Recommendations made on PT faculty

A University Senate ad hoc committee has completed a review of part-time faculty issues. Among the recommendations:

- Pay of at least $4,000 for a three-credit course, compensation when a scheduled class is canceled, and better access to University resources and benefits.

The Senate Committee on Evaluation and Governance has been established to study the opportunities for renewal or for hiring full-time for part-time NTS faculty, the Senate Assembly reported March 14 by Faculty Assembly, will be presented to Senate Council March 22.

The University Senate ad hoc committee on evaluation and governance has also offered recommendations that on-campus experts be consulted, rather than propose a specific alternative. The resolution can be viewed at www.ptnimes.pitt.edu/documents/FacTeachingResolution-final.pdf.

The Senate has turned its attention to multiple facets of faculty evaluation this year. In advance of the Senate plenary session on the role of research metrics in faculty evaluation, librarians Berenika Webster of the University Library System and Andrea Ketchum of the Medical Library of the University Library System presented a workshop on bibliometric tools, "What Bibliometrics Tells Us About the Research Enterprise," following Faculty Assembly’s March 14 meeting. The Senate plenary session is set for noon-3 p.m. March 29 in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room.

University Senate ad hoc committee’s recommendations:

- Standardizing hiring practices with a “formal, transparent and systematic” process.
- Informing faculty about their rights and benefits in terms of departmental, unit or University governance and offering them the opportunity to attend appropriate department meetings and events.
- Providing a full orientation.
- Providing timely access to IS and necessary resources (such as library privileges) and bridging these resources for recurring faculty between contract periods.
- Reviewing performance and providing written feedback at least once a year and communicating the opportunities for renewal or for hiring full-time.
- For part-time NTS faculty whose primary responsibility is teaching, the committee recommends that:
  - Providing timely access to administrative support, supplies and office space.
  - Appointment as early as possible to allow time to prepare.
  - Compensation for courses that are canceled.
  - The opportunity to request feedback on teaching, which could be used for evaluation for renewal or for hiring full-time.
- With regard to performance and seniority, the committee is recommending that:
  - Units implement a transparent compensation system that provides increases based on performance and seniority.
  - Recurring faculty be given some preference in choosing course times and topics.
  - Units consider extending the length of contracts when there is predictable demand for the part-time faculty member’s services, and consider creating full-time positions when possible.

The committee found that compensation varies widely for part-time NTS faculty, Frieze said. The committee recommends:

- Compensation of at least $4,000 for a three-credit course, subject to increases based on seniority.
- Access to opportunities for improving research, administrative and pedagogical skills.
- Expanded access to benefits, such as health care, University-wide.

The full report and recommendations can be viewed here: www.umines.pitt.edu/documents/PT-NTS_fac_recommendations.pdf.

Kimberly K. Barlow

GL problems? Learn how to use your brain to control your gut. See page 4.

MARCH 16, 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Demand has exceeded expectations for classes in Pitt’s diversity and inclusion certificate program. Communication is said to be the key to making the annual appraisal system effective.

Remembering Thomas Starzl

Chancellor Patrick Gallagher and his wife Karen, at left, greet Joy Starzl after a March 11 memorial service for her husband, transplant pioneer Thomas Starzl. The memorial service in Heinz Chapel and the reception in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room were held on what would have been Thomas Starzl’s 91st birthday, which prompted Joy Starzl to ask guests to join her in singing “Happy Birthday.”

Thomas Starzl, a surgeon and researcher who performed the first successful liver transplant on a human patient in the 1960s and later helped advance the breakthrough drugs that made organ transplants markedly more survivable, died March 4 at his home in Pittsburgh. He joined the University in 1981.

University of Pittsburgh

OUTSIDE THE FACULTY & STAFF NEWSPAPER SINCE 1968
Those affected by immigrant ban urged not to leave U.S.

The Office of International Services (OIS) is recom- mend ing that University community members from coun-
tries affected by the Trump admin- istration’s ban not travel. The original Jan. 27 executive order banned people from seven predominantly Muslim countries (Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen), as well as refu- gees worldwide, from entering the United States temporarily, at least until March 6, 2017. Since then, the order has been re- corded several times.

Prvanovic spoke after the order had been stayed by an appeals court on Friday before the new executive order, which was issued on March 6, was replaced by a new one.

“The order exempts current visa holders from being subject to the new order and exempts current visa holders from being subject to the new order,” she said.

In other words, the ban does not affect students, faculty or staff who were already in the United States as of Jan. 27.

The ban was enacted in an effort to strengthen national security by preventing suspected terrorists from entering the United States.

Concur, the new travel pro-
gram, uses Anthony Travel as Pitt’s preferred travel agency. “They understand what higher education travel is,” said Marty Levin.

The award is given by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The University Center for International Studies (UCIS) coordinates implementation of Pitt’s global plan. It is home to the Office of International Services, which coordinates the Office’s heavy workload.

Agreements for Pitt’s health sciences in Italy, Ireland, China, Turkey and Argentina, and Turkish universities, were not affected.

The Leiden Manifesto: “Lay off the jargon and speak in a layman’s terms,” she said. “They understand what higher education travel is,” said Marty Levin.

For more information on Anthony Travel, visit www.anthonycorporation.com.

The plenary session will include remarks from Chancellor Patrick Gallagher and Provost Patricia E. Beeson. A panel composed of Steve Hicks, who specializes in technology policy, is a professor in Georgia Institute of Technology’s Communication Systems and Technology program, the Asian Studies Center, uses Anthony Travel as Pitt’s preferred travel agency. “They understand what higher education travel is,” said Marty Levin.

The award is given by NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

The issue is relevant to us at Pitt, where analytic software is available to measure scholarly research impact and other factors with these values. The Leiden Manifesto:

Concur uses an online booking tool that pairs possible airline reservations into one screen, including a full complement of information to help a traveler.

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Federal inspectors found no evidence of noncompliance with animal welfare regulations in a surprise inspection of University animal laboratories that followed a Feb. 10 request by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service during the week of Feb. 27. The University in full compliance with the AWA and USDA regulations.

“The inspectors did not identify or corroborate any instances of noncompliance with animal welfare regulations, as documented in an inspection report provided to the University on March 3, 2017,” the release stated. The USDA report is posted at www.news.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/USDA-Inspection.pdf.

In a letter to the USDA director of animal welfare operations, the University stated that an eyewitness worked at Pitt from September 2016 to February 2016, similarly in the Rangos research building in Lawrenceville, during which time “the eyewitness documented, in writing with camera recordings and photographs, numerous apparent violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).”

A video billed as “PETA eye-witness footage captured in laboratories hidden from public view at the University of Pittsburgh” is posted at http://investigations.peta.org.

Kathy Guillermo, PETA senior vice president for laboratory investigations, took issue with the USDA inspection report that found no evidence of noncompliance. Guillermo stated: “The U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection report is not comprehensive and gives only a glimpse of some aspects of any laboratory. The Animal Welfare Act, which the USDA enforces, is comprised of regulations that deal primarily with animal size, housing and care issues and establishing minimal requirements. It entirely excludes mice and rats—the species most used at the University of Pittsburgh—so federal inspectors didn’t even look at these animals. No experiment, no matter how insignificant or flawed or redundant is prohibited. So we’re not impressed.”

In a March 9 media release, PETA called for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to immediately stop funding Pittsburgh research. According to Pits’ fiscal year 2016 financial report, sponsored research activity totaled $72.65 million in 2016 and $71.39 million in 2015 with NIH providing $2.935 million through NIH.

In addition to its request to the USDA, PETA on March 9 asked the NIH laboratory animal welfare compliance office to investigate the University’s use and treatment of animals, citing in a 32-page letter what it said were violations of the Public Health Service (PHS) policy on humane care and use of laboratory animals. Pitt’s March 8 release states: “The University follows the provisions of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, an internationally recognized standard for care and use of animals in research.”

“Educational use of animals at the University of Pittsburgh complies with all applicable laws and voluntary accreditation standards. The programs and facilities at the University are USDA registered and covered under an Animal Welfare Assurance with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) of the Public Health Service. The University remains committed to the humane care and use of all animals within the context of the advancement of science and medicine.”

NIH-funded institutions are required to ensure their compliance with animal welfare laws and policies. NIH-funded institutions that continue to receive funding in violation of the PHS policy, and not promptly to OLAW any violations.

An NIH spokesperson told the University Times: “NIH general policy is not to discuss whether or not animal welfare-related investigations are taking place, and NIH does not comment on ongoing investigations if such investigations are underway.”

Additional details about how OLAW conducts its compliance oversight are described at: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/ComplianceOversightProc.pdf.

The University Times at OLAW has informed PETA that it will make no further comments or inquiries concerned in the complaint.

Chandna told such investigation efforts: “We have to focus on the facility, but often are a conducted via email correspondence, addressing questions about particular incidents and ask what steps the University plans to take next to ensure that any violations do not recur.”

The University did not respond to a request for details on any OLAW investigation.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Demand exceeds expectations for diversity/inclusion program

Pitt’s new diversity and inclusion certificate program is in high demand by faculty and staff. Thus, Pitt is revising the waiting list for both the core courses and some electives, and the demand may well outpace the capacity even more classes on the subject.

“We knew people would be interested, but the result was overwhelming,” says Krisy Rzepecki, senior Title IX and diversity specialist. “We designed the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. She is one of the designers and teachers of the program, along with fellow diversity specialist Warren McCoy. “It was a great thing to see.”

Last fall alone, when the program was introduced, she reports, 260 faculty and staff began courses in the program.

The diversity and inclusion certificate addresses both personal and workplace behavior through two core workshops (“Fostering a Diverse and Inclusive Environment: The Why and How?” and “Preventing Sexual Misconduct: Understanding Stereotypes and Removing Barriers”) and a series of electives, among which certificate seekers must pick four:

• “Understanding Harassment: How to Recognize and Respond”
• “Individuals With Disabilities: Understanding and Inclusive Environment”
• “Baby Boomers to Millenials: Respect and Productivity in the Workplace”
• “Intercultural Competency: Beyond the Basics”
• “Preventing Cyber Harassment”
• “Veterans on Campus: Understanding Resources and Community”
• “Volunteerism: Practitioner’s Role in the Community”
• “Supporting Our GLBTQA Community”
• “Rape on Campus: Moving the Conversation Forward”

Each workshop lasts two hours and involves a group discussion and interactive activities.

The program can be completed in one semester, but most participants expect to spread the classes out over a year. There is no deadline to finish the program, and any faculty or staff member can attend individual workshops without aiming for the certificate.

The program ends with what Rzepecki calls a “capstone conversation,” reviewing what people learned from the experience and what they already have incorporated into their work environment and personal lives.

Thanks to participant suggestions, Rzepecki says, courses soon may be added to teach diversity and inclusion content for engineering, race and transgender people.

The certificate program, devised with the faculty and staff development program and Human Resources, may begin accepting course credits twice a semester to accommodate those on the waiting lists.

The goal of the program, says Rzepecki, is to show the value of a diverse and inclusive workplace, and to further the University’s mission of preparing students to experience through maintaining a diverse campus community.

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She made it!

Mentoring award winners announced

The Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring annually recognizes outstanding mentoring of graduate students seeking a research doctorate degree. Up to four awards are made each year.

This year’s winners are:

• Peter L. Brusilovsky, School of Information Sciences.
• William N. Dunn, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.
• Andrea M. Kritka, Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology.
• John E. Prescott, Katz Graduate School of Business.

Each Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring consists of a cash prize to the graduate faculty member who supervises graduate students pursuing PhD degrees or other research doctoral degrees, such as the EdD or the DrPH, and who has graduated and placed five or more doctoral students eligible to be nominated.

Mental Health Program


If the stomach is known as the second brain for the way it reacts to the world and controls our bodies, “sometimes in my field we call it the third and fourth brain,” said Eva Szücsy.

A faculty member in psychiatry, pediatrics and medicine, Szücsy has been focusing on how the brain affects the gut, and vice versa, for 17 years as director of the visceral inflammation and pain center at UPMC, as well as its mind–body medicine program. She spoke March 1 on the topic “Using Your Brain to Control Your Gut” as part of the speaker series presented by the University Senate benefits and welfare committee’s mental wellness task force.

Our gastrointestinal (GI) tract is very sensitive, Szücsy pointed out, it has the greatest number of nerves of any organ in our bodies. “Our gut is one of the earliest indicators that we are in trouble,” she said. The body’s fight-or-flight response, regulated by the autonomic nervous system, “sets off a cascade of physiological activities ... that changes what we are thinking and changes what we do. This is all for us to survive.”

But over time, negative thinking can lead to inflammation in the GI tract, “which can lead to gut symptoms.”

“Most disorders are best treated with behavioral techniques,” she explained. “That includes IBS, which is gut pain or discomfort three days a month over three months. It can take months to years to go away, is experienced by up to 20 percent of the population, often relapses and may be a lifelong condition.”

IBS is one of the most common reasons people see their primary care physicians, she noted—and it can cause depression.

“It’s very, very draining to have your bowel talking to you in ways you didn’t ask it to,” Szücsy said.

Emotional stress management techniques like yoga and meditation includes changing our sleeping, eating and exercise practices — and how often we simply relax and have fun.

The No. 1 thing we can do to affect our gut and other systems is to sleep eight hours a night, Szücsy said. If you maintain a healthy sleep schedule in your 20s and 30s, you will reap the benefits in your 50s and beyond, she added.

“How, when, how often and what you eat” also affects your gut, of course, and does the amount of exercise you get. She recommended adding a half-hour of activity that increases your heart rate, three-five days a week.

She also recommended having a positive stress reducer: “We need our vacations. We need to recoup. Our guts ask that of us.”

“Take two things out of your day, each day, that reduce stress and you will see a difference in your life,” she said. Schedule breaks: “I mean 10 to 15 minutes of pure release” from job duties, she explained. “Minutes can make a huge difference.”

She recommended five possible stress reducers:

• Take daily time outs to pursue your passions or joys, including hobbies.
• Practice in life for meaningful, leisurely conversations.
• Practice deep breathing by counting to four as you inhale, to the breath for four and releasing the breath through your mouth for the count of eight.

Practicing 10 of these breath cycles in a row “is one of the most effective ways to re-regulate you,” she said. Eighty percent of people feel “significantly better, even doing it just the first time,” she reported.

Go to “your laughing place” by thinking of a time you’ve been successful, she advised, stop laughing and placing yourself mentally.

“Treat a daily mantra of something positive; even a positive screen saver on your phone may help,” she said.

For about 60 percent of patients, learning these techniques and using them, Szücsy explained, “It can cause depression.”

Both hypnosis and mindfulness/meditation can help alleviate such symptoms.

“Whenever you feel stuck in a rut, in a trance state that allows us to modify our thinking. Actually it can help us create physiological changes, mind over body — or our brainwaves, suggesting that we ‘tune down the intensity and quality and speed’ of our brainwaves, to make a comfortable sensation and substitute pleasant sensations,” she said.

“IBS can cause pain, bloating, cramping and nausea, regulate the normal functions of your gut, and guide your brain to monitor your body without previous anticipa-

Making job appraisals work: Communication is the key

Communication is the absolute key to performance appraisal, Maureen Lazar told participants in the latest luncheon seminar from Staff Association Council, “How to Navigate the Annual Review Process,” on March 2.

“And it’s not communicating one time a year; you need to be communicating all through the year,” Lazar said, an organization consultant and manager of learning and development in universities’ organizational development section. “The reality is ... performance appraisal process needs to capture the entire year.”

Some employees fill out their performance appraisals with the aim of getting a raise. “It helps with raises — sometimes,” Lazar said.

She cautioned that, given each department’s finite raise pool, determined by the administration, “there is not an absolute correlation between performance appraisals and raises.”

Performance rating scales have five levels, with exceptional at the top, followed by above average, successful, proficient and unsatisfactory.

“An employee who is rated as ‘needs improvement’ should not despair, Lazar said. “Everyone in this room has room for development, everyone in the University has room for development.”

It does not mean that you are any less of an employee.”

No employee should learn of an unsatisfactory job performance for the first time through the annual review, she added: “That’s my No. 1 beef with performance appraisals. There should be feedback in the meeting of the performance standards and performance goals, or self-appraisal. There should be feedback in the meeting of the performance standards and performance goals, or self-appraisal.”

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COMING MARCH 30
This year’s top five law schools were Yale, Stanford, Harvard, University of Chicago and Columbia. Law school rankings were based on quality assessment (40 percent), placement success (20 percent), student selectivity (25 percent) and faculty resources (15 percent).

Law specialties

Pitt was ranked in one of nine law specialties, health care law. Its rank fell to No. 18, down from No. 12.

The “Best Graduate Schools” report is based on assessments by nursing school deans and other experts in graduate studies.

NON-ANNUAL RANKINGS

This year’s best graduate schools publication included programs in library and information studies and related specialties, also called LIS programs in library and information sciences.

These rankings — based solely on online methods — were last updated in 2013. (See March 21, 2013, University Times.)

Library and information studies

The School of Information Sciences held steady at No. 10 in library and information studies. Rankings were based on surveys of program deans, directors and senior faculty.

Library and information specialties

• In health librarianship, Pitt tied at No. 5 with Boston University, Chicago, and UC-Santa Barbara.
• In archives and preservation, Pitt held steady at No. 6, tied this year with UCLA.
• In information systems, Pitt fell to No. 9, down from No. 8.
• In digital librarianship, Pitt fell to No. 11, down from No. 10.

Social sciences and humanities

• In economics, Pitt fell to No. 38, down from No. 24. Northwestern and Emory ranked No. 1.
• In history, Pitt ranked No. 44, tying with Boston University, Carnegie Mellon, George Mason, and UC-Santa Barbara.
• In political science, Pitt ranked at No. 66, tied with Brown, Florida State, George Washington University and University of Colorado-Boulder.
• In psychology, Pitt rose to No. 26, tying with Brown, Johns Hopkins, UC-Berkeley, University of Pittsburgh, Colorado University, University of Iowa, University of Southern California, University of Washington and Vanderbilt.

In 2013, Pitt was ranked No. 30.

In 2014, Pitt fell to No. 47, tied with Boston College, Indiana University-Bloomington and Texas A&M-College Station. In 2013, Pitt was ranked No. 36.

• In English, Pitt rose to No. 35, tying with Rice, UC-Santa Cruz, University of Colorado-Boulder, University of Illinois-Chicago, University of Washington, Washburn University and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In 2013, Pitt was ranked No. 6.

In 2014, Pitt fell to No. 44, tying with Boston University, Carnegie Mellon, George Mason, and UC-Santa Barbara.

In 2013, Pitt was ranked No. 30.

In 2014, Pitt fell to No. 57, tying with Bowling Green State, Purdue, Temple, UC-Riverside and University of West Florida.

In 2013, Pitt ranked No. 52.

Rankings of graduate programs in the social sciences and humanities were based on peer assessment surveys in each discipline.

** The “Best Graduate Schools 2018” print guidebook will be on newsstands April 11. The rankings are available at usnews.com.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
MARCH 16, 2017

**Exoskeleton to help impaired patients safely walk**

By leveraging exoskeleton technology that would allow individuals with motor impairments to safely and independently walk for decades. A major difficulty to overcome is that even a powered exoskeleton can fatigue muscles, a powered exoskeleton still could cause muscle fatigue and thereby reduce walking ability. However, the three-year, $400,000 award from the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) cyber-physical systems program will enable Pitt researchers to develop an ultrasound sensor system at the heart of a hybrid exoskeleton that uses both electrical nerve stimulation and external motors.

Principal investigator is Nitin Sharma, mechanical engineer- ing and materials science faculty member in the Swanson School of Engineering and Biomedical Sciences, and Tim Kim, medicine and bioengineering faculty member. The Pitt team is centering its research at George Mason University, which also received a $400,000 award for a cyber-physical systems proposal.

This latest funding forshards more than $1 million in funds to develop and test exoskeletons that combine functional electrical stimulation (FES), which uses low-level electrical currents to activate leg muscles, with powered exoskeletons, which use built-in motors to help move on an external frame to move the wearer’s joints.

In a word: “One of the most serious impediments to developing a human exoskeleton is determining how a person who has lost gait function knows whether his or her muscles are fatigued. An exoskeleton has no interface with a human nervous system, and the patient does not have a feeling about his leg muscles are tired, and that can lead to injury. Electromyography (EMG) sensors are currently used to measure muscle fatigue, is not reli- able because there is a great deal of variability between muscles and to differentiating signals in the forearm or thigh is a challenge.

To overcome the low signal-to-noise ratio of traditional EMG, Sharma partnered with Kim, whose research in ultrasound focuses on analyzing muscle fatigue.

Sharma said: “An exoskeleton bio sensor needs to be noninva- sive, simple, and inexpensive. We are sensitive enough to distinguish signals in complex muscle groups. Unlike other methods, ultrasound can grasp real-time sensing of complex physical phenomena like neuromuscular activity and fatigue. This allows Nitin’s hybrid exoskeleton to switch between joint actuators and external motors when the patient’s muscle fatigue is.”

In addition to mating Sharma’s hybrid exoskeleton, Kim and his development of advanced ultrasound sensors, the researchers group will develop compu- tation algorithms to improve the sensing of muscle function and fatigue. Human subjects using a leg extension machine will undergo a detailed measurement of strain rates, transition to fatigue, and full fatigue to see how a normal muscle fatigue prediction model. Future- phases will allow for developing a wearable device for patients with motor impairment.

With this National Science Foundation award, the team, combined with ultrasound sensors that is a big machine, and you don’t want to wait 24 hours for a parking lot of computer systems and batteries,” Sharma said. “The team will use an ultrasound system that will enable researchers to enhance the line of a hybrid device. Dr. Mason will enable us to integrate a wearable ultrasound sensor with the exoskeleton, and then deploy a fully functional system that will aid in rehabilitation and mobility for individuals who have suffered spinal cord injuries or strokes.”

**Women less likely to be speakers at grand rounds**

Women are less likely men to be chosen as speakers during grand rounds, the academic main- stay of expert-delivered lectures used to share patient-care guide- lines and cutting-edge science within clinical departments. Those findings by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco are published in JAMA Internal Medicine.

Despite women comprising 47 percent of all medical students and 46 percent of all residents and 36 percent of all faculty nationwide, only 26 percent of rounds grand rounds speakers were women. Across clinical specialties, grand rounds speakers were 44 percent less likely to be women among medici- cal students, 39 percent less likely among residents and 28 percent less likely among faculty. Addi- tionally, speakers invited from outside institutions were less likely to be women than those invited to speak at grand rounds from among an institution’s own personnel.

Said Julie Boiko, who led the study while a student at the School of Medicine: “The people at the podium do not resemble the people in the audience.” While gender representation and equality in medicine has been an important area of student discussion in recent years, this is the first time we have data to support that there may be a gender bias in speaker selection at academic grand rounds.

Data for the research was col- lected from nine major clinical specialties and 79 medical schools and academic hospitals. In total, researchers analyzed more than 200 grand rounds websites and calendar listings for speaker series, as well as more than 7,000 indi- vidual sessions for speaker gender and institutional affiliations.

As follow-up to this study, researchers plan to identify spe- cific factors in the academic culture that lead to greater gender balance on grand rounds speaker rosters.

Said Alyssa Anderson, cou- thor of the study and an MD, PhD candidate in the School of Medicine: “This study highlights the consistency of this underrep- resentation across most specialties in the discrete number of speakers invited from outside a given insti- tution are less likely to be women than those invited to speak within that institution. With this data, speakers planning committees, academic departments, and institutions must strive for gender representation. The best that we can do, that we can chose an individual that represents people in a meaningful way.”

**New center to study diseases linked to misshapen proteins**

Through a comprehensive understanding of how to fix protein architecture when it goes wrong, Center for Protein Confor- mational Diseases researchers will be positioned to improve prognosis for millions of people with debilitating diseases.

The new center, set to launch in April, is one of only two in the United States.

“Signaling pathways will bring together faculty members across 15 aca- demic departments as well as nine other institutions,” Principal investigator is Jeffrey Brodsky, a molecular biologist in the Swanson School of Engineering at the University of California-San Francisco. Said center director Jeffrey Brodsky, a molecular biologist in the Swanson School of Engineering at the University of California-San Francisco:

“...the center was to codify the research relationships we’ve already been having for many years.

Brodsky likens the protein problems to the real estate market. Consider a neighborhood of homes that are Russian, Georgian, classical, modern. All are distinct and comfortably lived in. But then a few families move away, and their homes are left vacant. Over time, the vacant houses become derelict, and the neighborhood’s property values depreciate.

The new center’s mission is to keep a neighborhood’s property values high, by bringing together experts from many disciplines. “Typically, that’s a good thing, so that cellular neighborhoods become derelict, and the neighborhood’s property values depreciate.

**Funding for the five-year awards.**

Although past computational studies have suggested physical and chemical models for metal-organic frameworks, this project will explore the novel iron-based, sulfur-based complex called “Iron Thioal- als,” which represent all potential antomistic arrangements of matter in a porous material. As part of community outreach, Wilmer’s research group will develop educational movies on the funda- mental science of gas adsorption, including those relevant to carbon capture to mitigate climate change.

**Why violent music appeals to teens**

As a teenager listening to his favorite “emo” CD, Joshua Groffman always skipped one track. He could barely stand over- the-top imagery, he couldn’t help but wonder, “Am I sick if I listen to this?”

Now as music faculty member at Pitt-Bradford, he is revisit- ing his childhood passion, deciding why appeal to teens and preteens, presenting “I Know What You Want: Music, Emo and Others in the Emo Genre” at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music annual U.S. conference.

Emo grew out of the punk movement and became popular among young adults who were interested in traits such as “extreme distortion and blistering tempo,” Groffman said. Although traits is typically “aggressively thin,” usually timbre that is purposely inverted.

“Emo really is rooted in teen-agers singing to teenagers,” he said of the style.

Aside from musical traits, the subject matter of the genre is CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
Telephone care can ease anxiety

A telephone-delivered collaborative care program for treating panic and generalized anxiety disorders in primary care is significantly more effective than doctors’ usual care at improving health-related quality of life, anxiety and mood symptoms, according to a study by researchers at the School of Medicine. These benefits persisted over the course of follow-up, whether they were later randomized to the study intervention or not.

Said Bruce L. Rollman, medicine faculty member and director of the Center for Behavioral Health and Smart Technology: “While dozens of clinical trials have demonstrated the effectiveness of collaborative care for treating depression in primary care, comparatively few have addressed anxiety, despite their similar prevalence and adverse impact on health-related quality of life and excess utilization of health services. Effective collaborative care for anxiety can be provided via telephone by college-educated, non-mental health care managers who follow an evidence-based treatment algorithm and work under the direction of a primary care physician.”

Others from Pitt involved in the study were Bea Herz- beckel Belpas, Satz Mumandar, Kalab Abebe and Jordan F. DeGroot of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; and Weill Cornell Medical College, also contributed.

Childhood abuse, misbehavior among adolescents linked

A recent concern among parents is impaired in adolescents who were abused as children, a psychology researcher has found, and this impairment contributes to misbehavior patterns later in life.

Associate learning — the process by which an individual subconsciously links experiences and stimuli — partially explains how people generally react to various real-world situations. Jamie L. Hanson’s study, in the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry detailed the connection between impaired associative learning capacities and instances of early childhood abuse.

Hanson, a psychology faculty member in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences with a secondary appointment in the Learning Research and Development Center: “We primarily found that a poorer sense of associative learning negatively influences a person’s perception of the world being complex and fast-changing situations. Having this knowledge is critical to interactions with social workers, public policy officials and other professionals who are involved in developing treatment interventions. We have long known that there is a link between behaviors and symptoms and various forms of early life adversities. Yet, the connection isn’t fully understood or sufficiently understood. This study provides further insight into one of the many factors that can impact personal relationships come to exist.”

To uncover these relationships, researchers asked 81 adolescents ages 12-17 to play computer games where the child had to figure out which set of visual cues was associated with a reward. Forty-one participants had endured physical abuse at a young age, while the remaining 40 served as a comparison group. The participants were given the test, said Hanson, that the cues were probabilistic, meaning children’s memories of the elements ultimately receive positive feedback.

The participants who had been exposed to childhood abuse were less able than their peers to correctly learn which stimuli were likely to lead to a reward, even after repeated feedback,” said Hanson. “In life we are sometimes exposed to no feedback from our significant others, bosses, parents and other important people. We have to be able to figure out what might be the best thing to do.”

Hanson and his colleagues also observed that mistreated children generally were less adept at differentiating which behaviors would lead to the best results for them personally when interacting with others. Additionally, abused children displayed more pessimism about the likelihood of positive outcomes compared to those who hadn’t been abused. Taken as a whole, the research highlights the relationship between physical abuse and the aggressive and disruptive behaviors that often plague abused children well into the later stages of childhood.

Researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign and the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, Germany, also contributed to the study.

Advance probed in viral load measuring

The variants appeared to confer some risk for schizophrenia or rheumatoid arthritis. They have demonstrated the effectiveness of DNA/RNA sequencing techniques has the potential to advance water quality monitoring not only in developing countries, but also in U.S. municipal systems that rely on the bacteria that cause such diseases. The variants significantly associate with the bacteria such as E. coli to determine water quality. In the future, the viral pathogen detection would be beneficially in many other settings, such as sudden viral outbursts, food production safety and viral epidemiology.”

Schizophrenia and rheumatoid arthritis are linked

An in-depth computational analysis of genetic variants implicated in both schizophrenia and rheumatoid arthritis by School of Medicine researchers points to eight genes that may explain why susceptibility to one of the disorders could place individuals at lower risk for the other, according to the results of a study published in npj Schizophrenia.

Dr. Madhavi Ganapathi-Raju, biomedical informatics faculty member in the school and senior author of the study: “There is a wealth of genomic data on both schizophrenia and rheumatoid arthritis. Analyzing it jointly with single nucleotide polymorphism interaction information could provide invaluable clues to the relationship between the two diseases that may shed light on their shared roots.”

While schizophrenia is a psychosis that causes mental distress and a person’s own known origin and rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease of the joints that develops as a result of the body’s immune system attacking its own cells, both disorders are associated with multiple genetic risk factors modified by the environment.

According to Bibby, conventional methods used to detect viral pathogens in the environment are limited because of viral diversity. Even, advanced methods in medicine, specifically in DNA sequencing, have increased the ability to detect viral pathogens. For Bibby’s group, which previously studied the persistence of the Ebola virus in drinking water, and has worked to develop novel integration of computational techniques that use metagenomics to these DNA/RNA sequencing technologies has enabled children to better understand the impact of water quality on everyday life.

“Applying quantitative viral metagenomics to these DNA/RNA sequencing techniques has the potential to advance water quality monitoring not only in developing countries, but also in U.S. municipal systems that rely on the bacteria that cause such diseases. These variants significantly associate with the bacteria such as E. coli to determine water quality. In the future, the viral pathogen detection would be beneficially in many other settings, such as sudden viral outbursts, food production safety and viral epidemiology.”

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Social media use connected to social isolation

The more young adults use social media, the more likely they are to feel socially isolated, according to a national analysis led by School of Medicine scientists. In addition to the time spent online, frequency of use was associated with increased social isolation, the scientists found.

The study, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, suggests that use of social media does not necessarily panacea to help reduce perceived social isolation — when a person feels like a sense of social belonging — true engagement with others and fulfilling relationships.

In the past, social isolation has been independently associated with an increased risk for mortality.

Lead author Brian A. Primack, director of the Center for Research on Media, Technolo- gy and Health and assistant vice chancellor for health and society in the Schools of the Health Sciences:

"This is an important issue to study because mental health problems and social isolation are at epidemic levels among young adults. We are inherently social creatures, but our modern life styles tend to compartmentalize us instead of bringing us together. While it may seem that socializing opportunities to fill that social void, I think this study suggests that it may not be the connection people were hoping for."

In 2014, Primack and his colleagues found that a 17.1% of U.S. adults ages 19-32, using questionnaires to determine time and frequency of social media use by asking participants about the 11 most popular social media platforms at the time: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Google Plus, Instagram, Snap- chat, Reddit, Tumblr, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and Reddit. The scientists measured participants' perceived social iso- lation and depression. The survey tool called the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Infor- mation System, or PROMIS.

Even when the researchers controlled for a variety of social and demographic characteristics, participants who used social media more than two hours a day had twice the odds of perceived social isolation than their peers who spent less than a half-hour on social media each day. And participants who visited various social media platforms 58 or more times per week had about triple the odds of perceived social isolation of those who visited fewer than nine times per week.

Senior author Elizabeth Miller, pediatrics faculty member and chief of the Division of Ado- lescent and Young Adult Medicine at Children's Hospital:

"We do not yet know which came first — the social media use or the perceived social isolation. It’s possible that the increased use of social media somehow led to feeling isolated from the real world. It also could be that in the current climate of social media use, people somehow felt socially isolated turned to social media. Or it could be that their increased use of social media somehow led to feeling isolated from the real world.

Additional Pitt authors on this research were Arielle Shensa, Jessica Fedor, Erin O. Whaite, Liu Yi Lin, Daniel Rosen, Jason Golditz and Ana Rivas.

The study was supported by NH.
Thursday 16

SAC Volunteer Opportunity
“Snack & Serve;” WPU Assembly Rm., 4-5 pm
(http://volunteering.pitt.edu)

Pharmacology/Chemical Biology Seminar
“Lipidomics-Based Mitochondria Targeted Drug Discovery in Traumatic Brain Injury;” Holy Bayar, 1395 BST, noon

ADRC Lecture
“GABA Dysfunction in Alzheimer’s Disease;” Amanda Thuthluai; Montefiore $439 conf. rm., noon

Shady Side Medicine Grand Rounds
“Endocrinology Year in Review;” Ronald Coduti; USMP: Shady side wing aud., noon

HSLS Workshop
“Calium Imaging: Miniatized Microscopes;” James Hyde; Falk library class room 2, noon (register: www.hslib.pitt.edu/calendar)

Law J/Tolerance Means Dialogue
“Religion & Gay Marriage: Do They Have to Be at Odds?;” William Fokida, Jr; Yale; Robin Fournier Will; UPMC Teapo Mont Counter; 2 pm

Senate PUP Comm. Mtg.
272 Hillman, 2:30 pm

U Forum on Current Issues
“Repeal, Repair or Replace? The Future of the Affordable Care Act;” Alumnus ’78 llb, aud., 3 pm

OACD Workshop
“Medical Student;” S100B RST, 3 pm (www.oacdmed.pitt.edu)

NaR’i Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists/Chemical Engineers Regional Mtg.
“Unifying Collaboration & Building STEM Success;” (Club hall Rm B, registration: 4pmwdessome@cock.
kleereception, 7 pm (through March 18; registration: www.narcim2017. chem.pitt.edu/general-info/)

Chemistry Lecture
“Tackling Challenging Drug Targets: A Biophysical Perspective;” Michelle Arkin, Vanderbilt; 150 Chown, 4 pm

Ctr. for Creativity Drop-In “Annie’s Sponsered Library Digital Scholarship Commons, 4 pm

Bradford Campus Empty Bowls & Soup Kitchen
7022 Forbes, 11 am; Mukayama U; Rm. Frame-Wester.
burg, UPB, 5 pm

Humanities Lecture
“Lost & Found in the Cosmic Zoom;” Zachary Horton, English; film & media; 407 CL, 5:30 pm (www.filmsstudies.pitt.edu/event/piktongfilm-colloquium-lost-
d-found-cosmic-zoom)

Friday 17

Philosophy of Science Workshop
“Formal Representations of Ignorance;” A107 CL, 9 am-2:30 pm (also March 18, 9:30 am-1:45 pm; register: yanzhao@pitt.edu)

GI Research Seminar
“Year II Fellows Presentation: Big Spenders in IBD: Who Are They;” How Do We Fix Them?”
George Codario; UPMC Shadyside Medicine Grand Rounds
“Future of the Affordable Care Act;” Robert Kostro, Cardiovascular transplantation, medicine; lecture rm, 6:4 pm

Wednesday 22

Clinical Ophthalmology/Neurology Grand Rounds
“NSABP Trials;” Priya Rastogi; Hildmann Cancer Ctr; Herberman Cancer; 4 pm (mlhtor@umc.edu)

FSPD Workshop
Reds, Responsibilities & Challenges;” Paul Klein; 51 Alumni, 9 am (www.nexm2017.chem.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-
seminar-program-fsdpsregistrations)

Pathology Seminar
“Pathology & Genetics of Ana.
Aortic Anomaly;” Andrew Feldman, Mayo Clinic; 1104 Seaf.
noon (www.hsls.pitt.edu/calendar)

CTSI Workshop
“Conflict of Interest Management & the Responsible Conduct of Research;” Lisa and Shoma; Pitt; 709 Forbes, noon (register: www.ctsi-events.pitt.edu/events/CurrentEvents)

Health Sciences Diversity Lecture
“A Culturally Competent Approach to Disability-Related Education for the Medical Profession;” Mary Crowley, 123 BST, noon

Women’s History Month Lecture
“The Policies of Exclusion: Why Women Are So Underrepresented in PA Politics & What We Can Do To Change It;” Chelsea Wagner, Allegheny C; 4:30 pm (ahtalr@pitt.edu
Student Ctr dining rm., 2:30 pm (2 pm registration; QA&A to follow)

Consortium Council Mtg.
207 Power, 3 pm

Hones College Lecture
“Can Free Enterprise Solve Climate Change?;” Bob Inglis, former U.S. Representative, SC; UClub hallm.
A, 4 pm (www.homeschoolpitt.edu.
http://www/khd/)

Pediatric GI Grand Rounds
“Care Presentations;” Sacf conf.
5 pm (register: sacf@pitt.edu/)

The exhibit “Cartographic Abstractions & Maps” by James Morar will be on display through April 23 in the Sano Library First floor gallery.

Thursday 23

FSPD Workshop
“Working With International Popula.
Jrns at Pitt; 3:42, 9 am (www.nexm2017.chem.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-
seminar-program-fsdpsregistrations)

Women’s History Month Presentation
“Flower Nightingale;” Otis James, biology; 205 Fisher, UPB, 6:30 pm (registration: ojames@pitt.edu)

Oakland Town Hall Mtg.
Oakland Cancer Cn., 294 Sample, 6 pm (info@mandpokp.org)

Bradford Campus Women’s His.
June Month Presentation
“Flower Nightingale;” Otis James, biology; 205 Fisher, UPB, 6:30 pm (registration: ojames@pitt.edu)
MARCH 16, 2017

FRIDAY 24

Sunday CUC Mag 7:17 CL, 10 am
Teaching Cttee Discussion “Sing for Your Life,” Karen Gilmer, theatre arts; 8:15 Alumni, 11:30 am (www.teaching.pitt.edu/workshops/)

UCSUR Lecture “Re-making Post-Industrial Cities: Lessons From North America & Europe,” Donald Carter, CMU; 391 Proulx, noon (rsvp: rwpaul@pitt.edu)

GI Research Rounds “Metastatic Response in Treatment of UC: Clinical Results & Lessons Learned from Investigator Initiated Study,” Henri Hafiez, UNC; 3:30 pm (www.ich.pitt.edu)

Thursday 30

HSLL Workshop “Mandibles Basics,” Jill Fourt, Faculty Commons; 1:30 pm (www.teaching.pitt.edu)


Pharmacology & Chemical Biology Seminar “Structural & Functional Studies of GPCRs in Neurons by Single Molecular Approaches,” Yang Xiang, 1:05 BST, noon

PHS Workshop “Research Data Visualization,” Lee Bash & Karen Schmidt; 7:09 Forbes, 1 pm (register: www.cmu-events.cmu.edu/Events/CurrentEvents)

Biostatistics Seminar “Highly Multivariate Multivariate MediationWithApplications toNeuromagingData,”Martin Lindquist, Johns Hopkins; 10 am (www.publichealth.pitt.edu/injury/)

Chemistry Lecture “Exposing offensive PEG-Den- dron Amphiphiles: The Power of Molecular Precision,” Royer Amey, 1:30 CL

Saturday 25

Cт. for Creativity Workshop “Write Now!” Ulsom gr. 4, 8 pm (register: creative.pitt.edu)

Sunday 26

Cт. for Creativity Workshop “Drown Elevated,” Ulsom gr. 4, 12:30 pm (register: creative.pitt.edu)

Concert Seven season student organ recital; Heinz Chapel, 3 pm

Music on the Edge Concert Andrea Chavez with gatunna Elisa Fick; Andy Warhol Museum, North Side, 8 pm

Monday 27

PLSC Seminar “RNA Signaling in Fat Lovers,” Qiang Wang, 12:35 BST, noon (register: gis.pitt.edu)

Cт. for Creativity Workshop “Poet-at-Press,” Ulsom gr. 4, 6 pm (register: creative.pitt.edu)

Wednesday 29

GVSPA Philosophy Forum “From Urban Great Makers to Construction of Advanced Manufacture: Re-philosophizing Philanthropic Capital to Better Children’s Lives,” Tonia Allen, Skillman Foundation; 8:15 Student Cttee Rm, 8:30 am (register: gvspa@pitt.edu)

FDPD Workshop “Family & Medical Leave Act for Supervisors,” Amanda Kephart; 12:05 pm (www.hsls.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-staff-development-programs/fdp-registration)

Thursday 30

HSLL Workshop “Advanced EndNote for Service Information Management,” Pat Weiss; Falk Library class 2, 10:30 am (register: hsls.pitt.edu/calendar)

Public Health Lecture “What Do Department’s of Health’s Rural Health Initiatives,” Lauren Hughes, Dep. of Health; A215 Public Health, 11:30 am


Bardford-Campus Women’s His- tory Month and Discussion “Women’s Voices,” Danica Diseri & Tasia Hollis; KKA Spoer Lodge Bllndt, UPR, noon

U Senate Pllenary Session “The Role of Research Metrics in Faculty Evaluation,” WP’s async Rm., noon-3 pm

Teaching Cttee Workshop “Syntactical Construction,” 815 Alumni, 1 pm (register: www.teaching.pitt.edu/workshops/)

Defences

Education/Instruction/Learn- ing “It’s on the ball! An Investig- ation of Middle School Students’ Learning About笛 drums, Power & Identity,” Kayla Godfrey; March 26, 11:30 AM

GI Research Rounds “Inflammatory Mucosal Health System For Improving Emotional Importanting,” Gele Flamana; March 16, 11:30 Forbes, 11:15 am

GSAH “The Sick Republic: Tuberculosis, Public Health & Politics in China, 1925-65,” Kelly Urban; March 16, 11:30 PM

A&S/Physics & Astronomy “Search for Anti-protons Coupling to W & V from the Measure- ment of Triple Ratio of Top Quark Decay Rates of Single Top Quarks Produced in the T-channel at $\sqrt{s} = 6.5 Tev$,” Allen Dasen; 9:00 am, March 16, 11:30 Forbes, 1 pm

GSAH “Dynamics of Global & Regional Piracy 1990-2015: The Evolution of Somali Piracy,” Iacovos Jeong; March 17, 3:00 PM

A&S/Communication “Human by Design: Bodily Pro- ducts & the Repertoire of Science Fiction,” Nicolas Maraini, March 17, 11:30 AM

A&S/Anthropology “Investigating the Emergence of Prehistoric Complex Societies in the Llanos of Colombian, Columbia,” Juan Ruiz; March 17, 11:30 Forbes, 1 pm

Public Health/Biostatistics “Methods for Family-Based Designs in Genetic Epidemiology Studies,” James Carroll; March 20, 8:22 CB, 9 am

A&S/Physics & Astronomy “Electronic Structure & Photoex- citation & Interaction & & Without Chronic Ankle Instability As a Result of Non-Contact Lateral Ankle Sprain,” Paul Whitehead; March 29, 10:45 Neuroscience Research Lab, 11

A&S/Neuroscience “The Relationship Between Nics- toin & Body Weight: Implications for Tobacco Regulation Policy For Cans & Humans,” Lauren Rappaport; March 29, 11:30 SMIT Square Martin Rm., 11 am


Deadlines

Cт. for Creativity /Health and Wellness Annual Medical Ethics Conf. “Ethical Issues in Caring for Diverse Patient Populations,” registration deadline is March 24 for 50% (www.ccmpp.pitt.edu/liveformalcourses.jsf)

McKnight Memory & Cognitive Development Awards Preliminary applications due March 27, 2017 (www.neuroscience.mcknight. org/newsroom/upcoming-deadlines/2017-02)

Exhibits

Frick Fine Arts “Limited Conjunction,” Sophia Sobors; “Dirty Work,” Eleanor Alberst & Barbara Weisberger; U: April 6 & 7 through March 23, 10-10 am

Barco Law Library “Art Project: In-Formal & Inter-Formal Art,” James Morar, 1st fl. gallery, through April 23, 10-3, 4-6 AM, 11-8 PM, 5-9 pm, Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-8 pm

Theatre


Event Deadline

The next issue of the University Times will include University on- campus events of March 30-April 15. Information for events during that period must be received by 5 pm on April 6. Send information to utcal@pitt.edu.

Event Deadline

The next issue of the University Times will include University on- campus events of March 30-April 15. Information for events during that period must be received by 5 pm on March 25. Send information to utcal@pitt.edu.