



Renee Parisio ©

October - December 2017



## Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research Spotlight Feature

### IGNACIO F. MATA, PHD



**I**gnacio F. Mata, PhD is a Research Biologist in the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) at the VA Puget Sound and an Assistant Professor of Neurology at the University of Washington. He received his PhD from the University of Oviedo, Spain although he did most of his PhD research at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL. In 2006, Dr. Mata moved to Seattle to do his postdoctoral fellowship with Cyrus Zabetian, MD, where he became faculty at the University of Washington in 2011.

Dr. Mata's research focuses on the identification of genetic risk factors for several quantitative traits involved in cognitive impairment in Parkinson's disease (PD) and the identification of novel genes causing familial forms of PD. He is especially interested in studying the genetics of under-represented populations such as Latinos. He is a co-investigator on Project 1 of the Pacific Udall Center (PUC) and also the co-director of the Latin American Research Consortium on the Genetics of Parkinson's Disease (LARGE-PD), a rapidly expanding collaboration among nine institutions in six countries across South America aimed at generating a unique resource to study the genetics of PD in admixed and Latino populations. Last year he was awarded one of the first three Stanley Fahn Junior Faculty Awards by the Parkinson's Disease Foundation (PDF) to use the LARGE-PD cohort to perform the first large-scale genetic study in Latinos with PD to date.

Dr. Mata is currently Principal Investigator on an American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) study administered by SIBCR entitled: "Next-Generation Sequencing of Parkinson's Genes in Understudied Latin American Populations." This study will apply Next-Generation Sequencing to characterize the largest cohort of PD cases and controls ever examined in Latin America (LARGE-PD) and clarify the role of known genes in development of PD in Latinos. Dr. Mata is also the Principal Investigator on a Small Projects in Rehabilitation Research (SPiRE) award from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### RESEARCH SEMINAR

**Location:** Building 1, Room 240 at Noon

**October 30, 2017 – Brian Hafner, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Adjunct Associate Professor Department of Bioengineering, University of Washington

"How hard can it really be to develop a health status survey? Lessons learned from developing a patient-reported outcome measure for lower limb prosthesis users"

### CLINICAL TRIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Need help finding clinical trial opportunities? SIBCR is working closely with the National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations (NAVREF) to identify new opportunities for our members. SIBCR members and staff who are interested in learning about identifying new funding opportunities, may contact Danielle Fleumer, SIBCR Executive Director, at [danielle@sibcr.org](mailto:danielle@sibcr.org). Some of the resources available include: Foundation Directory Online, CenterWatch Monthly, Clinical Trials Pipeline and Association of Clinical Research Professionals state-of-the art Learning Management System.