Career Development at Einstein-Montefiore

As we enter the second decade of our NIH career development award program, it's worth reflecting on the past, present and future of the clinical research workforce. In 2003, Einstein received one of the first NIH awards for a "non-categorical K-12"—a grant mechanism to support selected junior faculty to advance their careers towards independent funding, within a strong mentored environment and irrespective of the disease focus of each scholar. For Einstein, that K-12 spawned a new generation of clinical investigators, some of who have ascended to leadership positions here. For example, Mark Einstein MD, MS recently hosted the ribbon-cutting for a new ObGYN/ Women's Health clinical research unit that he's heading on the East Campus. And last month, Joe Verghese MD, MS was announced as the new division chief of Geriatrics in the Department of Medicine. When the CTSA was awarded in 2008, a K career development award program was embedded, and that has continued to generate new investigators. We are pleased to announce our five most recent awardees. As recently pointed out in a paper by the CTSA Research Education and Career Development group, competitiveness for NIH funding is highly dependent on mentored first awards.

Miguelina German, PhD is a clinical psychologist who came to Montefiore in 2008 and joined the faculty in 2010 in Pediatrics and Psychiatry. Her research proposes to mitigate the excess risk for suicide among adolescent Latinas, using a modified Dialectic Behavior Therapy approach. Her primary mentor is Laurie Bauman; co-mentors are Dr. Alec Miller and Dr. Luis Zayas (Wash U, St. Louis).

Jean Hsieh, MD is a critical care physician, recruited in 2010 after completing her critical care fellowship at UCSF. She will be studying the impact of cigarette smoke on neurologic complications in ICU patients, using standard and novel biomarkers for evaluating cigarette exposure. Her primary mentor is Michelle Gong; co-mentor is Dr. Wes Ely (Vanderbilt) with additional support from Neal Benowitz (UCSF) and Hillel Cohen.

Elina Jerschow, MD is a physician in the allergy-immunology division, department of medicine. Her research aims to elucidate the pathophysiologic mechanisms underlying aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease. This involves clinical and biomarker/genetic studies. Her primary mentor is Dr. David Rosenstreich; her other mentors are Simon Spivack, John Greally, Andrzej Szczeklik, Yungtai Lo, and Tao Wang.

Neomi Shah, MD, MPH is a specialist in pulmonary disease, critical care, and sleep medicine. She obtained her MPH at Yale and was recruited to Einstein in 2008. She will be mentored by Dr. Robert Kaplan, with co-mentoring from Dr. Ranaan Arens and Dr. Susan Redline. Her proposed research utilizes data generated from The Study of Latinos, and develops mechanistic areas, including the role of coronary collaterals and plasma VEGF.

Masako Suzuki, PhD who trained in Japan as a veterinarian, received her PhD in 2002. She came to Einstein in 2005 and became an instructor in Genetics in 2010. Her research focuses on epigenomic factors identifiable in the amnions of pre-eclamptic, compared with normal, post-partum women. Her primary mentor is John Greally; co-mentors are Francine Einstein and Mark Einstein; other advisors are Bernice Morrow, Adam Auton, and Nir Barzilai.