug or biologic should contact the Quality Assurance Unit (QAU), which is housed within the Office of Regulatory Support. The QAU provides assistance with setup of GLP compliant practices and also provides the federally required auditing function.
- Investigational New Drugs (IND): supporting the development of new Biologic and Drug applications to the FDA and providing guidance to the investigator for the life of the study.
- Investigational Device Exemptions (IDE): providing guidance for the various application processes related to the use of FDA-regulated investigational devices in clinical research.

Biomedical Engineering and Industry Join Forces

The Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Biomedical Engineering Society hosted life sciences companies at "Biomedical Engineering and Industry in New York" on March 27 at Goergen Hall. Bridging the divide between academia and industry, the evening showcased both Biomedical Engineering education, research, and laboratory capabilities at the

University as well as the participating companies' research and products.

The networking event was an opportunity for the next generation of engineers to better understand the needs of the biomedical industry, anticipate future trends, identify internship and employment opportunities, and receive career mentoring.

New CTSA Principal Investigator

David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., Principal Investigator for the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) and the Dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, has left to take a position as the senior vice president for health affairs at the University of Florida. Thomas A. Pearson, M.D. M.P.H. Ph.D., will take over as Principal Investigator. Dr. Pearson played a key role in writing Rochester's original grant application and has served as the Director of the CTSI.

Nanomaterials-No Small Solution

"Applications in Renewable Energy and Biomedicine . . . to power, sustain, and heal the planet for the next 100 years" was the promise of the Nanomaterials Symposium 2009, held on May 11-12 at the University of Rochester's Goergen Hall.

Dramatic breakthroughs in materials science and engineering will be critical to address considerable challenges in renewable energy, affordable healthcare, and sustainability. These issues were examined by speakers from institutions around the globe, including Harvard, Columbia, Duke, and Heidelberg, in two distinct sessions on Renewable Energy and Biomedicine. A joint poster session featured innovative materials science research at the University of Rochester and included discussions with university and industry researchers.

The event was organized by Associate Professor Todd Krauss and sponsored by the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences, and School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Additional information (including presentations) from the Nanomaterials Symposium 2009 is available at: <http://www.chem.rochester.edu/events/nano/>

Participating companies included Adarza BioSystems, Bausch & Lomb, Bio-Optronics, iCardiac Technologies, IMMCO Diagnostics, LAGet Musculoskeletal, Lighthouse Biosciences, Medgraph, MedTech, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, PharmaNova, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, SimPore, Thermal Gradient, and Vaccinex.

Commercial Link to Alumni

University of Rochester Alumni, if you are interested in sharing your technical and business expertise with the Offices of Technology Transfer, please consider joining UR Commercial Link on LinkedIn™, an initiative to link knowledgeable alumni to technology transfer and commercialization activities at the University of Rochester through an advisory role. For more details, please visit us at: <http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/791797>





Energy from Collaboration

“Energy for the 21st Century” was a one-day symposium on April 30, 2009 to formally launch the University of Rochester’s Energy Research Initiative. The symposium assembled leaders from academia, the private sector, and federal agencies to discuss research programs, innovative technologies, and policy issues associated with several forms of energy.

“How to provide enough energy in a sustainable fashion and without sacrificing our environment to an ever-growing world population that demands a higher standard of living is indeed our major societal problem for years and decades to come,” said Ralph Kuncel, University of Rochester Provost and Executive Vice President. “It is the role of research universities like the University of Rochester to play an active, even leadership role in providing new solutions, whether they come from the sciences, engineering, the social sciences, business, or even the humanities.” The Energy Research Initiative has been established for this critical purpose, bringing the necessary disciplines together to collaborate on innovative approaches.

“The Energy Research Initiative tackles research and development issues at the core

of alternative energy and also focuses on the social, political, and economic impact of existing and new forms of energy,” said Dr. Philippe Fauchet, Director of the Energy Research Initiative. “This multidisciplinary effort aims at producing breakthroughs in science and technology, training students in the critical field of energy, and working with industry to transform innovations into products.”

Students, faculty, and staff from departments within the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences, Laboratory for Laser Energetics, and the Simon School of Business are involved. These groups are working cooperatively to solve the problems of energy efficiency, storage, and creation. They will go beyond traditional engineering efforts by working with programs such as Political Science and Economics, in an effort to understand the social, political, and economic impact of energy concerns.

Additional information regarding the symposium and the Energy Research Initiative is available at: <http://www.rochester.edu/college/ERI/symposium2009/>

Recognizing Leadership: Edward A. Hajim

As of July 1, the University of Rochester engineering school was renamed the Edward A. Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The naming recognizes the leadership of Hajim, a 1958 chemical engineering alumnus, his highly successful Wall Street investment career, service on the Board of Trustees, and recent gift commitment to the School of \$30 million. University celebrations are planned for Meliora Weekend, October 8-11, including a formal dedication ceremony and an engineering symposium. These events will feature distinguished guest speakers, including Charles Vest, President of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and President Emeritus of MIT, and Henry Petroski, member of the NAE, Duke University Professor of Civil Engineering and History, and a prolific book author on engineering and design.

Ernest J. Del Monte Neuromedicine Institute Announced

Rochester is a growing leader in neuromedicine and will soon be galvanized as a nationally recognized, comprehensive center for investigating and treating neurological conditions, thanks in part to a multimillion dollar gift from a local entrepreneur.

Ernest J. Del Monte, chairman of E.J. Del Monte Corporation, a Rochester-based company that owns and operates 17 hotels in New York State, chose to make the gift with his wife, Thelma, after listening to the hopes and dreams of neuromedicine leaders at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC). Del Monte, a life trustee of the University of Rochester, pledged \$10 million as a first installment toward what he hopes will amount to a \$20 million commitment to neuromedicine over time.

The Del Monte Neuromedicine Institute will serve as an umbrella for a host of vibrant research centers and growing clinical care programs throughout the Medical Center and River Campus. The gift will facilitate the creation of an Institute with new research space that unifies productive science and fosters collaboration among community neurologists, bringing laboratory breakthroughs to everyday patient care. The Institute will focus initially on four major programs: Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, spinal cord and brain injuries, and brain tumors.

Rochester’s contributions in neuromedicine research have improved patient health, enhanced physician training, and spurred new thinking on a number of research fronts. Last year, URMC ranked sixth among research



institutions in NIH funding for neuromedicine studies. In URMC laboratories, hundreds of neuroscientists have opened up new avenues of possible treatment for conditions like muscular dystrophy, Alzheimer’s disease, and stroke, and they lead several worldwide efforts to find better treatments for people with Parkinson’s or Huntington’s disease.

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