

# Network of Minority Research Investigators

NMRI News  
*Summer 2009*



**NIDDK** | NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE  
AND KIDNEY DISEASES

# Network of Minority Research Investigators

## SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER

### A Message from Dr. Agodoa



As the Network of Minority Research Investigators (NMRI) begins its eighth year, this is a time to celebrate its success and thank all those who have worked to develop the network. It also is a time to step back and determine what steps will be needed to continue the network in the future and make it stronger. The NMRI belongs to its members and is now being administered exclusively by the Oversight Committee and Planning Committee. Each of these committees has responsibilities to plan meetings and activities of the NMRI and to coordinate with members for special initiatives. The NIDDK remains committed to its support of the NMRI and works closely with the committees to provide funding and technical support for NMRI activities.

The future of the NMRI depends on its members. At the 7th Annual Workshop, in April 2009, lively discussions were held concerning the direction of the network. The following are suggestions from these discussions for strengthening the network and maintaining its viability in the future.

- ◆ It was suggested that each current member recruit at least one new member by the next annual workshop in April 2010.
- ◆ Recruitment should become more expansive to include new members from different disciplines (e.g., epidemiology, technology, and translational science) that interact with minority health issues.
- ◆ The NMRI will increase its focus on mentoring and networking; there is a need to have more senior members of NMRI become mentors to assist younger investigators.
- ◆ The NMRI will continue to focus on cutting-edge science and will continue to offer workshop attendees presentations from members highlighting their scientific research.

*Lawrence Agodoa, M.D., F.A.C.P.*

*Director, Office of Minority Health Research Coordination, NIDDK/NIH*

### SAVE THE DATE:

*Announcing the NMRI West Regional Workshop  
November 19–20, 2009, San Diego, CA*

*Check at <http://www3.niddk.nih.gov/fund/other/nmriwest2009/>*



**NIDDK**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE  
AND KIDNEY DISEASES

## Focus on Mentoring Highlights the 7th Annual NMRI Workshop, Held on April 23 - 24, 2009

The 7th Annual Network of Minority Research Investigators Workshop focused on the benefits of mentoring and networking. More than 65 attendees heard a variety of plenary presentations on the value of these critical factors in the progression from undergraduate student to senior researcher. The 2-day workshop was held at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bethesda, MD, on April 23-24, 2009.

The Keynote Address was presented by **Dr. Arthur Gutierrez-Hartmann**, Director of the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of Colorado Denver. His address, "Periprinations of a Persistent Scientist," was a reminiscence of the many mentors who influenced him along his path from undergraduate studies to head of a university department. Critical steps for making the most of mentors and networking include:

- ◆ Recognize the doors that open for you.
- ◆ Realize that mentors can be found anywhere; they may be peers, those a few years older than you, or the all-star researcher in a department.
- ◆ Understand that many in the network around you may end up crossing your path for the rest of your life.
- ◆ Do not discount chance encounters with people who share your interests.
- ◆ Take responsibility for your choices, and follow what you want for your career.



*Dr. Lawrence Agodoa, Director of the NIDDK Office of Minority Health Research Coordination, introduces Dr. Eddie Greene, Chair of the 2009 NMRI Annual Workshop.*

In a dinner address, **Dr. Gary Gibbons**, Chairman of the Department of Physiology and Professor of Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, provided an overview of the relationship between science and the community, especially for those in the minority community. He encouraged NMRI scientists to tackle big problems and reminded them that there is a community that is interested in their success. Today's young minority scientists belong to a generation that has extraordinary possibilities; although there are challenges ahead, there also is hope.

Participants were particularly pleased with two presentations that proved both informative and practical. **Dr. Ricardo Azziz**, Professor at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the University of California, Los Angeles, gave a stirring personal account of the challenges in fostering a diverse faculty. He recognized the barriers that may exist in academia regarding advancement opportunities for underrepresented minorities, but suggested that to attain a

higher position it is imperative to understand the “system” within which you work. **Dr. Judith Podskalny**, Program Director at the NIDDK and a perennial favorite at NMRI workshops, presented an overview of the funding mechanisms available at the NIDDK. She highlighted the R25 education program grant, which is designed to create educational opportunities to attract undergraduate students, graduate students, or postdoctoral researchers into the areas of research supported by the NIDDK.

During the State-of-the-Science session, **Dr. Sylvia Rosas**, Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, presented research on the role of carotid intima-media thickness in chronic kidney disease. Data from preliminary results of the Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort (CRIC), as well as the CRIC Ancillary Study, were presented. In another presentation, **Dr. Eva McGhee**, Assistant Professor at the University of California at San Francisco, discussed emerging risk factors in kidney transplants, focusing on HPV 16 E6/E7 induction of genomic instability and cellular sequelae. Results from her study indicate that high-risk HPV 16 oncoproteins directly contribute to genomic instability.

As at each of the NMRI Annual Workshops, a series of breakout sessions allowed participants to discuss various topics of interest, including managing a laboratory and building and sustaining an effective team; recruiting, screening, and releasing staff; establishing and managing a clinical research program; and leveraging scientific research.

In addition, mock study section review sessions were held to allow participants an opportunity to hear how grant applications are viewed by study section reviewers at NIH or other organizations. These mock study sections are always among the most



*Dr. James Hyde (right) leads a spirited Mock Study Section Review Breakout.*

well-attended and informative sessions at the NMRI workshop. This year’s mock study sections were hosted by NIDDK Scientific Review Officers **Dr. Michele Barnard**, **Dr. Michael Edwards**, and **Dr. Maria Davila-Bloom**, and NIDDK Senior Advisor for Research Training and Career Development Programs **Dr. James Hyde**.

A special feature of the workshop was a presentation on communicating scientific results to the media, patients, or others. **Carol Schadelbauer**, Burness Communications, used video clips and role playing to show how to (and how not to) get across a complicated, technical message in 15 seconds. For example, instead of telling an audience or interviewer that “The significance of screening for breast cancer is that it can reduce morbidity and mortality,” it would be more

## SAVE THE DATE:

*Announcing the NMRI 8th Annual Workshop, April 22-23, 2010*

*Check at <http://nmri.niddk.nih.gov/workshops/> as information becomes available.*

audience-friendly to say, “If women don’t get screened for breast cancer, there will be more sickness and deaths in the future.”

NMRI participants were given other specific methods to increase their ability to get their message across to various audiences. Techniques such as storytelling, reducing science jargon to a minimum, and staying on message regardless of the comments of interviewers were modeled and used in role-playing vignettes.

Participants also heard from representatives of the American Physiological Society and the National Kidney Foundation on their minority programs.



*Dr. Eddie Greene, Chair of the 7th Annual NMRI Workshop, hands the reins to the newly elected Co-Chairs of the 8th Annual NMRI Workshop in 2010, Drs. Sylvia Rosas (left) and Bessie Young.*

## Being a Mentor; Being a Mentee—View from the Front Line

**D**r. Dale Abel has been Dr. Rocio Pereira’s NMRI mentor since the summer of 2008. In this capacity, Dr. Abel has been instrumental in guiding Dr. Pereira in her career-development activities. Following Dr. Abel’s advice to place a greater focus on publications,

Dr. Pereira has been able to publish two manuscripts and has two more in preparation. Dr. Pereira plans on submitting an R03 application for this winter and an R01 proposal the following year. Dr. Pereira will seek Dr. Abel’s advice and input as both proposals are prepared.

## First Dr. Marco Cabrera Poster Contest Winners Announced

**T**o honor the memory of Dr. Marco Cabrera (see inside back cover), a long-time NMRI member and friend, poster sessions at this and future NMRI Annual Workshops will be named the “Marco Cabrera Poster and Networking Session.”

This year, 25 posters were submitted for review, with 19 being judged.

This year’s posters represented outstanding research being conducted at numerous academic institutions by NMRI members. Poster abstracts included research on diabetes, kidney diseases, obesity, and physical activity; trial interventions in minority populations; and basic research investigations on proteins, lipids, and genes or gene products.

Awards were presented for exemplary poster presentations in three areas—Basic, Clinical, and Translational Science. Two awards were given for Translational Science. Congratulations to the winners:

- ▶ *Basic Science:* **Titus Reaves, Ph.D.**, for the presentation “Neutrophil Adhesion to Periostin Is Mediated by Integrins.”
- ▶ *Clinical Science:* **German Hernandez, M.D.**, for the presentation “The Prevalence of Lead Exposure Among Patients With Chronic Kidney Disease in El Paso: A Preliminary Report from the Paso Del Norte Kidney Disease Study (PNKDS).”
- ▶ *Translational Science:* **Shirley A. Blanchard, Ph.D.**, for the presentation “Faith-Based Intervention: An Alternative for Health Prevention and Service Delivery.”
- ▶ *Translational Science:* **Rocio I. Pereira, Ph.D.**, for the presentation “Circulating



*Award Winners (from left): Dr. Titus Reaves, Dr. Eva McGhee, Dr. Rocio Pereira, Dr. Eddie Greene (NMRI Chair), Dr. German Hernandez, and Dr. Shirley A. Blanchard.*

Adiponectin Is Lower in Latino versus Non-Latino Patients with Hypertension.”

Dr. Eva McGhee received the first annual Marco Cabrera NMRI Award, and gave a presentation on one of Dr. Cabrera’s lectures, titled “Multi-scale Modeling of Skeletal Muscle Metabolic Adaptations to Unloading.”

## News from the NMRI Oversight Committee

The Oversight Committee meets three times per year by conference call and in person at the Annual Workshop. This was a very busy year, with the launch of the NMRI Web Survey and development of the mentor-matching initiative. Each may be found on the NMRI website at <http://nmri.niddk.nih.gov/workshops/>.

Dr. Shirley Blanchard, Chair, announced the intention of the NMRI to develop a DVD that provides information on the NMRI for use in marketing the network.

It is anticipated that the DVD could be taken to association and scientific meetings to be distributed to potential members. More on this will be announced in the next few months.

A change in term for the Chair of the Oversight Committee was approved. The Chair will now serve a 3-year term: 1 year as Chair-elect; 1 year as Chair; and 1 year as Past Chair. This allows continuity on the committee. The Chair and Chair-elect are appointed by committee members.

## Report from the NMRI Midwest Regional Workshop

NMRI members from 10 midwestern states participated in the NMRI Midwest Regional Workshop, held on November 13-14, 2008. NMRI members **Eddie Greene, M.D.**, and **Yvonne Romero, M.D.**, both of the Mayo Clinic, co-chaired the meeting, which was held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Regional NMRI meetings are used to support recruitment efforts and to highlight activities occurring around the country regarding minority research.

Workshop participants were especially impressed with the keynote address by **Kwame Osei, M.D.**, of The Ohio State University, on “Research in Health Care Outcome Disparities: Challenges and Opportunities for Junior Minority Faculty.” Dr. Osei spoke on the paradox of lower cardiovascular risk factors but higher death rates in African Americans. He urged participants to confront research paradoxes by looking at things in different ways, even if it means challenging conventional wisdom. In his research, this approach led to the finding that reduced adiponectin levels in African Americans may account for this paradox, although further research is needed.

The presentations by **Kimberly Arriola, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, of Emory University, and by workshop co-chair **Yvonne Romero, M.D.**, on their personal roads to academic success also received rave reviews from the attendees. Several speakers addressed the complexities of academic-industry-government collaborations, regulatory issues, and commercializing advances in medicine. They included **Bruce Molitoris, M.D.**, of

Indiana University; **John Mills, J.D.**, of the Mayo Clinic; **Paul Alexander, M.D.**, of AstraZeneca; **John Kusek, Ph.D.**, of the NIDDK; and workshop co-chair **Eddie Greene, M.D.** The workshop also featured an update on National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding opportunities and the NIH Loan Repayment Program, presented by **Dr. Judith Podskalny**, of the NIDDK.

Scientific presentations included a dinner address by **Dr. Joe Houmard**, of East Carolina University, on impairment of lipid oxidation with obesity; a presentation on a faith-based intervention for self-management of obesity by senior NMRI member **Dr. Shirley Blanchard**, of Creighton University; and a presentation on recent advances in the genetics of Type 2 diabetes by **Dr. Leslie Baier**, of the NIDDK. **Elizabeth Singer** of the NIDDK explained the agency’s role in combating the obesity epidemic through medical research and through information dissemination and education programs.



Left to right: Keynote speaker Dr. Kwame Osei, Dr. Larry Agodoa, and Dr. Jackson Wright at the NMRI Midwest Regional Workshop.

A special feature of this workshop was an interactive session on communicating with the news media, conducted by representatives from Burness Communications, which featured role-playing, discussions, and opportunities for NMRI members to participate in on-camera mock interviews, followed by critiques on their ability to provide on-point, concise messages regarding health issues.

The workshop included a judged poster session, at which 26 posters were presented. Each poster was assessed for content, presentation, and the presenter's response to questions. Congratulations to the winners:

- ▶ **First Place: LaTonya Hickson, M.D.**, of the Mayo Clinic, for "Patient Survival During the First 2 Years After Kidney Transplantation: Relationship With Cardiac Troponin T (CTnT)."
- ▶ **Second Place: Matia Solomon, Ph.D.**, of the University of Cincinnati, for "The Role of the Medial Amygdala in Chronic Stress-Induced Body Weight Loss and HPA Axis Regulation."

- ▶ **Third Place: Juan Sanabria, M.D.**, of Case Western Reserve University, for "Glutathione Turnover in Normal Human Livers Versus Transplanted Grafts—Preliminary Results."



*Midwest Regional Poster Winners (from left with plaques) Dr. Juan Sanabria, Dr. LaTonya Hickson, and Dr. Matia Solomon with Co-Chair Dr. Yvonne Romero (rear). Looking on are Dr. Lawrence Agodoa (left), Dr. Eddie Greene (second from right), and Dr. Leighton James (far right).*

## The NMRI on the Web

The NMRI has increased the number of member services at its website. Items of interest to NMRI members or those who may be interested in learning more about the NMRI are found below.

If you are not a member but would like to know if you qualify for membership, go to <http://nmri.niddk.nih.gov/workshops/>. Click on the "criteria form" link at the top of the page.

Workshops and meetings are announced at <http://nmri.niddk.nih.gov/workshops/>. Current meetings and past meetings can be accessed, with links to agendas, photographs, and meeting reports.

The NMRI member survey is available at <http://www.scgcorp.com/NMRISurvey08/>. Even if you took the survey last year, please return and give us feedback for the coming year. There also is a link on the main NMRI home page at <http://nmri.niddk.nih.gov/>.

Results of the 2008 NMRI member survey may be found by going to <http://nmri.niddk.nih.gov/workshops/> and clicking on the “Oversight Committee”

link at the bottom of the left panel. Once at that page, look for the “2008 Survey Results” link at the bottom of the main text page.

## NMRI Members on the Move, in Print, and Accomplishments

One of the critical evaluation standards for the NMRI is how our members are progressing to higher levels of responsibility and the impact members are having on their respective academic fields, as shown by publications and presentations. Since the 2008 NMRI Annual Workshop, NMRI members have made significant progress on both fronts. Below is a list of promotions, publications, and honors received by our membership. This is the list of those we know about. Let us know if you have additions to this list.

### PROMOTIONS/MOVES

**Dale Abel** was promoted from Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism to Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry, University of Utah. He also was appointed the Borun Visiting Professor, UCLA, and Chair of the Keystone Conference on Metabolism and Vascular Risk.

**Keith Norris** was selected as an Ambassador for the Rogers Society Research! America’s Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research.

**Abdirashid Shire** was promoted to Senior Research Fellow at the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

### GRANTS (new and renewed)

**Dale Abel**—R01 HL074370-01 NHLBI and 7-08-RA-02.

**Shirley Blanchard**—An intramural grant.

**Gregory W. Buck**—UNT Health Science Center at Ft. Worth-NIH NCMHD Steps Toward Academic Research (STAR) Pilot Study.

**Healani K. Chang**—Novo Nordisk Pharmaceutical pilot grant.

**Raquel F. Charles**—National Kidney Foundation (NKF) of Maryland, Mini-Research Grant.

**Deidra C. Crews**—NKF of Maryland grant award, and NIH Health Disparities Loan Repayment Program award.

**Evangeline Motley**—NIH/NIGMS 1SC-3GM086336-01.

**Keith Norris**—NIH-NCMHD S21MD000103 and (reauthorized) NIH/NIDDK 1R25DK078386-01.

**Samuel Nurko**—K24 award.

**Rocio Pereira**—Noncompeting renewal of K23 career development award from the

NIH National Center for Research Resources.

**Bridgett Rahim-Williams**—2-year NIH NIA funding for a pilot study on pain, physical activity, and functional mobility among women with knee osteoarthritis.

**Alicia Rivera**—NIH NHLBI R01-HL090632 grant award (2008).

**Jose Romero**—NIH/NHLBI R01-HL096518 grant award (2009) and Harvard University Faculty Grant Award (DRCLAS).

**Sylvia Rosas**—R01 DK080033-“Carotid Intima-Media Thickness in Chronic Kidney Disease: A CRIC Ancillary Study.”

**Abdirashid Shire**—KL2 Career Development Award by Mayo Clinic’s Center for Translational Science Activities (CTSA), a 2-year award with year 3 contingent on the CTSA grant renewal.

**Cheryl H. Vaughan**—NIH Postdoctoral National Research Service Award F32DK082143-01A1.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

**Dale Abel**—2009 Outstanding Investigator Award, Western Society for Clinical Investigation

**Shirley Blanchard**—Creighton University, 2008 Gamma Phi Beta Honor Society Outstanding Faculty Award; The Educator of the Year Award 2008 class of 2009 Occupational Therapy; Father Don Driscoll, S.J., Ignatian Teaching Award from the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Student Government; and The American Occupational Therapy Association Roster of Fellow Award.

**Deidra C. Crews**—2008 Award Finalist, Scientific Seminar Series, Johns Hopkins Postdoctoral Association; 2009 2nd Place, Mid-Atlantic Nephrology Young Investigators’ Forum; 2009 1st Place, National Kidney Foundation, National Young Investigators’ Forum; and 2009 Moderated Poster Session Award, Johns Hopkins Department of Medicine Research Retreat.

**Alicia Rivera**—Partnership Fellowship at Children’s Hospital Boston, Leadership Development Program.

**Jose Romero**—Visiting Faculty, Ignacio Chavez National Chairs in Medicine 2008, Recognition presented by the Consortium of Mexican Universities and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Puebla in Puebla, Mexico.

**Sylvia Rosas**—2009 National Hispanic Medical Association Leadership Fellow of the Year.

## PUBLICATIONS/ABSTRACTS/PRESENTATIONS

NMRI members have been incredibly productive since April 2008, with more than 80 published peer-reviewed journal articles, 25 posters and presentations, and three book chapters. The list is too long to publish in this newsletter, but we have listed below all those members with publications and limited the ones listed to three from each member. A complete list may be found on the NMRI website at <http://nmri.niddk.nih.gov/news/>; click on the link “Complete list....”. In early 2010, we will be contacting all NMRI members to get an updated list of promotions, awards, notable accomplishments, and publications for the time between April 2009 and March 2010.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Dale Abel

**Abel ED**, Litwin SE, Sweeney GD. Cardiac remodeling in obesity. *Physiological Reviews*. 2008 88:389-419.

Boudina S, Bugger H, Sena S, O'Neill BT, Zaha VG, Ilkun O, Wright JJ, Mazumder PK, Palfreyman E, Tidwell TJ, Theobald HA, Khalimonchuk O, Wayment B, Sheng X, Rodnick KJ, Centini R, Chen D, Litwin SE, Weimer BC, **Abel ED**. Contribution of impaired insulin signaling to mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress in the heart. *Circulation*. 2009 119:1272-1283.

Tabbi-Anneni I, Buchanan J, Cooksey RC, **Abel ED**. Captopril normalizes insulin signaling and insulin-regulated substrate metabolism in obese (*ob/ob*) mouse hearts. *Endocrinology*. 2008 149:4043-4050.

### Tiffany Beckman

Mager JR, Sibley SD, **Beckman TR**, Valentine BJ, Kellogg TA, Earthman CP. Multifrequency bioelectrical impedance analysis and bioimpedance spectroscopy for monitoring fluid and body cell mass changes after gastric bypass surgery. *Clinical Nutrition*. 2008 27:832-841.

**Beckman TR**, Shi Q, Levine AS, Billington CJ. Amygdalar opioids modulate hypothalamic melanocortin-induced anorexia. *Physiology & Behavior*. 2009 96(4-5):568-573.

### Shirley Blanchard

**Blanchard, S**. Variables associated with obesity among African-American women in Omaha. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*. 2009 63(1):58-68.

### Gregory Buck

Ramirez, G.D., **G.W. Buck**, A.K. Smith, K.V. Gordon and J.B. Mott. Incidence of *V. vulnificus* in estuarine waters of the south Texas Coastal Bend region. Accepted for publication to *Journal of Applied Microbiology*. 2009.

### Raquel F. Charles

**Charles RF**, Powe NR, Jaar BG, Troll MU, Parekh RS, and Boulware LE. Clinical testing patterns and cost implications of variation in the evaluation of chronic kidney disease among U.S. physicians. *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*. 2009 [In Press] NIHMSID: 89703

### Deidra C. Crews

**Crews D.C.**, Fine D.M., Racusen L.C. End-stage renal disease after bariatric surgery. *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation Plus*. 2008 1(6): 459-460.

**Crews D.C.**, Jaar B.G. Racial Differences in Chronic Kidney Disease Incidence and Progression among HIV-Infected Persons. *Nature Clinical Practice Nephrology*. 2008 4(12): 652-3.

Jaar B.G., Plantinga L.C., **Crews D.C.**, Fink N.E., Hebah N. Coresh J., Klinger A.S., Powe N.R. Timing, causes, predictors and prognosis of switching from peritoneal dialysis to hemodialysis: A prospective study. *BMC Nephrology*. 2009 10 (1):3.

### Nana Gletsu-Miller

**Gletsu-Miller, N.** Ziegler, T.R., Lin, E. Cross-sectional and longitudinal changes in insulin secretion are associated with soluble leptin receptor concentrations in severely obese women undergoing weight loss. *Diabetes*. 2008 57(Supplement 1):A457.

### **Keith Norris**

Artaza JN, Norris KC. Vitamin D reduces the expression of collagen and key profibrotic factors by inducing an antifibrotic phenotype in mesenchymal multipotent cells *J Endocrinol*. 2009 200(2):207-21.

Norris K and Nissenson AR. Race, gender, and socioeconomic disparities in CKD in the United States. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2008 19:1261-1270.

Omije D, Norris K, Wang J, Ward HJ, Pan D, Gupta A. Race is a major determinant of secondary hyperparathyroidism in uremic patients. *Clin Nephrol*. 2008 70(4):312-8.

### **Samuel Nurko**

Modi BP, Ching YA, Langer M, Donovan K, Fauza DO, Kim HB, Jaksic T, Nurko S: Preservation of intestinal motility after the serial transverse enteroplasty procedure in a large animal model of short bowel syndrome. *J Pediatr Surg*. 2009 44(1):229-35; discussion 235.

Nurko SS, Youssef NN, Sabri M, Langseder A, McGowan J, Cleveland M, et al. PEG3350 in the Treatment of Childhood Constipation: A multi-center, double blind, placebo controlled trial. *J Pediatr*. 2008 153(2):254-61

Rosen RR, Fritz J, Nurko A, Simon D, Nurko SS. Lipid-Laden Macrophage Index Is Not an Indicator of Gastroesophageal Reflux-Related Respiratory Disease in Children. *Pediatrics*. 2008 121:e879-84.

### **Rocio Pereira**

Pereira RI, Leitner JW, Erickson C, Draznin B. Pioglitazone Acutely Stimulates Adiponectin Secretion from Mouse and Human Adipocytes via Activation of the Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase. *Life Sciences*. 2008 83:638-743.

### **Sylvia Rosas**

DeLoach S, Joffe MM, Mai X, Goral S, Rosas SE: Aortic Calcification Predicts Cardiovascular Events in Renal Transplantation. *Nephrology, Dialysis and Transpl*. 2009 24(4): 1314-9.

Adeseun GA, Joffe M, Rosas SE: Coronary Artery Calcification and Metabolic Syndrome in Renal Transplant Recipients. *Transplantation*. 2008 86(5): 728-32.

Kamoun M, Holmes JH, Israni AJ, Kearns JD, Teal V, Yang W, Rosas SE, Joffe M, Li H, and Feldman HI: HLA-A amino acid polymorphism and delayed kidney allograft function. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2008 105(48): 18883-8.

### **Abdirashid Shire**

Aderca I, Moser CD, Veerasamy M, Bani-Hani AH, Bonilla-Guerrero R, Ahmed K, Shire A, Cazanave SS, Montoya DP, Mettler TA, Burgart LJ, Nagorney DM, Thibodeau SN, Cunningham JM, Lai J-P and Roberts LR. The JNK inhibitor SP600129 enhances apoptosis of HCC cells induced by the tumor suppressor WWOX. *J Hepatol*. 2008 49(3):373-83.

Shire A, Lai J-P, Zou H, Tsuchiya N, Aderca I, Moser CD, Ahmed K, Oseini A, Jenkins RB, Roberts LR. Treatment with 5-aza-dC increased SULF1 expression and sensitivity of HCC cells to cisplatin but is not correlated with direct hypermethylation of the SULF1 gene. (Manuscript submitted).

### **Cheryl H. Vaughan**

Song CK, Vaughan CH, Keen-Rhinehart E, Harris RB, Richard D, Bartness TJ. Melanocortin-4 receptor mRNA expressed in sympathetic outflow neurons to brown adipose tissue: Neuroanatomical and functional evidence. *American Journal of Physiology*. 2008 295 R417-R428.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

NMRI members who presented posters during the year include the following:

Shirley Blanchard  
Lynda Brown  
Gregory Wm. Buck  
Carmen Castaneda-Sceppa  
Stephanie DeLoach  
Trudy Gaillard  
A. Galvan  
German T. Hernandez  
Jesus M. Lopez-Guisa

Pamela M. Martin  
Leon McDougle  
Amosy E. M'Koma  
Sylvia Rosas  
Janelle Vaughns

Please put on your calendar that we would like your bibliography of publications, posters, book chapters, awards and honors, grants (new and renewed), and promotions/moves that occur between April 2009 and March 2010. They will be listed in an issue of *NMRI News*.

## NMRI Frequently-Asked Questions

**W**hat are the qualifications for membership in the NMRI?

Membership in the NMRI is available only to investigators who are: (1) at the post-graduate doctoral level or higher; (2) from an underrepresented minority group: African American, Hispanic American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander; (3) conducting research in the fields of diabetes, endocrinology, metabolism, digestive disease, nutrition, or kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases; and (4) U.S. citizens or have permanent resident status.

In addition, medical students who are from an underrepresented minority group also are welcome to attend NMRI meetings as long as they currently are conducting research in NIDDK mission areas as noted above.

**How can I become a member of the NMRI?**

Those who are qualified for membership in NMRI should complete the application process found on the NMRI website. Go to <http://nmri.niddk.nih.gov> and click on the link "Become a Member" on the left hand side of the home page.

**Whom do I contact if I have questions about the NMRI?**

The NIDDK staff member responsible for the NMRI is Ms. Winnie Martinez. It is best to email her with questions and comments at [martinezw@mail.nih.gov](mailto:martinezw@mail.nih.gov).

**Does the NMRI have a website with information?**

The NMRI website may be accessed at <http://nmri.niddk.nih.gov>. There you will find information about the NMRI, meeting

---

announcements, funding information for NIDDK, the NMRI Membership Directory, and summary reports of past NMRI meetings. NMRI members also will find the link to take the NMRI Member Survey.

**If I am an NMRI member, how can I find a mentor?**

The NMRI Mentor Program was established by the Oversight Committee. The program maintains a list of NMRI members who have volunteered to be mentors. To find someone you may think is a potential

mentor, you also can review the biographies and research interests of NMRI members listed in the NMRI Member Directory at <http://nmri.niddk.nih.gov/memberships/>.

**If I am an NMRI member, how do I sign up to be a mentor?**

If you are an NMRI member and would like to volunteer to be a mentor, please go to the NMRI website and click on the Mentor/Mentee link on the left side of the page for directions on volunteering.

# IN MEMORIAM

## Marco Eugenio Cabrera, Ph.D. 1954 - 2009



Dr. Cabrera was an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Researcher in Pediatric Cardiology at the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, and an associated faculty member of the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

He was a long-time member of the NMRI and a mentor to many of its junior members. Dr. Cabrera was born in Guatemala City in 1954, and joined Case Western Reserve University in 1987 as a graduate research fellow in Pediatric Cardiology. He enjoyed a successful research career, and was a tenured Associate Professor of Pediatrics. He was nationally and internationally known for his expertise in exercise physiology.

Dr. Cabrera's research expertise was pediatric exercise physiology, computational physiology, and modeling and analysis of metabolic systems. He focused on developing functional capability for children, improving work capacity of astronauts, and gaining quantitative understanding of the regulation of cellular energy transfer and metabolism in skeletal and cardiac muscle as a tissue/organ, as well as in the context of the whole body. His approach was multidisciplinary and collaborative. Those who knew him recognized a loyal friend, devoted mentor, superb and enthusiastic scientist, and kind and generous spirit. He is survived by his wife and three children.

The NMRI has established a poster session at the NMRI Annual Workshop in Dr. Cabrera's honor, as well as an annual award for NMRI members who exemplify the research commitment of Dr. Cabrera.



**NIDDK** | NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE  
AND KIDNEY DISEASES