General Announcements

Non Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD): Mechanisms and Novel Therapeutics
June 30th, 2020
at The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center Boston, MA

Presented by:
National Institutes of Health (NIH) - National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

SAVE the DATE

Event Highlight:

Longwood Nutrition Seminar 2019-2020 – Division of Nutrition at Harvard

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 from 12:00-1:00PM – Lunch will be served at 11:30AM

“Translating Nutrition Research to Practice – Evidence-Based Tools for Preventing and Treating Childhood Obesity”

Cara B. Ebbeling, Ph.D., Co-Director, New Balance Foundation Obesity Prevention Center, Division of Endocrinology, Boston Children’s Hospital

Maria B. Schwartz, MPH, CHES, Community Outreach Program Manager, Division of Endocrinology, Boston Children’s Hospital

Location: Cannon Room (Building C1), Medical Education Center, Harvard Medical School, 260 Longwood Avenue

For further information: contact Dr. Christopher Duggan or Barbara Ainsley @ 617-667-2604

Recent Publications from NORCH Investigators


Featured Publication:
"Fructose Consumption Reduces Fat Oxidation" - Cell Metabolism. SEE NEXT PAGE!
Our work as a Center is measured in part by the contributions we make to published science. Please cite the National Institutes of Health Grant P30 DK040561 in all publications that results from the use of NORC-H services or resources.

Do you have a suggestion for a publication feature? Please send the citation to: HarvardNORC@mgh.harvard.edu
Visit our website at: www.norch.org
Title: Assistant Professor

Current Appointments: Assistant Professor of Obstetrics Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, Harvard Medical School Maternal-Fetal Medicine Staff, Massachusetts General Hospital Investigator, Vincent Center for Reproductive Biology

Background: I am an Ob/Gyn (a Maternal-Fetal Medicine subspecialist) at Massachusetts General Hospital, and spend about 75% of my time doing research. I did my residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in 2007, and after six years away, I recently returned to MGH in 2017 and started my own laboratory here. My research focuses on the effects of maternal obesity and maternal nutrition on fetal brain development and offspring behavior, and how these effects are modified by fetal sex. The broad goal is to elucidate mechanisms underlying neurodevelopmental morbidity observed in offspring of obese women.

Research Interests: 1) Brain-placental crosstalk in maternal obesity, and how immune activation in the placenta may lead to fetal brain immune activation and inflammation. 2) Maternal obesity-associated malprogramming of fetal and offspring reward circuitry. Specifically, we are exploring how maternal obesity and high-fat diet feeding dysregulate offspring mesolimbic reward signaling during critical developmental windows, and how such dysregulation may drive offspring to overeat, contributing to transgenerational obesity propagation.

How have NORCH and/or NORCH Core Services helped: The joint funding from the NORCH/BADERC (Boston Area Diabetes Endocrinology Research Center) Pilot and Feasibility Grants has allowed me to examine receptor expression in key regions of the mesolimbic dopamine circuit across development in offspring from my model, and to examine hedonic feeding behavior in these offspring. Through techniques learned from Dr. Alex Soukas’s lab at the NORCH Metabolic Phenotyping core, I have been able to generate detailed metabolic profiles of the offspring, including indirect calorimetry analyses using Dr. Soukas’ metabolic cages. Data we have generated through our collaboration with the NORCH Metabolic Phenotyping core and as part of the P&F grant will form the basis for an R21 application we plan to submit in 2020.

What inspired you to become an academic researcher? The ability to help many more patients than I can by treating the individual in front of me, through advancing scientific knowledge. Also, the thrill of being the first person in the world to know the answer to a very interesting question, when I analyze new data for the first time.

What has been the most exciting moment in your career? For my research career, getting my first R01, without a doubt! In my clinical career, I would have to say it’s a tie between the 100s of births I have had the privilege of attending.

If you could change one thing about the way we conduct or communicate research, what would it be? In this era of team science and the need for vast and wide-ranging expertise to conduct the most cutting-edge research, I would love to improve on our archaic “first author last author” publication structure. There has to be a better way to recognize everyone’s contributions and to encourage and incentivize collaboration!

What is your favorite paper from a lab other than your own? Ginhoux’s 2010 paper in Science, “Fate mapping analysis reveals that adult microglia derive from primitive macrophages.” The in vivo lineage tracing studies are so elegant, and demonstrate the fetal origins of our lifelong pool of brain microglia. As a researcher interested in fetal programming and neuroinflammation, this discovery was so pivotal.

What is your favorite TV show? My favorite TV show is Breaking Bad. As a native of Albuquerque, NM, I love everything about this show!
Nutrition Obesity Research Center @ Columbia

DeWitt Goodman Seminar Series
Wednesday, November 20, 2019 - Sarah Tishkoff, PhD, David and Lyn Silfen University Professor, Departments of Genetics and Biology University of Pennsylvania: “African Genomics: Implication for Studies of Human Evolution and Disease.”

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 - Russell DeBose-Boyd, PhD, Beatrice and Miguel Elias Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science, Professor of Molecular Genetics UT Southwestern Medical Center. “TBA”

Nutrition Obesity Research Center @ Boston University CONT.

Adipose Seminar Series sponsored by the Adipose Tissue Biology and Nutrient Metabolism Core (ABM) of the Boston Nutrition Obesity Research Center
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 from 10:00-11:00AM
“Nutrient Sensors as Conductors of Metabolism in Adipocytes” David Guertin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Program in Molecular Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Location: BUMC, EBRC Building, 650 Albany Street, 7th Floor, Room 714

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 from 10:00-11:00AM
“Environmental PPARγ Ligands: Inducers of White, but not Brite, Adipogenesis” Jennifer Schlezinger, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Environmental Health, Boston University School of Public Health
Location: BUMC, EBRC Building, 650 Albany Street, 7th Floor, Room 714

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 from 10:00-11:00AM
”TBD” Dean P. Jones, Ph.D., Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry, Director, Clinical Biomarkers Lab, Emory University
Location: BUMC, EBRC Building, 650 Albany Street, 7th Floor, Room 714

Save the Date - BNORC Annual Program: Adipose Tissue Role in Obesity sponsored by Boston Nutrition Obesity Research Center
Friday, December 13, 2019 from 8:30AM-1:30PM
Check-In from 8:30-9:00AM
Plenary Session from 9:00AM-12:15PM
Valentina Perissi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biochemistry, Boston University School of Medicine
Lydia Lynch, Ph.D., Lecturer of Medicine, Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Location: BUSM, 72 East Concord Street, Instructional Building, Hiebert Lounge
Michael D. Jensen, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Consultant, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, Metabolism, Nutrition, Department of Internal Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Pilot and Feasibility Investigator
Jun Li, M.D., Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health
Judged Poster Session from 12:15-1:30PM
Location: BUSM, 72 East Concord Street, Instructional Building, Hiebert Lounge
Please contact Donna Gibson for additional information. Additional program details including registration information will be provided at a later date.

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Have a comment, questions or suggestion? Email us at HarvardNORC@mgh.harvard.edu

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