

Enhancing Our Intellectual Capital

*New research faculty who joined NYU Langone
in 2007-2008*



Constantin Aliferis, M.D., Ph.D., has been appointed Director of the Center for Health Informatics and Bioinformatics. He has pioneered several algorithms for data analytics of molecular signatures, causal pathway reverse engineering, and feature selection for high throughput data. He earned an M.D. from Athens University, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in biomedical informatics at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to joining NYU in the fall of 2008, Dr. Aliferis was director of the Discovery Systems Laboratory at Vanderbilt University and founding director of the university's Ph.D. program in biomedical informatics.



Harold Brem, M.D., is Chief of the Division of Wound Healing and Regenerative Medicine in the Department of Surgery, and Associate Professor of Surgery and Pathology. Prior to joining NYU in 2008, Dr. Brem had established the wound healing program at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. His research interests are tissue regeneration and engineering, clinical outcomes, and bioinformatics. He has published extensively on the treatment of pressure, venous, and diabetic foot ulcers. He and his team have also begun identifying the genes responsible for regulating healing of wounds, and are exploring the use of stem cells for healing.



Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in the Departments of Radiation Oncology and Cell Biology. Her research is devoted to understanding how breast cancer develops and creating new approaches to treatments. Her laboratory has investigated how a potent growth factor called transforming growth factor beta1 regulates the physiological response of breast tissue to estrogen and progesterone and to ionizing radiation (the only known breast carcinogen). Her laboratory now aims to translate these newly discovered controls of breast tissue growth into improved radiation therapy. Dr. Barcellos-Hoff earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, San Francisco. She joined NYU in 2008.



OraLee Branch, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Medical Parasitology; her studies focus on malaria caused by the parasites *Plasmodium vivax* and *P. falciparum*. Prior to joining NYU in 2008, Dr. Branch earned her Ph.D. from Emory University, and was a research scientist at the NIH and an assistant professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She was named a young investigator of the year by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and was a mentor to a fellow in a HHMI-funded project.



Jenghwa Chang, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Director of Physics Research in the Department of Radiation Oncology. Dr. Chang applies engineering and physics principles to improve the outcome of radiotherapy, and has developed models and reconstruction algorithms for optical diffusion tomography for early cancer detection, among other accomplishments. Dr. Chang earned his Ph.D. from Polytechnic University of New York, and was affiliated with SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center before he joined the NYU School of Medicine in 2008.



Jessica Donington, M.D., is Assistant Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Director of the NYU Thoracic Oncology Translational Laboratory at Bellevue Hospital. Her clinical and research interests are the diagnosis and treatment of non-small cell lung cancer. Prior to joining the NYU School of Medicine in 2007, she was a faculty member at Stanford University. She completed her thoracic oncology research training at the National Cancer Institute, and did her cardiothoracic surgery training at the Mayo Clinic.



Brian Elbel, Ph.D., M.P.H., is Assistant Professor of Medicine and Health Policy and holds a joint appointment with the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. He uses the tools of behavioral economics to study how people make decisions about their health and health care. He received his Ph.D. and M.P.H. degrees from Yale University and joined NYU in 2007.



Stefan Feske, M.D., is Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology. His research focuses on calcium signaling pathways in cells of the immune system—particularly store-operated calcium channels, which are of critical importance to the functioning of immune cells. He graduated summa cum laude with an M.D. degree from the University of Freiburg in Germany, and was an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. A recipient of a Cancer Research Institute fellowship and the prestigious Georges-Koehler Award from the German Immunology Society in 2007, the year Dr. Feske joined NYU.



Thomas Franke, M.D., Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Lübeck in Germany, and his M.D.-Ph.D. in medical virology from Justus Liebig University in Germany. A pioneer in the field of Akt signal transduction, he currently explores the consequences of Akt activity in higher-order neural functions. Dr. Franke has received numerous awards, including career development awards from the Breast Cancer Research Program and the New York Academy of Medicine. He joined NYU in 2007.



Jacqueline French, M.D., is Professor in the Department of Neurology. Before joining the NYU School of Medicine in 2007, she had been an assistant dean for clinical trials at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. French has focused her research efforts on the development of new therapeutics for epilepsy, and on creating novel clinical trial methodologies. She is director and founder of the Epilepsy Study Consortium, a collaboration of eight academic medical centers aimed at performing and improving clinical trials for antiepileptic drugs (AEDS). In addition to proposing new trial designs, she has worked with the FDA to successfully implement major changes in the approval process for AEDS. She is a recipient of the American Epilepsy Society Service Award.



E. Jane Albert Hubbard, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Pathology and a member of the Developmental Genetics Program at the Skirball Institute. Her laboratory studies the mechanisms whereby cell-to-cell signals control when, where, and the extent to which cells proliferate. These mechanisms are conserved among all animals, and can be studied in detail in simple organisms like the nematode worm *C. elegans*. Dr. Hubbard's work lays the foundation for molecular studies in humans, and has already had an impact in leukemia research. The March of Dimes and the NIH support her current research. Dr. Hubbard earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University, and was a member of its faculty for eight years before she joined NYU in 2007.



Stuart Katz, M.D., is the first Helen L. and Martin S. Kimmel Professor of Advanced Cardiac Therapeutics and Director of the new Heart Failure Center at NYU Langone Medical Center. Dr. Katz previously served as director of Yale University's Heart Failure/Transplantation Program. During the course of his career he has made major contributions to the understanding of endothelial dysfunction in patients with heart failure. Dr. Katz will work closely with NYU Langone cardiovascular experts, both medical and surgical, to establish a multi-disciplinary program focusing on innovative strategies for the treatment of heart failure. Dr. Katz received his B.S. degree from Yale University and his M.D. degree from Downstate Medical Center. In addition, he received an M.S. degree in biostatistics from Columbia School of Public Health. He joined NYU in 2008.



Thorsten Kirsch, Ph.D., is Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Cell Biology and Pharmacology, Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Director of the Musculoskeletal Research Center. Prior to joining the NYU School of Medicine, he was a professor and director of Orthopaedic Research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Kirsch studies mechanisms regulating skeletal cell differentiation during development, and is evaluating whether the inappropriate reoccurrence of differentiation leads to tissue destruction in certain diseases, such as osteoarthritis. Dr. Kirsch earned his Ph.D. from the Albrecht-Ludwig-University, Erlangen in Germany, graduating summa cum laude, and completed his postdoctoral training at the University of South Carolina and the University of Pennsylvania.



Holger Knaut, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Cell Biology and a member of the Skirball Institute. He studies how cells assemble into an organ—a complex process, since organ precursor cells are often born far from their destination and need to navigate through the embryo to reach the site of organ assembly. Dr. Knaut earned his Ph.D. from the University of Tübingen/Max-Planck Institute for Developmental Biology in Germany, and completed his postdoctoral training at Harvard University. A recipient of a prestigious research fellowship from the Human Frontier Science Program, Dr. Knaut joined NYU in 2008.



Catherine Scott Manno, M.D., is Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. Prior to joining NYU in the fall of 2008, she was at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she held the Elias Schwarz Endowed Chair in Pediatric Hematology and served as associate chair of clinical activities in the Department of Pediatrics and senior physician in the Division of Hematology. She has been the principal investigator for several clinical research studies in the area of hemophilia, and has published widely on topics such as gene therapy for hemophilia, neonatal transfusion medicine, and bleeding disorders in children. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Manno earned her M.D. from Hahnemann Medical College, and completed her residency in pediatrics at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia.



Gbenga Ogedegbe, M.D., M.P.H., is Associate Professor of Medicine. A board-certified internist, hypertension specialist, and clinical epidemiologist, Dr. Ogedegbe's research focuses on translating evidence-based behavioral interventions into primary care practices to improve the treatment of high blood pressure. He has multiple NIH-funded grants, and is a permanent member of an NIH study section and a fellow of the American Heart Association.



Manish Parikh, M.D., is Assistant Professor of Surgery and Director of the Bellevue Hospital Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery Program. He graduated Alpha Omega Alpha from the NYU School of Medicine in 2001 and completed his general surgery residency at NYU/Bellevue in 2006, followed by a laparoscopic and bariatric surgery fellowship at Cornell/Columbia–New York Presbyterian Hospital. His principal research interests are related to clinical outcomes after bariatric surgery.



Keping N. Patel, M.D., is Assistant Professor of Surgery and Biochemistry. Prior to joining NYU, he was a faculty member at SUNY-Stony Brook University Medical Center. His research focuses on the molecular pathogenesis of thyroid cancer. He earned his M.D. from UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and completed his training in oncologic head and neck surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. His research has been recognized by the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Head and Neck Society.



Mary Perrin, Dr.P.H., is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Environmental Medicine. Her research focuses on epigenetic processes in the etiology of psychiatric disorders and female reproductive cancers. She received her Dr.P.H. degree from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University in 2004 and subsequently joined its Department of Epidemiology. She is a recent recipient of the prestigious NARSAD Young Investigator Award as well as a career development award from the National Cancer Institute. She joined NYU in 2007.



Silvia Priori, M.D., Ph.D., is Director of the new Cardiovascular Genetics Program. Her groundbreaking studies have used genetic techniques to identify new genes responsible for various forms of inherited arrhythmias. Prior to joining NYU in 2008, she had established the world's largest genetics screening laboratory, database, and clinic dedicated to genetics of arrhythmias at the University of Pavia, Italy. The lab focused on unraveling how mutations lead to disease, thus enabling screening of individuals and families at risk of sudden cardiac death in order to target treatment and prevent cardiac arrest. Dr. Priori is the recipient of numerous grants, and has served in leadership positions in many international organizations. She serves on the editorial board of major cardiovascular journals and has received the Outstanding Research Award in Pediatric Cardiology from the American Heart Association.



Michael P. Recht, M.D., has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Radiology. Prior to joining NYU in the fall of 2008, Dr. Recht was at the Cleveland Clinic, where he was chair of both the Department of eRadiology and the Department of Business Development of the Cleveland Clinic's Imaging Institute. "eRadiology" is a relatively new discipline engendered by the development of digital imaging in place of traditional films. His many honors include the 2001 President's Award from the International Skeletal Society. Dr. Recht earned his M.D. degree, Alpha Omega Alpha, from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, completing his residency in diagnostic radiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was chief resident. He has completed fellowships in several areas, including angiography/interventional radiology, magnetic resonance, and osteoradiology.



Philip Reiss, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He holds master's degrees in mathematics and statistics from the University of Toronto, and earned his Ph.D. in Biostatistics from Columbia University in 2006, the year he joined the NYU Child Study Center. His research focuses on statistical methods for the analysis of high-dimensional data, with applications to human brain mapping. He is developing novel analytic techniques for using functional neuroimaging data to understand how different regions of the brain interact. Dr. Reiss earned the Joseph L. Fleiss Memorial Prize in Biostatistics from Columbia.



Helen Scharfman, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, and a research scientist in the Center for Dementia Research at The Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research. Her research focus is the limbic regions of the brain, such as the hippocampus and entorhinal cortex, which are crucial to learning and memory. Her studies use animal models of disease to help clarify mechanisms underlying neurologic and psychiatric disorders. Her most recent work evaluates ways in which the normal plasticity and excitability of limbic regions are influenced by brain-derived neurotrophic factor, steroids, and post-natal neurogenesis. Dr. Scharfman received her Ph.D. from the Uniformed Services University, and was director of the Center for Neural Recovery Rehabilitation Research at Columbia University/Helen Hayes Hospital prior to joining NYU in 2007.



Susan Schwab, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Pathology and a member of the Skirball Institute. Dr. Schwab studies the lipid sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P), which plays a critical role in the immune system and in blood vessel development. S1P is also essential for embryonic vascular development and may promote angiogenesis, enabling tumor growth, in adults. Despite its critical roles, little is known about how its production and distribution are regulated. Dr. Schwab is exploring how S1P levels are set and how S1P affects immunity. Dr. Schwab earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and completed her postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Francisco. She joined NYU in 2008.



Greg Suh, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Cell Biology and a member of the Skirball Institute. Dr. Suh studies how fruit flies recognize cues—such as odors emanating from a morsel of food or from stressed flies—and then respond with appropriate behaviors. Dr. Suh earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and completed his postdoctoral training at the California Institute of Technology. A recipient of a prestigious research fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Dr. Suh joined NYU in 2008.