Member Highlight: Changing the Way Memory and Cognitive Health and Disease are Approached

A KL2 Career Development Award through the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences (NUCATS) Institute supported Dr. Rogalski's ongoing, innovative work in primary progressive aphasia by providing her protected time for her research, $25,000 a year for research related expenses, and career development and mentoring programs. Have you heard of the word "SuperAger"? Dr. Emily Rogalski, Northwestern Medicine researcher, and her colleagues identified and coined this term in their proof-of-concept project for individuals over age 80 with unusually preserved memory performance. While several studies of successful aging exist, none has pre-selected individuals with memory performance at a level considered average or better for persons 2-3 decades younger. Preliminary data suggest a biologic basis for the SuperAging trajectory-- SuperAgers have larger cortical volumes, less ApoE4, more von Economo neurons in the anterior cingulate, and fewer instances of Alzheimer pathology than their cognitively average peers. The next iteration of her “SuperAger” research, funded by an R01 from the NIH National Institute on Aging, will expand the cohort to a larger group and will follow these “SuperAgers” for the rest of their lives. Read More.

From the Hill--ACTS Advocacy News

The Energy & Commerce Committee continues working to advance the 21st Century Cures Initiative through the House of Representatives. This effort is a de facto reauthorization of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) coupled with regulatory reforms that are intended to improve the treatment “discovery-development-delivery” process. To read more on this story, click here.

Meet the ACTS Team!

Bushra Rehman is the Executive Director for ACTS. Joining the team in November, Bushra brings with her over 15 years of management experience with 8 years of experience as a CTSA Administrative Director. Bushra holds an MPA from the University of Michigan.
Jena Eberly Stack is the Senior Operations Coordinator for ACTS. Joining the team this past April, Jena brings over five years of experience in non-profit work and event planning. Jena holds an M.Ed in Education Administration from Loyola University Chicago.

Juli Clifton is the Membership and Operations Associate for ACTS. Joining the team in November, Juli brings experience in journalism with a B.A. in Journalism and Theatre from Indiana University. Juli is also currently finishing an MFA in Fiction from Columbia College Chicago.

To contact us, click here.

Save the Date: Translational Science 2016

Mark Your Calendars! Translational Science 2016 will take place April 13-15 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. Registration for Translational 2016 is expected to open in December 2015.

Translational Science News

Bipartisan House Leaders Announce $13 Billion Deal on Medical Cures
FDA Releases Guidance for Clinical Trial Sponsor-Investigators

Grant Opportunities

Clinical and Translational Science Award Network Recruitment Innovation Centers (U24)
NINDS Faculty Development Award to Promote Diversity in Neuroscience Research (K01)
National Centers for Translational Research in Reproduction and Infertility (P50)

Translational Science News

Bipartisan House Leaders Announce $13 Billion Deal on Medical Cures

Bipartisan leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee have announced a $13 billion deal to pay for the 21st Century Cures measure. The measure would streamline the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) approval process for new drugs and includes $10 billion over five years in new funds for medical research at the National Institutes of Health and $550 million for FDA. The deal to offset the costs includes selling oil for eight years from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, modifying the timing of government payments to insurance companies under the Medicare Advantage program so that the government can keep interest earned on the funds, and reducing Medicaid payments for certain medical equipment.

From "Bipartisan House Leaders Announce $13 Billion Deal on Medical Cures" The Hill (05/21/15) Sullivan, Peter

FDA Releases Guidance for Clinical Trial Sponsor-Investigators

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released new guidance to instruct clinical trial sponsor-investigators on completing an investigational new drug application (IND). The draft guidance document, "Investigational New Drug
Applications Prepared and Submitted by Sponsor-Investigators,” is meant to act as a basic overview of the IND process, focusing on individual researchers investigating new uses for an approved or investigational drug. FDA looks at the basic elements of an IND submission, including information about the sponsor, a summary of the investigational drug product and its risks, and clinical trial protocol.

From "FDA Releases Guidance for Clinical Trial Sponsor-Investigators" RAPS (05/14/2015) Gaffney, Alexander

Grant Opportunities

Clinical and Translational Science Award Network Recruitment Innovation Centers (U24)

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) have issued a funding opportunity announcement to improve research participant recruitment in the planning and implementation phase of clinical trials. The award seeks to create CTSA Network Recruitment Innovation Centers, with the goal of increasing participant recruitment into clinical trials using innovative means to assess the availability of potential participants and to enroll them in a timely fashion. NCATS plans to commit up to $6 million in fiscal year 2016 to fund up to two awards, while NLM plans to commit up to $250,000 to co-fund awards in response to the funding announcement. Awards may be issued for up to five years, and application budgets should not exceed $2 million in annual direct costs. Letters of intent are due by June 22, 2015, with applications due on July 22, 2015.

From "Clinical and Translational Science Award Network Recruitment Innovation Centers (U24)" NIH Grants (05/15/15)

NINDS Faculty Development Award to Promote Diversity in Neuroscience Research (K01)

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) has issued a funding opportunity announcement to promote diversity in neuroscience research. The NINDS Faculty Development Award to Promote Diversity in Neuroscience Research (K01) will provide junior faculty with research cost support, protected research time, and career stage appropriate professional development mentorship in neuroscience research. Individuals from backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical research are eligible for support under this award if they have doctoral research degrees and are in the first three years of a faculty tenure track or equivalent position at the time of award. The National Institutes of Health will contribute up to $85,000 annually per year toward the salary of the career award recipient, and the total project period may not exceed five years. Applications for the next cycle of awards are due by July 12, 2015.

From "NINDS Faculty Development Award to Promote Diversity in Neuroscience Research (K01)" NIH Grants (05/14/15)

National Centers for Translational Research in Reproduction and Infertility (P50)

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is awarding funding for the National Centers for Translational Research in Reproduction and Infertility (NCTRI). The NCTRI, which replace the Specialized Cooperative Centers Program in Reproduction and Infertility Research (SCCPIR) U54 program, will be administered through the Specialized Research Center (P50) award mechanism. Together, the centers will create a national network that seeks to facilitate and increase bidirectional knowledge transfer between the laboratory and clinic. For this award, applications that focus on the genetics and epigenetics of reproductive health are particularly encouraged, with additional areas of focus including reproductive developmental biology, reproductive tract biology and physiology, reproductive endocrinology and neuroendocrinology, reproductive genetics and epigenetics, and reproductive medicine. NICHD plans to commit about $3.5 million in fiscal year 2016 to fund up
to two applications in response to this funding announcement. The maximum project period is five years. Letters of intent are due by Oct. 12, 2015, with full applications due on Nov. 12, 2015.

From "National Centers for Translational Research in Reproduction and Infertility (P50)"

NIH Grants (05/12/15)