

Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

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Feature



George Ioannou, MD, MS

George N. Ioannou, MD, MS is a Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington. He received his MD from Oxford University in 1996 and a Masters Degree in Epidemiology from the University of Washington in 2002.

His research has focused on the epidemiology of chronic liver diseases with particular interest on the role of iron overload and obesity on the development and progression of chronic liver disease. He has also been interested in the optimal use of liver organs for liver transplantation, particularly in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma.

Over the last couple of years he has focused his research on the role of hepatic lipid composition on insulin resistance and liver disease. Most of this work is done as part of a VA Research Enhancement Award (REAP) entitled "Obesity, Insulin Resistance, and Fatty Liver Disease". Additionally, Dr. Ioannou's research is supported by an SIBCR-administered grant awarded by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the American Liver

Foundation which focuses on the study of liver transplantation as treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma. This study identified that even patients with early-stage hepatocellular carcinoma, who comprise 25% of liver transplant recipients and who receive special priority scores, have worse post-transplant survival than patients without hepatocellular carcinoma. Post transplant survival in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma could be predicted using tumor size and number, serum alpha fetoprotein level, and the MELD score which grades the severity of underlying cirrhosis.

In the future, Dr. Ioannou hopes to expand his career as a physician scientist at the VAPSHCS and University of Washington and conduct more research on the role of hepatic lipid composition on liver disease and insulin resistance.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please join us for the Annual Members Meeting on Tuesday, April 22nd from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Building 1, Room 240. Refreshments will be served. V-Tel will be available at American Lake in Bldg 2 Rm 343.**

- Congratulations to the following Principal Investigators who have recently been awarded grants:

Rebecca Hull, PhD, Merck – "Effect of Sitagliptin on Islet Amyloid Formation"

Elaine Peskind, MD, Fidelity Foundation – "Pilot Neuroimaging Study of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury"

Sheri Reder, PhD, Intel – "Use of Technology for Improving Long-Term Elder Care"

Gayle Reiber, PhD, MPH, Ethicon EndoSurgery – "A Multidisciplinary Educational Program for Chronic Wound Prevention and Care in VA"

Nicole Sanders, PhD, JDRF – "Adrenal Mechanisms of Defective Hypoglycemia Counterregulation"

Gerard Schellenberg, PhD, CUREPSP – "PSP/CBD Genetics Program - A Whole Genome Association Study"

Tracy Simpson, PhD, NIH – "Reducing Alcohol Use & PTSD with Cognitive Restructuring & Experiential Acceptance"

Andre Tapp, MD, AstraZeneca – "A Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of the Efficacy of Quetiapine for the Reduction of Cocaine Use"

Welcome!

SIBCR is pleased to welcome the following new employees: Jessica Barnes and Deborah Dahl RN, BSN.