**ICTR CONNECTIONS**

**MARCH, 2012**

Latest round of New ICTR Pilot Awards announced last week

- **Pierfilippo DeSanctis, MD**  
  Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
  Project: Functional Plasticity and Successful Aging

- **Max O’Donnell, MD**  
  Assistant Professor of Medicine  
  Project: A novel assay for rapid tuberculosis drug

- **Bilal Piperdi, MD**  
  Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine (Oncology)  
  Project: Autophagy inhibition using hydrochloroquine to enhance activity of erlotinib in NSCLC patients

- **Zev Williams, MD**  
  Assistant Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women’s Health  
  Project: Role of Transposons in Female Reproductive Health and Disease

- **Parsa Mirjahi, MD, PhD**  
  Assistant Professor of Systems and Computational Biology named new director for clinical research informatics (more at left)

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**Save the Date: Translational Science 2012**

The Translational Science 2012 meeting will be in Washington DC April 18-20 and is open to all translational research professionals. The 3-day meeting is sponsored by the Association for Clinical Research Training, American Federation for Medical Research, and the Society for Clinical and Translational Science. The meeting will focus on innovations in improving health through research and training. Many of your colleagues will present at the meeting, and Ellie Schoenbaum MD is one of the program chairs. To register or for more information, visit: http://www.translationalsciencemeeting.org/

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**The Doctor’s Tablet** is Einstein’s new blog. The blog is for the entire community, covering many topics including how physicians use knowledge, experience and intuition, biomedical research, and health care. Recent posts: “Evidence-Based vs. Anecdotal Medicine: Putting the PSA Test in Its Place” and “Medical Research Fraud: Harming ‘Heroes’ and Stunting Progress”. To submit an entry or view the blog, visit: http://blogs.einstein.yu.edu

In February, we welcomed **Parsa Mirhaji MD, PhD** as Einstein-Montefiore Director of clinical research informatics. Dr. Mirhaji was at the University of Texas (Houston) where he was Director of the Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Informatics, as well as the CTSA at UAB. Dr. Mirhaji has developed text understanding algorithms, semantic information integration technologies and EMR interoperability solutions. His expertise includes semantic technology and information integration of multi-source clinical and biological data (eg, Ontology driven integration platform for clinical and translational research). Mirhaji P, et al. BMC Bioinformatics. 2009 Feb 5;10).

Dr. Brian Currie, Montefiore VP for Medical Research notes, “A key element of the ICTR’s informatics innovations will rely on Parsa’s expertise with the federation and interoperability of research and clinical data, information retrieval from biomedical and clinical repositories, and distributed architectures for research.” Dr. Mirhaji is Assistant Professor, Systems and Computational Biology at Einstein, and will lead the ICTR Biomedical Research Informatics Core.