



Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

April - June 2023

Spotlight Feature

CYRUS ZABETIAN, MD, MS



Cyrus Zabetian, MD, MS, is a neurologist and Core Investigator in the VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VA Puget Sound) Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC) and a Professor of Neurology at the University of Washington (UW). He received his MD from the University of Miami, and completed a neurology residency at the UW and a fellowship in neuropsychiatric genetics at Yale University and the West Haven VA.

Dr. Zabetian's research is focused on discovering genes that increase susceptibility or modify phenotypic characteristics of Parkinson's disease (PD) and related disorders using family-based, case-controlled, and longitudinal cohort studies. He collaborates with other investigators to assist them in integrating genetic information with biomarker and neuroimaging data to better understand key characteristics of neurodegenerative disorders. He founded the PD Cognitive Genetics Consortium, a collaborative network of 15 NIH-funded sites that conducted the first large scale genetic analysis of cognition dysfunction in PD. He is currently the PI of a VA Clinical Science Research and Development (CSR) Merit Award (competitively renewed in 2022) seeking to discover and validate new genes for hereditary movement disorders in large pedigrees, and to investigate the functional effects of the causal mutations found using in vitro and in vivo models. He is the PI of a VA Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development (BLRD) Merit Award selected for funding this year which will examine the genetic architecture of PD in African Americans and Latinos using data from the Million Veteran Program and other resources. In a complementary project, he is launching the first PD genetics consortium within the VA System, which is administered by SIBCR and funded by the Michael J. Fox Foundation. The Veterans Parkinson's Disease Genetics Initiative (Vet-PD) includes 22 VA medical centers across the country and is focused on enrolling Veterans from underrepresented populations. Dr. Zabetian is the Director of the Washington State Parkinson Disease Registry and is the Local Site Investigator for Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) #2015, a clinical trial comparing the efficacy of quetiapine versus pimavanserin for the treatment of psychosis in PD.

In addition, Dr. Zabetian co-directs the Movement Disorder Fellowship Program at the VA Puget Sound and UW and is a past recipient of the "Teacher of the Year Award" from the UW Neurology Residency Program. He has served as a member of the Lewy Body Dementia Association Scientific Advisory Council for the past decade.

GRANTS NEWS

NIH now requires an expanded Data Management and Sharing Plan in proposals.

Watch a tutorial from the NIH to learn more about this new component: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8GTKZPsGT0>

Details on each of the DSMP Elements are described beginning at 12:49 (min:sec).

Details on peer review is described beginning at 17:55.

Tools and Resources at 19:30.

[Click here for the NIH template and guidance](#)

SIBCR also has a template developed with VA input -- available from spo@sibcr.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

VA Research Week May 9-12: **Cutting-Edge Care Through Research**

VA Puget Sound R&D is planning a day of events on May 10th and some sessions on the 11th in Building 101, Rooms 1E80 and/or 1E90.

More information coming soon from the VAPS R&D Office!