

Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

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Feature



Gerard Schellenberg, PhD

Gerard D. Schellenberg, PhD, is the Associate Director for Research in the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System. He is a Research Professor in the Division of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Department of Medicine, and has joint appointments in the departments of Neurology and Pharmacology.

His major research interests are in the genetics and molecular biology of neurodegenerative diseases. In past work, Dr. Schellenberg and his collaborators have identified genes responsible for early-onset Alzheimer's disease (AD). He is now working on identifying genes responsible for susceptibility to late-onset AD and genes that modify the onset age of both early and late-onset AD. He is also working on disorders called tauopathies which are closely related to AD. This group of diseases includes frontotemporal dementia, progressive supra nuclear palsy, Pick's disease and other disorders where neurofibrillary tangles are a primary component of the neuropathology. In addition to the human genetics studies, Dr. Schellenberg is modeling these diseases in mice and in the simple worm (*C. elegans*). The *C. elegans* models are being studied in collaboration with Dr. Brian Kraemer. Dr. Schellenberg also works on the genetics of behavioral neurological disorders that include schizophrenia and autism.

His future work will continue to focus on gene discovery for diseases of the brain. The research focuses on genetic methods to determine how these genes function in normal cells and how these genes cause disease. Dr. Schellenberg's laboratory is funded by the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute on Mental Health, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Additionally, Dr. Schellenberg was recently awarded three grants administered by the Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research which are funded by the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR), Autism Speaks Inc., and IntraGen SA.

New Grant Opportunities

★ The Life Science Discovery Fund (LSDF) has announced its second Request for Proposal (RFP) LSDF 07-02 entitled "Innovative Programs to Advance Health Research". Letters of Intent are due August 8, 2007. More information about this grant opportunity can be found on the web at: <http://www.lsdfa.org/>

★ The Department of Defense (DOD) plans to release by mid July fiscal year 2007 the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program (PTSD/TBI). Announcements will be available for download from the Grants.gov website soon: <http://www.grants.gov>.

Please contact SIBCR grants management if you plan to apply for any of these programs.

Welcome!

SIBCR is pleased to welcome the following new employees: Stephanie Arntz, Sadaf Ashfaq, Christina Braddock, Ellen Conley, Lexuan Dang, Rishi Diwan, Ann Goldberg, Amanda Herges, Gareth Holman, Casey Humbyrd, Jane Judd, Latha Kallur Siddaramaiah, Tzung-Yuan Lee, Erica Martinez, Kathleen McCraw, Daniel Morelli, Christopher Nishioka, Su Jin Pak, Sarah Plymate, Kristen Pompilio, Bennett Reyes, Daniel Whiton, Vincent Wu, and Robert Zyskowski.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Effective June 26, 2007 SIBCR's indirect cost rate is 36.5%. Effective October 1, 2007 SIBCR's fringe benefit rate will change to 27.5%. Please include these rates in upcoming grant submissions.
- The health benefits open enrollment will be held in August. A flyer announcing the date will be available in the upcoming weeks.