



**East Bay Institute
for
Research & Education**
“EBIRE”
*The non-profit affiliate of the VA Northern California
Health Care System*
**MARCH 2016
Newsletter**

EBIRE

ISSUE 3

EBIRE Rebranding

With the resurgence of extramural research at VANCHCS, EBIRE has worked closely with the team at Designwerks (www.designwerks.com) to refresh our face of Veteran-focused research.

EBIRE has a new logo (a shield w/red, white & blue cross surrounding CA) and tag line that highlight our mission and purpose for the future, i.e. ***“Bringing medical innovations to Northern California’s Veterans.”*** Attentive readers will notice that California is outlined within the cross to show our commitment to this State’s growing Veteran population through direct service and collaboration with institutions across California.

EBIRE has also revamped its website, www.EBIRE.com. The new webpage offers access to important resources for Veterans and researchers alike. With links to current information about projects, available funding streams, and up-to-date VANCHCS information, EBIRE.com serves as a springboard for thought and action surrounding extramural research.

Philanthropic Support: PRN

In February 2016 EBIRE received its’ first major donation of \$254,000 to support the Program in Rehabilitation Neuroscience, or “PRN.” Kevin and Connie Shanahan, retired successful business owners, have a philanthropic focus that

that includes both Post- Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): the conditions targeted by Dr. Anthony J.W. Chen, VANCHCS Martinez neurologist. Dr. Chen earned his MD degree from the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology Program, followed by medical internship training in the Harvard Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Program and specialty training in Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco, fellowship training in cognitive neuroscience, clinical research, and cognitive/rehabilitation neurology at UC San Francisco and UC Berkeley.

With generous funding from the Shanahan family, PRN seeks to help Veterans heal from TBI so that they can successfully return to society as self-sufficient individuals. Three essential components of PRN are: (i) ***Veteran Liaison***, to facilitate connections with Post-9/11 Veterans seeking education and/or training; (ii) ***Technology Development***, to expand a proprietary gaming application used by Veteran participants to help learn and manage TBI-related symptoms; & (iii) ***UC Berkeley Class***, for which two prior semesters of curriculum have already been deployed with remarkable success.

We look forward to future reporting on the successful outcomes already being pursued, which has been made possible by this generous donation.

EBIRE currently has the following treatment areas in scientific research

- 🦋 Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms
- 🦋 Age-Related Disorders
- 🦋 Cancer Screening
- 🦋 Cancer Therapies
- 🦋 Cardiovascular Disease
- 🦋 Cognitive Studies
- 🦋 Diabetes Hearing
- 🦋 Liver Disorders
- 🦋 Pain Management
- 🦋 Post-Traumatic Stress
- 🦋 Psoriasis & Rheumatoid Arthritis
- 🦋 Skin & Soft Tissue Malignancies
- 🦋 Skin Ulcers
- 🦋 Speech Disorders
- 🦋 Stroke
- 🦋 Traumatic Brain Injuries
- 🦋 Vascular Disease
- 🦋 Women’s Health
- 🦋 Wound Healing

EBIRE-Administered Projects

1. **Nancy-Brown-Conneley, Ph.D.**
“VANCHCS Women’s Health”
2. **Jared Jagdeo, M.D., M.S.**
“Voluma Treatment of HIV Facial Lipoatrophy”

3. **Jared Jagdeo, M.D., M.S.**
"Phase I study of high fluence light emitting diode-red light (LED-RL) in human skin: study protocol for a single-blind, dose escalation, randomized controlled trial"
4. **Siba Raychaudhuri, M.D.**
"Psoriatic Arthritis Education"
5. **Siba Raychaudhuri, M.D.**
"Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase 3 Study to Evaluate the Efficacy, Safety & Effect on Radiographic Progression of Brodalumab in Subjects with Psoriatic Arthritis"
6. **Saul Schaefer, M.D.**
"Utility of Geneva score to risk stratify patients with possible pulmonary embolism"
7. **Theodore Wun, M.D.**
"A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind Phase II/III Trial of Oral Isoquercetin to Prevent Venous Thromboembolic Events in Cancer Patients"
8. **Eugene Lee, M.D., Ph.D.**
"A Prospective Analysis on the Expansion Rate of Abdominal Aortic Aneurisms"
9. **Brian Dahmen, Ph.D.**
"Innovations Bridging Clinics and Communities to Advance Late-Life Depression Care"
10. **Jon Green, M.D., Ph.D.**
"Antibody Regulation of Interferon Production"
11. **Anthony Chen, M.D.**
"Program in Rehabilitation Neuroscience"

EBIRE Research Champions

Drs. Smriti & Siba Raychaudhuri



Smriti K. and Siba P. Raychaudhuri are a husband and wife research team that have worked at the VANCHCS Mather Campus for the last 10 years. Both were trained at Stanford University and abroad; currently, and both have joint appointments with the UC Davis School of Medicine. The Raychaudhuri research group works on inflammatory diseases of joints and skin, human autoimmune diseases, and animal models of inflammation. They lead a group of doctors and researchers to provide cutting-edge clinical care for Veterans suffering with joint and skin diseases. Their research efforts have been supported by the National Institutes of Health and VA Merit research grants. They also work closely with the Arthritis Foundation, the National Psoriasis Foundation, and the pharmaceutical industry.

Over the past two years the Raychaudhuri research group has actively facilitated one of the most productive partnerships for research and education activities with the VANCHCS research foundation, EBIRE. In addition to cultivating the benefit of new friendships, this partnership has initiated successful collaborative research work with leading pharmaceutical industries such as Allergan and Amgen, as well as foundation-based grants, honorariums, and several national speaking engagements.

The Raychaudhuris are an internationally-known research team. About two decades ago, while working as scientists at Stanford, they identified and dissected the role of Nerve Growth Factor (NGF) in inflammation. With time this fundamental work in molecular medicine has provided a new dimension in understandings of the disease mechanisms in autoimmune diseases. NGF targeted therapies are now in preparation for pain relief and treatment of arthritis.

Currently their research focus is to understand the molecular mechanisms of immune mediated inflammatory diseases, with a particular focus on psoriasis and autoimmune arthritis. Their research lab's overarching goal is to provide the groundwork to streamline, accelerate, and promote the therapies that benefit all patients, including translation of basic discoveries into effective therapies that benefit all patients, including but not limited to Veterans suffering from lifelong chronic autoimmune diseases. They pursue this goal by carrying out experiments with both humans and small animals, e.g., rats and mice. They established the role of

neuroimmunologic inflammation in psoriatic disease.



Their Lab has specialized in using SCID mouse-psoriasis skin xenograft model to develop novel immune based therapy for autoimmune diseases. Some of the current research projects they are working on are: (i) NGF/TrkA based therapy for psoriatic disease and rheumatoid arthritis; (ii) Pathogenesis of psoriatic disease; (iii) Quantification of joint inflammation by PET/CT in the CIA mouse model; (iv) Role of Kv1.3^{high} T cells in autoimmune conditions; and (v) Clinical trials to develop new therapies for arthritis and psoriatic disease.

In collaboration with the UC Davis Department of Radiology, the Raychaudhuris have developed a novel method of in vivo molecular imaging of joints. Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a complex disease and often does not respond to currently available medications. One new imaging tool, the PET-CT scan, is being utilized to determine severity of joint diseases. These scans will be helpful in quickly determining whether a medication is working or not in a RA patient. The Raychaudhuris envision this will be a significant achievement to reduce disabilities from RA, and that there could be appreciable decreases in the overall cost of care. Determination of early response to therapy is critical in RA because: (i) It predicts functional improvement and reduction of long term sufferings; (ii) Leads to substantial reductions in drug-associated toxicities; and (iii) Decreases the overall financial cost.



VANCHCS WOC Process

Without Compensation, or “WOC,” is the term used for those not employed by VA, but who have official clearance to work &/or volunteer at VANCHCS. For those seeking to engage in research activities at VANCHCS, this process is coordinated by Bruce Cunningham of Research Service at the Mather Campus.

What follows are the [instructions and checklist](#) for a WOC appointment in VANCHCS Research Service. It is essential for people to follow these instructions and checklist when completing the forms.

STEP 1 *This portion of the application will be processed by the VANCHCS Human Resources Office.*

Send completed forms and questions to bruce.cunningham@va.gov with a copy to Research Inbox v21macresearchinbox@va.gov.

1. WOC Form Attachment-A

This form must be completed by anyone requesting a research WOC appointment. Please ensure you sign as Appointee and your PI/Supervisor signs as the Site Manager.

2. Form 306-Declaration for Federal Employment

This form is required for anyone requesting a WOC appointment.

Please ensure that you sign both lines 17a and 17b.

3. WOC Appointment Letter

This form is required for anyone requesting a WOC appointment. Please fill in the information highlighted in red and sign/date.

4. Form-I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification

This form is only required of WOC applicants who were born outside the United States. Please complete ONLY section 1 and ensure you provide the required document(s).

5. US Visa/Passport

WOC applicants who were born outside the United States must provide a copy of current US Visa, Passport, or US Naturalization Certificate. If providing a copy of your passport, this will suffice as the required documentation for I-9.

6. Form-87 Fingerprinting

This form must be completed by anyone applying for a research WOC appointment. Please contact in Martinez 925-372-2000 x6755 or Mather at 916-843-9200/9069 to schedule a fingerprinting appointment as soon as possible.

7. 2015 Occupational Health Packet

For Occupational Health (OH) please complete the attached form (DO NOT complete pages 10-12 unless applicable; for animal research only). If you have any questions about Occupational Health you will need to contact Edna at (916) 843-9395 in Sacramento or Debra at (925) 370-4007 in Martinez. HR will process the packet and OH will contact you to schedule a pre placement evaluation (TB etc.).

8. Resume/CV

This must include address, phone number, and email address. All WOC applicants are required to submit a current Resume or CV with the WOC application.

STEP 2 *This portion of the application will be processed by Bruce Cunningham of Research Service.*

Send completed forms and questions to bruce.cunningham@va.gov with a copy to Research Inbox v21macresearchinbox@va.gov.

9. Form-2, Scope of Practice

This form must be completed by anyone requesting a Research WOC appointment and is valid for 1 year.

It must be signed by the WOC applicant and VA PI/Supervisor. It must list all the applicant’s assigned duties for the active research project, additional duties can be added in the “Miscellaneous” section of the form.

9. VA Research Online Training

All WOC applicants are required to complete VA Research training courses before they can become a member on a research project.



TMS (Talent Management System) -
To access:

- ☞ On your computer, open your web browser and visit the TMS website to

establish an account

www.tms.va.gov

- ☞ Click on “Create New User” tab if necessary
- ☞ If already a user, sign in
- ☞ Once signed in, complete the TMS trainings listed below
 - VA Privacy and Information Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior (Search code is “10176”)
 - Annual Government Ethics Training (Search code is “3812493”)
 - Privacy and HIPAA Training (Search code is “10203”) *Only required if you have access to Personal Health or Privacy Information*

complete these trainings if already completed through another institution, such as UC Davis.

- CITI: VA Human Subject Protection and Good Clinical Practices (Required only for Human subject studies)
- CITI: Biosafety (Required only for Wet lab studies)
- CITI: Biosecurity (Required only for Wet lab studies)
- **Important Note:** *this is a one-time training requirement*
- CITI: Working with the VA IACUC (Required only for animal studies)
- CITI: Species Specific (Required only for animal studies)

STEP 4 *Final Processing.*

11. Please mail or email forms and copies of documentation to the address below:

VANCHCS

Attn: Bruce Cunningham

10535 Hospital Way

Bldg 650, Rm. 2B010

Mather, CA 95655

bruce.cunningham@va.gov

and cc:

v21macresearchinbox@va.gov



CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Institute) - To access:

- ☞ On your computer, open your web browser and visit the CITI website to establish an account www.citiprogram.org
- ☞ Click on “Register” tab if necessary
- ☞ If already a user, sign in
- ☞ Once signed in, go to the search box and type in the courses you are required to complete
- ☞ **Important Note:** *The training you will need to complete in CITI will vary depending on your Scope of Practice. You do not need to*

STEP 3 *This portion is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator.*

10. Protocol Amendment

This is required for anyone who is not currently listed on a VA-approved protocol. Please have your supervisor determine which protocol you will be added to.

If you are to be added to a protocol which involves human subjects and receives IRB approval, please have your principal investigator complete:

- ☞ IRB Protocol Amendment
- ☞ If you are to be added to a protocol which does not require IRB approval, please complete:
- ☞ Application for Basic Science and Animal Studies

VANCHCS Patient Growth and Relevance to Research

VANCHCS Director David Stockwell's commitment to “taking the necessary steps to improve access and ensure we are meeting the needs of our Veterans” is translating to VA-engaged research. Since the re-opening of EBIRE, there have been several new industry-sponsors bringing their dollars to work at VANCHCS, with each sponsor coming to either Martinez or Mather to personally verify that we have engaged staff, quality facilities, and capacity to conduct state-of-the-art trials that benefit Veterans. Through these efforts, expansions in space utilization, collaborations across VA service areas and increased revenues are being actualized. In addition, we are starting to see new researchers expressing interest to make VANCHCS their professional home. Most importantly, the medical innovations being pursued through VA-engaged research, whether administered through Research Service or EBIRE, will ultimately translate to advances in treatment options for all Veterans.

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Campus

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Meetings:

March 1	2-5
April 5	2-5
May 3	2-5
June 7	2-5
July 12	2-5
August 2	2-5
September 13	2-5
October 4	2-5
November 1	2-5
December 6	2-5

Subcommittee for Research Safety (SRS) Meetings:

March 14	2-4:30
April 11	2-4:30
May 9	2-4:30
June 13	2-4:30
July 11	2-4:30
August 8	2-4:30
September 12	2-4:30
October 17	2-4:30
November 14	2-4:30
December 12	2-4:30

Research & Development Committee (R&D) Meetings:

March 16	2-4:30
April 20	2-4:30
May 18	2-4:30
June 15	2-4:30
July 20	2-4:30
August 17	2-4:30
September 21	2-4:30
October 19	2-4:30
November 16	2-4:30
December 14	2-4:30

Word Search:

R L Z G W A Z M N U M D M M O
 P E A P E T K O A N C O M R F
 U I H T B B I C C V U C E H C
 S Z V T C T P X W L L B N I
 W F D A A E G X O K H E I Y V
 M W H C S M R L R W S B R V I
 W A U S Y C P O S I U M E E C
 M D R E C N U C L L M A L T B
 E Y G T P H P L A O S C P E M
 H C E U I Z E S A U C O M R L
 W J B D D N S R D R M B O A H
 F G P L R E E I L D I P C N E
 Q A F P T N X Z B O O N J N D
 G N I S I A R D N U F M T B V
 W J Y E X J B V K Q Z V C T M

Word Bank:

- CANCER
- CLOVER
- COMPLIANCE
- EBIRE
- EDUCATION
- FUNDRAISING
- MATHER
- MARTINEZ
- VASCULAR
- VETERAN

Jokes:

What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a 4-leaf clover?

a rash of good luck

Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

because they're always a little short

What do you call a Cubic Zirconia in Ireland?

a sham rock

HAPPY SPRING

East Bay Institute for Research & Education

BRINGING MEDICAL INNOVATION TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS

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