



JUNE 2018 - Research Report

- **Daniel Pilch, PhD** (Professor of Pharmacology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) presented his research on the “Development of New Antibiotics for the Treatment of Multidrug-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) Infections” to the Rutgers Board of Governors Health Affairs Committee on May 17, 2018.
- **Steven Libutti, MD** (Professor of Surgery at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Director, Cancer Institute of New Jersey) was awarded a one year supplement to his P30 grant from the National Institutes of Health “Cancer Center Support Grant” (\$2,651,316).
- **Sharon Manne, PhD** (Professor of Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey) is the recipient of a 5-year R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study “Facebook intervention for young onset melanoma patients and families” (\$2,727,939)
- **Vikas Nanda, PhD** (Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine) together with lead principal investigator **Paul Falkowski, PhD** (Board of Governors' Professor of Marine, Earth and Planetary Sciences at SEBS) and their co-investigators were awarded the first year of a >\$5M 5-year award from the NASA Astrobiology Institute to study “ENIGMA: Evolution of nanomachines in geospheres and microbial ancestors” (\$1,133,509 for year 1).
- **William Welsh, PhD** (Norman H. Edelman Professor in Bioinformatics in the Department of Pharmacology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) was awarded a 2 year grant from Romark Global Pharma LLC for “Comprehensive *in silico* screening and validation of thiazole library” (\$919,503)
- **John Pintar, PhD** (Professor of Neuroscience and Cell Biology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; contact PI) received a 2-year multi-PI R21 grant from the National Institutes of Health together with **René Hen, PhD** (The Kavli Institute for Brain Science at Columbia University) to study “Endogenous opioid system contributions to anti-depressant action” (\$455,276)
- **Omar Tliba, PhD** (Associate Professor of Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Rutgers Institute for Translational Medicine and Science received a 4-year R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health to investigate “Airway inflammatory pathways regulating glucocorticoid receptor phosphorylation” (\$1,706,402)
- **Katie Recuay, PhD** (Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey) was awarded a 2-year R21 grant from the National Institutes of Health for “Improving transition readiness in adolescent and young adult (AYA) survivors of childhood cancer” (\$380,408)

- **Estela Jacinto, PhD** (Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) was awarded a 2 year grant from the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research to study the “Mechanisms of tumorigenesis via mTORC2” (\$200,000)
- **Cheryl Dreyfus, Ph.D.** (Professor and Chair of Neuroscience and Cell Biology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School), together with co-principal investigators **David Shreiber** (Professor of Biomedical Engineering, School of Engineering and **Assimina Pelegri**, Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, School of Engineering) received an award from the New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research for “Multi-scale Modeling of Dynamic Behavior of White Matter” (\$200,000)
- **Zhaohui Feng, MD, PhD** (Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey) was granted a two year brdge award by the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research for “Targeting mutant p53 accumulation and gain-of-function in cancer” (\$200,000)
- **X.F. Steven Zheng, PhD** (Professor of Pharmacology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey) is recipient of a 2-year bridge grant from the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research to investigate “MAF1 in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Pathogenesis and Therapy” (\$200,000)
- **Shashikala Sasidharan, PhD** (Post-doctoral Trainee in the laboratory of **Martha Soto, PhD** (Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) received a 2-year Fellowship Award from the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research to investigate “Regulation of cadherin trafficking to apical junctions” (\$100,000)
- **Kubra Karagoz, PhD** (Post-doctoral Trainee in Radiation Oncology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey) was granted a 2-year Cancer Research Fellowship Award from the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research to study “ADNP is an essential driver of high grade serous ovarian cancer” (\$100,000)
- **Gabriele Vincelli, PhD** (Post-doctoral Trainee in Radiation Oncology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey) is the recipient of a 2 year Cancer Research Fellowship Award from the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research for “Understanding the mechanisms of BRCA2 in DNA replication and cell cycle checkpoints” (\$100,000)
- **Ning-Ang Liu, PhD** (Post-doctoral Trainee in Radiation Oncology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey) is the recipient of a 2-year Cancer Research Fellowship Award from the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research to investigate the “Role of 53BP1 in the development and therapy of BCCIP deficient breast cancer” (\$100,000)
- **M. Maral Mouradian, MD** (William Dow Lovett Professor of Neurology, Director of the Center for Neurodegenerative and Neuroimmunologic Diseases, Chief, Division of Translational Neuroscience at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and recently appointed RBHS Vice Chancellor for Faculty Development) was awarded an option Agreement amendment for her Innovation Grant from the New Jersey Health Foundation

to continue her studies of “microRNA-7 as a therapeutic for Parkinson’s Disease” (\$30,000)

- **Naomi Schlesinger, MD** (Professor of Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) received two awards to study “PKPD of Anthocyanins after oral cherry juice concentrate in gout patients” (\$26,000)
- **Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS** (Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) is recipient of a Community-University Research Partnership grant for New Brunswick to investigate “Promoting school readiness through developmental monitoring and language promotion” (\$19,735)
- **William Welsh, PhD** (Norman H. Edelman Professor in Bioinformatics in the Department of Pharmacology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) received a grant from Rutgers TechExpress to study “Sigma-1 Receptor (S1R) Antagonists as Alternatives to Opioid Narcotics for Treatment of Pain” (\$10,000)

Other noteworthy news

- **Emanuel DiCicco-Bloom, MD** (Professor of Neuroscience and Cell Biology, and Pediatrics at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) has been appointed Chairperson for the Developmental Brain Disorders Study Section at the Center for Scientific Review for a 2-year term.
- **M. Maral Mouradian, MD** (William Dow Lovett Professor of Neurology, Director of the Center for Neurodegenerative and Neuroimmunologic Diseases, Chief, Division of Translational Neuroscience at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and recently appointed RBHS Vice Chancellor for Faculty Development) has been invited to join the Scientific Review Committee of the Parkinson Study Group for a 3-year term.
- **John B. Kostis MD** (John G. Detwiler Professor of Cardiology, Professor of Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Director, Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey) is co-author of a study published in *The Lancet*:

Anand SS, Boxch J, Eikelboom JW, et al.; COMPASS Investigators (Kostis JB, Investigator). Rivaroxaban with or without aspirin in patients with stable peripheral or carotid artery disease: an international, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2017 Nov 10. pii: S0140-6736(17)32409-1. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(17)32409-1. [Epub ahead of print]