



WHITTEMORE PETERSON
INSTITUTE FOR NEURO-IMMUNE DISEASE



SYNERGY

News from WPI ~ Winter 2012
Vol.3

Dear Annie,

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to you for having been so generous throughout 2011. We wrapped up the year-end donation drive with support from our friends around the world. We thank you for all your hard work helping us raise awareness and funds for neuro-immune disease (NID) worldwide! We are excited to start 2012, moving our research forward and increasing advocacy for NID through education and outreach.

WPI RESEARCH NEWS

WPI AWARDED GRANT FOR GULF WAR ILLNESS

WPI was recently awarded a \$403,050.18, two-year grant from the Department of Defense (DOD) Gulf War Illness (GWI) Research Program of the Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. WPI will work with the [VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System](#) to identify potential pathogenic agents and immune markers in a cohort of patients with GWI.

The main goal of the project is to identify significant differences in immune parameters and any underlying pathogens potentially contributing to the origination and development of GWI.

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CALENDAR

MAY 2012
NID AWARENESS
MONTH

*

I HOPE YOU DANCE
ANNUAL GALA
SEPTEMBER 14, 2012
ATLANTIS CASINO
RESORT

*

WINGS OF HOPE
RUN
OCTOBER 14, 2012

FOLLOW US



WPI RESEARCH UPDATE

NIH Approves Request

Whittemore Peterson Institute ("WPI") is pleased to announce that National Institutes of Health ("NIH") approved our request to appoint Dr. Vincent Lombardi as the principal investigator ("PI") on the NIH R01 grant entitled New Strategies to Decipher the Pathophysiology of CFS. After a thorough site review and evaluation of Dr. Lombardi's research plans, the NIH determined that WPI could accomplish the aims of the grant under Dr. Lombardi's guidance as PI. [read more](#)

We are deeply grateful to those of you who participated in the past by donating your samples to our previous studies. We hope you'll continue to support our vital mission to find answers for those who suffer from neuro-immune diseases such as CFS/ME.



MAKE A GIFT



[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!](#)

WPINSTITUTE.ORG

WPI'S TOP TEN FOR 2011

1. WPI opened the Center for Translational Medicine (CTM), welcoming Drs. Fredericks and Pourzan. [more about CTM](#)
2. WPI was granted a two-year DOD grant to study Gulf War illness (GWI) with the VA Medical Center in Reno, Nevada.
3. While still extremely low for a disease which impacts over four million Americans, NIH funding for ME/CFS rose from four million a year to six million a year in 2011 and 2012. [view report](#)
4. For the first time, the DOD included CFS as one of the eligible topics for its [Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs](#).
5. The Journal of Internal Medicine published "Myalgic Encephalomyelitis: International Consensus Criteria." [see ICC](#)
6. Promising new research by cancer specialists Fluge and Mella points the way

towards Rituximab as a potential treatment for some with ME/CFS. [read more](#)

7. WPI raised community awareness for NID through the first annual May Awareness month, which included a Walk and Roll, one mile walk around the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno. [visit ANIDA.co](#)

8. WPI held a symposium in July featuring world renowned virologist, Dr. Ian Lipkin, for medical students, patients, researchers and physicians.

9. Extraordinary researchers, including Dr. Frank Ruscetti, Dr. Frank Malderelli, and Dr. Ian Lipkin, have added their talents to this field of research.

10. WPI received almost \$200,000 from online donation campaigns such as Vivint Gives Back Project, Chase Community Giving and Nevada's Big Give campaign during 2011. Thanks to the many who voted for WPI's ongoing research program!

REACHING OUT

Holiday of Hope Project

WPI launched the first annual Holiday of Hope project in December, utilizing generous donations made to WPI through Nevada's Big Give campaign. Patients who currently reside in Nevada were selected from our Interest List and then winners were drawn randomly to receive gift baskets. We were also able to reach out to [Northern Nevada FM/CFS Network](#) and include some of their members in the gift giving.



The administrative staff at WPI worked together to create gift baskets with a personal touch. With the help of Jill Justiss, who donated gourmet snacks, the baskets included homemade CD's with inspirational and soothing music, cozy socks, delicious snacks and teas, notecards, a coffee mug, and other Christmas-related items.

Lisa responded to her gift by saying, "You show this community commitment and passion and you have my support and encouragement to keep up the fight. Thank you for all the kindness you have shown me over the years." Kelley said, "What a wonderful surprise to find upon my porch the most thought filled Christmas basket, with a plethora of meaningful ingredients to make such a joyful Christmas..."

In 2012, we hope to expand this project to communities all over the United States. If you are interested in helping with our Holiday of Hope project, please send an email to info@wpinstitute.org.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Meet Dr. Pourzan, M.D., H.M.D

Cyrus Pourzan, M.D., H.M.D is a rare find in the medical community. He is a Board Certified medical physician with a passion to find "medicine that works." In his practice, he combines his experience and knowledge of Western medicine with complementary therapies and natural medicines. This allows him to tailor treatments to the individual. For the past 12 years of his 31-year medical career, he has been treating patients with NID and brings this experience to the Center for Translational Medicine. [read on](#)



RESEARCH INNOVATIONS

Dr. Khaiboullina, M.D., Ph.D.

Prior to joining the WPI team in 2010, Dr. Svetlana Khaiboullina worked as a Research Assistant Professor in Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Nevada, Reno for 15 years. Dr. Khaiboullina's research was focused on investigating various aspects of hantavirus genetics, molecular epidemiology, diagnostics, and specific prophylaxis of hantavirus disease. It should be noted that Dr. Khaiboullina's research was not limited to understanding of hantavirus pathogenesis. Indeed, she was involved in collaborative studies on various potentially fatal human pathogens including dengue virus, yellow fever virus, papilloma virus, cytomegalovirus and E coli O157:H7. She has authored and co-authored 28 peer-reviewed publications and two patents. Dr. Khaiboullina received her M.D. and Ph.D. at the Bashkortostan State Medical Institute, Russia. Her postdoctoral educational training includes molecular biology, immunology, and vaccine development. Her present contribution to WPI includes basic research in HGRV innate immune activation and development of diagnostic assays. [more](#)

