**Clinical Research Units**

The ICTR team members above work in the Clinical Research units to provide investigators with a seamless infrastructure for clinical studies, one at Moses and the second at the Einstein Campus. The outpatient units can provide investigators and research subjects with experienced clinical staff and space for physical exams, procedures, private inter-views and data collection. About 80 active protocols are supported, both NIH- and industry-funded. Requests to use the units are reviewed by a faculty committee; protocols should be submitted online: [www.einstein.yu.edu/ictr/](http://www.einstein.yu.edu/ictr/)

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**Biorepository**

The Biorepository announced two updates. First is the addition of Navjot Kaur to the team. In partnership with Montefiore’s Surgical Pathology team and the Montefiore-Einstein Center for Cancer Care, Ms. Kaur works in our satellite laboratory on the Moses campus to coordinate the processing of tissue for research. With her East Campus counterpart, Felicia Juliano, investigators at both campuses can optimize biospecimen collection and processing for both banking and ongoing research studies. Secondly, the Biorepository has recently expanded to allow for increased storage and workspace for the Mazer facility. This space is used for biobanking for a PI’s research as well as for subrepositories for prospective banking in targeted areas of interest.

To learn more, call the Core Administrator, Greg Cruikshank, at 718-430-3314.

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**Balancing act for NIH**

In a recent commentary in *Academic Medicine* entitled “New Guidelines for NIH Peer Review: Improving the System or Undermining It?” Dean Allen M. Spiegel provides an important perspective on the approaches used by NIH to encourage the funding of new investigators. Despite the challenges of funding established scientists – particularly in the constricted environment of essentially flat budgets – NIH continues to give young researchers a fighting chance to compete on their first applications. Dr. Spiegel writes: “No matter how powerful new technologies and research tools become, human capital will always be the key ingredient at the heart of the biomedical research enterprise, and we cannot afford to allow this vital resource to die out.” – *Acad Med.* 2010; 85:746–748

Dr. Spiegel brings decades of experience as a physician-scientist and mentor as well as directing the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases before coming to Einstein.