Dear Colleagues,

This is the first edition of UT Southwestern's Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute newsletter. We will be putting this out at periodic intervals in an effort to keep everyone apprised of events and accomplishments related to Neuroscience and the O’Donnell Brain Institute.

Please feel free to pass along news items or suggest improvements by sending an email to obinews@utsouthwestern.edu.

Sincerely,
Chris Madden
Epilepsy Monitoring Unit opens at Zale Lipshy University Hospital

A new 8-bed Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) at Zale Lipshy University Hospital opened for patients earlier this month. The EMU is equipped with the latest technology including continuous digital video recording using dual cameras in each patient room. The new facility increases the ability of epilepsy specialists to diagnose and treat patients with difficult-to-control seizures.

Dr. Ryan Hays is Medical Director of the Zale Lipshy EMU. He says all members of the EMU team went through additional training to prepare for the opening of the new unit.

Many of the EMU patients will be referrals from the UTSW Epilepsy Clinic. The epilepsy clinic team has grown to ten epileptologists and two Advanced Practice Providers.

A generous $1 million gift from Linda and Milledge (Mitch) W. Hart III helped to build and equip the EMU and purchase the ROSA® robot. The EMU is named in honor of neurosurgeon Bruce Mickey, M.D., who has been an integral part of UTSW's Epilepsy Program for more than 30 years and has performed hundreds of epilepsy surgeries to improve patients' lives by reducing their seizures.

O’Donnell Brain Institute offers new Speakers Bureau

Do you know of a business, nonprofit organization, or interest group that would like to hear from one of our experts in neuroscience?

The Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute has launched a Speakers Bureau to connect our physicians and researchers with the community and share the latest insights into brain disorders.

You can request a speaker using the online form or send an email to speakers@utsouthwestern.edu.

Some of the speaker topics include: autism and developmental disorders, Alzheimer’s, concussions, epilepsy, depression, stroke and sleep disorders.
Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, President of UT Southwestern Medical Center, led a town hall meeting on April 3, 2017, to give UT Southwestern staff and faculty an update on the progress and future of the Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute.

Dr. Podolsky discussed the goals of the O’Donnell Brain Institute as well as clinical and academic initiatives already under way.

**Goals**

- Determine the fundamental basis of brain function
- Identify the causes and mechanisms of all major forms of brain disease
- Develop more effective treatments and eventually and ultimately seek the means of cure and prevention
- Leverage and enhance UTSW’s clinical expertise across multiple specialties to provide the nation’s best acute and restorative care possible today

**Academic Initiatives**

- Center for Alzheimer’s and Neurodegenerative Disorders
- Center for Autism Research and Treatment
- Center for Translational Neurodegeneration Research
- Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care
- Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics
- Texas Institute for Brain Injury and Repair (TIBIR)

**Clinical Initiatives**

- Multidisciplinary Spine Clinic
- Epilepsy EMU
- Expansion of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics Clinics
- Expansion of Psychiatry Clinic
- Treatment Resistant Depression
- Center for Autism and Developmental Disorders (with Children’s Medical Center)
- Rogers Comprehensive Stroke Center
- Multidisciplinary Concussion Clinic
- Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders

A planned third tower of Clements University Hospital will be the new clinical inpatient home of the O’Donnell Brain Institute.
O’Donnell Brain Institute hosts Sleep Symposium

Internationally recognized experts in research and clinical fields of circadian and sleep science gathered for the O’Donnell Brain Institute’s inaugural Circadian and Sleep Medicine Symposium on March 9, 2017.

Investigators discussed new genetic approaches to sleep disorders, molecular architecture behind the circadian clock, and important molecular ties to immunology and functions that protect the heart. On the clinical front, presenters reviewed new research into nerve stimulation therapies, pediatric sleep disease, ties between neuromuscular disorders and sleep, and the development of personalized approaches to sleep disorder therapies. Read more.

Neuroscience Graduate Program holds annual retreat

Top-tier neuroscience research at UT Southwestern took center stage at the Neuroscience Graduate Program’s Annual Retreat in April. Senior-level students, post-docs, and new faculty gave talks, while many others presented their work at a poster session.

This year’s keynote speaker was Ulrike Heberlein, Ph.D., one of the world’s foremost researchers on addiction and the reward circuitry of the brain.

Dr. Kathleen Bell receives Krusen Lifetime Achievement Award

The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) awarded Dr. Kathleen Bell, Chair of UT Southwestern’s Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the Frank H. Krusen, M.D., Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award honors an Academy member who has provided outstanding and unique contributions to the specialty of PM&R in the areas of patient care, research, education, literary contributions, community service, and involvement in Academy activities.

Dr. Bell served as President of AAPM&R in 2015.

“Her generous commitment, extensive service, and continued leadership have been invaluable to the Academy and to the specialty,” according to an AAPM&R news release.
Inpatient Psychiatry Unit at Zale Lipshy University Hospital offers latest in treatment interventions

Just this month, the Inpatient Psychiatry Unit at Zale Lipshy University Hospital began offering IV Ketamine infusion for patients with treatment-resistant depression. It is just one of the recent enhancements to patient care in the unit.

There are now three full-time physicians who staff the unit: Dr. Kala Bailey, Medical Director of Zale Lipshy Inpatient Psychiatry, Dr. Will Clark, and Dr. Josh Hubregsen.

"Because we are fully committed to the inpatient unit, we get to spend a lot more time with our patients," Dr. Bailey said. "We also have more time to communicate with families and referring providers."

Each patient receives a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation and then takes part in regular multidisciplinary team conferences that include doctors, nurses, social workers, and the patient's family members.

With Zale Lipshy being part of the larger UT Southwestern medical community, doctors can easily obtain sub-specialty consultation and are able to manage more complex cases. Patients can also participate in clinical trials.

Neuroscience Access Center opens

On May 1, the newly created Neuroscience Access Center started taking calls at 8200 Brookriver Drive in Dallas, not far from the UTSouthwestern campus. The goal of the Access Center is to improve phone service levels to 95 percent for all clinics.

The Access Center supports the six clinics of the O'Donnell Brain Institute – Neurosurgery, Neurology, PM&R, Psychiatry, Sleep, and Spine. Call agents for the Neurosurgery and Spine Clinics were the first to move in to the Center. The remaining clinics are scheduled to join them on Tuesday, May 30, 2017.

The Neuroscience Access Center is staffed by call agents who are familiar with the clinics they support and their specific patient populations. With agents for all six clinics in one location, there will be an opportunity for staff to cross-train, improve workflow, increase efficiency, and improve the level of service provided to patients.
Kimberly Oas, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, testified before the Texas Legislature on behalf of Texas Nurse Practitioners and the APRN Alliance. She spoke on April 25 about HB 1846 before the House Public Health Committee. The bill seeks to give APPs the ability to write a C2 (controlled medication such as Norco) on discharge from the hospital for fill in a community pharmacy. The legislation made it out of committee and to legislative calendars. Kim is Assistant Director of APPs for the O’Donnell Brain Institute.

Lauren Aldridge, P.A., was chosen to represent the American Academy of PAs in the nationwide Epilepsy Education and Awareness Collaborative. Lauren is a member of the Department of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics.

Thuy-Tien Ho, PA-C, was selected to serve as a member of the Advanced Practice Providers Committee of the Neurocritical Care Society. The committee works to strengthen APP positions at their institutions. Thuy-Tien is on our Neuro ICU team at Zale Lipshy University Hospital.

Mandy Winkler, RN, received UT Southwestern’s Diana & Richard C. Strauss Service Excellence Award for her work in direct patient care. Mandy is a member of Neurology's Multiple Sclerosis Team. The quarterly award recognizes employees who exemplify excellent care and service.
Whole Brain Microscopy Facility supports O’Donnell Brain Institute researchers

UT Southwestern’s Whole Brain Microscopy Facility (WBMF) is a unique resource that has client labs across campus as well as external institutions including more than 25 O’Donnell Brain Institute member labs. The WBMF uses serial two-photon tomography to reconstruct whole rodent brains in three dimensions at cellular resolution with high throughput.

The facility has two TissueCyte 1000 microscopes that make it possible to conduct unprecedented inquiries into brain circuitry at the levels of single neurons up to the whole brains of model organisms.

The WBMF is now in the process of integrating sophisticated computational strategies for automated analyses from large whole brain datasets. The unique capabilities of the WBMF have been used to study a variety of neurological and psychiatric conditions including stroke, autism, traumatic brain injury, and glioblastoma.

Upcoming projects:

- Identify neuronal connections that promote functional recovery after stroke
- Assess how neurodegenerative pathology spreads over time by developing a detailed 3D map of neurodegeneration in Alzheimer’s model mice
- Identify circuits involved in circadian rhythm disruption
- Study effects of traumatic brain injury on olfactory circuits

Dr. Julian Meeks, Director, and Dr. Denise Ramirez, Core Manager, recently held an open house to introduce researchers to the WBMF.
New Faculty & Advanced Practice Providers

Psychiatry

Kristine McCaslin, Psy.D.
Clinical Interests: adult psychopathology, psychotherapy, substance use disorders

Cassandra Newsom, Psy.D.
Clinical Interests: autism spectrum disorders and rare variants, early diagnosis of ASD, transition to adulthood in ASD

Sachie Ogawa, Ph.D.
Research: circuit-specific regulation of learning and memory, trans-synaptic tract tracing and circuit-specific behavioral analyses

Radu Pop, Ph.D.
Research: depression, anxiety and Pediatrics

Leslie Rosenstein, Ph.D.
Clinical Interests: dementia, TBI, stroke

Andrea Wahlberg, Ph.D.
Clinical Interest: outpatient neuropsychological assessments

O’Donnell Brain Institute teams put on their running shoes for research

Led by Captain Shelly Brown-Cleere, Director of Neurosciences, our team made a big impact at the North Texas Head for the Cure on May 6, 2017.

We raised more than $5,000 for brain cancer research putting us in the top ten for fundraising. We also won the biggest team category with more than 110 participants.

The UTSW Team “Storm Chasers” took part in the Stroll for Epilepsy at the Dallas Zoo on April 1, 2017. The Stroll raises money and awareness for the Epilepsy Foundation Texas.

The Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute newsletter is produced and edited by our communications team.

If you have questions or comments about the newsletter, please contact Julie Kirchem, Web Editor, or Melissa Martin, Content Producer, at obinews@utsouth-western.edu.