



Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

April - June 2021

JOHN F. NEUMAIER, MD, PHD



John F. Neumaier, MD, PhD, became the Director of Mental Health Research in the Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VA Puget Sound) in January 2021. He is also a Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Pharmacology at the University of Washington (UW). Dr. Neumaier graduated from Reed College and then completed his medical and doctoral degrees at the UW. As a student and resident, he trained at the VA Puget Sound and in the labs of Drs. Daniel Dorsa and Mark Hamblin; this is when he first began to study the role of serotonin in stress. He recently relocated his lab from Harborview Medical Center to the VA Puget Sound where he will continue to pursue studies that focus on how the brain

adapts to stress and addictive drugs using a range of animal behavioral, cellular, and molecular strategies. His research focuses on how brain circuits and the cells in these circuits contribute to the vulnerability or resilience to decision making, stress responses, and drug seeking. His lab uses a number of cutting edge cellular and molecular approaches to determine how cells and brain circuits contribute to these problems. For example, he has been using some specialized methods to sequence the messenger RNAs that code for key proteins in serotonin neurons and other cell types to determine how they are altered by exposure to stress, drugs, and alcohol. The goal of these approaches is to identify new strategies for treating stress and addiction in humans, and to imagine new ways to combine these biological interventions with behavioral strategies so that they work faster and better. A new project that will be initiated in his lab involves identifying how microglia, innate immune cells in the brain, are changed by alcohol or fentanyl withdrawal, with the hope of identifying new targets to treat the acute withdrawal and reduce the risk of relapse afterwards. In addition to these scientific projects, Dr. Neumaier values training the next generation of scientists and doctors and enjoys working with patients that have difficult to treat psychiatric problems. Dr. Neumaier will also play a lead role in expanding the neuromodulation treatments offered to veterans at VA Puget Sound.

GRANT UPDATES

Coming May 25th: Changes to NIH Biographical Sketch and Other Support pages.

New OS instructions significantly alter what are reportable research resources!

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-073.html>

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

Did you know that you may be eligible for student loan forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program by working for SIBCR, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization? To find out if you are eligible, check out this website: <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>

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

UPDATED ACCOUNTING FORMS

The Purchase Order and Travel Reimbursement forms have been updated.

Please see the Accounting Forms webpage: <https://sibcr.org/acct-forms.html>

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