DID YOU KNOW…?

Governor Andrew Cuomo has approved a NY State Assembly Bill that will exempt from the State’s open records laws any records pertaining to biomedical research or teaching at universities in New York that, if disclosed, could endanger the life or safety of any person or threaten the security of a biomedical research lab. [http://www.nabr.org/new-york-governor-signs-open-records-fix-to-protect-researchers/](http://www.nabr.org/new-york-governor-signs-open-records-fix-to-protect-researchers/)

Mitochondria, the power houses of the cell, contain their own genome. Nevertheless, the majority of their constituent proteins are encoded by nuclear genes and are translated in the cytosol. During the cell cycle, a cell needs to duplicate each of its constituent parts and organelles. Surprisingly, it has never been clear how or whether mitochondrial protein import is linked with the cell cycle. Harbauer et al. now show that one of the main conduits for mitochondrial protein import is directly regulated by phosphorylation during mitosis, and that this in turn promotes respiratory activity. [http://www.sciencemag.org/content/346/6213/1109?utm_source=eloqua](http://www.sciencemag.org/content/346/6213/1109?utm_source=eloqua)

Diets high in fat and cholesterol are known to cause changes in gut microbe communities. A study in mice has revealed how diet-induced changes in intestinal bacteria can influence susceptibility to autoinflammatory diseases. In such diseases, the innate immune system becomes activated and triggers inflammation. The results could lead to translational advances in how to treat autoinflammatory diseases in susceptible people. [http://www.nature.com/scibx/journal/v7/n41/full/scibx.2014.1210.html](http://www.nature.com/scibx/journal/v7/n41/full/scibx.2014.1210.html)

**Virtual Reality Changes Neuronal Firing**

Place cells are a type of neuron in the brain that gives you a sense of place and allows for spatial navigation. Visual cues are important for determining place cell function, but do other sensory or motor cues also play a role? To find out, Aghajan et al. compared rats navigating mazes in the real world and rats doing the same thing in virtual reality, where the only input they received was from distal visual cues. By monitoring the firing of place cells, the authors found that these cells did not perform optimally in the rats experiencing the virtual reality mazes. These results suggest that place cells need more than just visual signals. [http://www.nature.com/neuro/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nn.3884.html](http://www.nature.com/neuro/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nn.3884.html)
NEWSWORTHY FROM NIH

New Biosketch Requirements

NIH will require use of a new biosketch format in applications for research grants submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2015. Between now and that time, applicants will have the choice of using the old or new biosketch format. The primary focus of the new NIH biosketch will be the magnitude and significance of the scientific advances associated with a researcher’s discoveries and the specific role the researcher played in those findings. This change will help reviewers evaluate you not by where you’ve published or how many times, but instead by what you’ve accomplished. Hopefully, this change will redirect the focus of reviewers and the scientific community more generally from widely questioned metrics, like the number of published papers, the number of citations received by those papers, or one of several statistical approaches used to normalize citations. A sample of the new format can be found here: Sample New Biosketch


NEWSWORTHY FROM THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Joseph Barabino has just joined the Office of Research Administration at SUNY Downstate and will serve as Associate Vice President for Research Administration. He will oversee operational activities of the Pre- and Post-Award Divisions, replacing Mr. Michael McGuire who has served as Interim AVP for Research Administration since February, 2014.

Prior to joining Downstate, Mr. Barabino served as Associate Vice President for Research Administration at Florida International University. He has also held senior positions in research administration at several other institutions including Boston University.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Barabino to Downstate Medical Center. His office is located in the Post-Award Division facility. His contact information follows:

E-mail: joseph.barabino@downstate.edu
Office: x4466.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Weekly NIH funding opportunities: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/WeeklyIndex.cfm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/WeeklyIndex.cfm)

The NIH posted a new Funding Opportunity Announcement focused on "Opportunities for Collaborative Research at the NIH Clinical Center." Twelve NIH institutes are participating in this cooperative agreement (U1) program, along with two NIH director's offices. The FOA details the specific research priorities of the program. Extramural investigators must have a collaborating investigator in the NIH intramural research program to be eligible.


Information on hundreds of non-federal sources of grant and fellowship support is available on the URL below. This is provided, with permission, by the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

[http://www.einstein.yu.edu/administration/grant-support/funding-opportunities.aspx](http://www.einstein.yu.edu/administration/grant-support/funding-opportunities.aspx)

Proposal CENTRAL is an e-grantmaking website shared by many government, non-profit, and private grant-making organizations. [https://proposalcentral.altum.com/](https://proposalcentral.altum.com/)

SUNY Funding Opportunities

- **SUNY 4E** (Energy, Environment, Economics and Education)
- **SUNY Health**
- **SUNY Brain**
- **SUNY Materials and Advanced Manufacturing**
- **SUNY Arts and Humanities**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT DOWNSTATE’S PRE-AWARD DIVISION IF YOU WOULD LIKE THEIR HELP IN IDENTIFYING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS.**
Here’s a minute’s worth of trivial facts about brains and the mind.

http://www.phdcomics.com/tv/#029