



Renee Parisio ©

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Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research Spotlight Feature

DAVID G. COOK, PHD



David G. Cook, PhD is a research investigator in the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center at the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System. Dr. Cook is a Research Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine, Pharmacology, and Psychiatry at the University of Washington. Dr. Cook came to the Seattle VA and University of Washington following post-doctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania focused on Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and graduate work at Yale University where he studied the cellular basis of learning and memory.

Dr. Cook’s primary research interests are focused on two interrelated topics: (i) The role astrocytes play in AD; and (ii) Blast-related mild traumatic brain injury. Astrocytes are an abundant cell type in the brain that is very important in protecting neurons from injury. In spite of the importance of astrocytes, their role in AD has not been well understood. Dr. Cook’s laboratory has uncovered new evidence that in AD, astrocytes lose the ability to regulate important molecules called neurotransmitters, which the brain needs for orderly cell-to-cell communication. The goal of this work is to understand how astrocyte failure occurs in AD in order to devise new ways to treat AD.

Mild traumatic brain injury is the ‘signature’ injury of US soldiers having served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Exposure to the shock waves generated by high explosive ordnance can cause hidden brain injuries that may leave Veterans more susceptible to brain disorders later in life that have similarities to AD and other related neurodegenerative diseases. The Cook laboratory has established one of only a handful of academic laboratories in the country capable of modeling and studying battlefield-relevant blast exposure in the laboratory. Important goals of this research, which is funded by a VA Merit Award and an industry grant administered by SIBCR, are to uncover genetic factors governing susceptibility to blast injury and to discover new drug treatments that prevent long-term brain dysfunction caused by blast exposure. Dr. Cook’s collaborators in this work include Elaine Peskind, MD; William Banks, MD; Brian Kraemer, PhD; and, Murray Raskind, MD.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015



RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Stephan Fihn, MD, MPH, FACP
Director, Office of Analytics and Business Intelligence
Veterans Health Administration

Professor and Head, Division of General Internal Medicine
Professor, Health Services
University of Washington

Wednesday, September 23, 2015 - Noon – Building 1 Room 240

WEBSITE UPDATES

Check out the SIBCR website for important announcements and updates! We recently changed our travel reimbursement form, which can be found here: <http://www.sibcr.org/acct-forms.html>

MET PARK/BUILDING 7 MAIL

The courier service for mail going to and from SIBCR’s Met Park West (MPW) location is now reduced to two days a week: Mondays and Thursdays. Please note: All documents being sent to SIBCR’s MPW location must be in the Building 7 Lock Box by 10:30 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays to ensure same day delivery.

SIBCR mail sent through interoffice mail will no longer be sent directly to MPW. Instead, mail will come to Building 7 and will be sent on courier days. Please allow extra time for this change.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact hr@sibcr.org or accounting@sibcr.org.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

George Avtandilov, Abigail Kernan-Schloss, Kole Meeker, Emily Morse, Sarah Peterson, and Celina Vazquez