

UNYTE Newsletter



UNYTE is a consortium of 19 biomedical research institutions from across New York State. UNYTE fosters transdisciplinary and trans-institutional research collaborations and engages community and regional partners to demonstrate and disseminate methods and approaches to advance translational research.

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Contact Us



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Director's Corner

Gary Noronha, MD

A new year brings many new changes and this issue of our newsletter highlights some pioneering approaches at two of our long-time member institutions - Syracuse University and the Masonic Medical Research Institute - and a new format for our next UNYTE scientific session.

Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI), led by director Maria Kontaridis, is starting an innovative new research program described on page 3 of this issue. Building upon decades of important research at the MMRI, they are opening a fresh chapter of growth and collaboration with other UNYTE partners.

Syracuse University is also expanding their faculty with 53 new positions in seven clusters of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary study. To partner with this growth, they are actively looking for UNYTE collaborators on grants - see the brief overview on page 3.

We're breaking new ground with our UNYTE scientific sessions this year, including testing a more informal and collaborative 'Un-Meeting' format in our upcoming conference on Translational Genomics and Proteomics. The 'Un-Meeting' layout for the day will provide very brief presentations in the large group setting with a focus on collaborative smaller group discussions. Registration for this event just opened recently and is moving quickly. Please join us for a scientific session on a cutting edge area of translational work.

I'm also excited to note that we've started working with a pediatric hematology/oncology upstate New York collaborative to help support a UNYTE scientific session in this field. Details are still being worked out but we anticipate an event in Fall 2019. Over the last month we've been impressed by how much collaborative work this group has already promoted between UNYTE member institutions, and we're overjoyed to be part of planning the next event.

2019 promises to be an exciting year and we're happy to share this with our members. If you have changes or collaborations you'd like to share with the UNYTE team let us know at UNYTE@urmc.rochester.edu

Member Institutions

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences &
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences – Pharmaceutical Research Institute (PRI)
Albany Medical College - Bassett Healthcare Network - Binghamton University, SUNY
Cornell University, Division of Nutritional Sciences - Guthrie Health System
Masonic Medical Research Laboratory - New York Chiropractic College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - Rochester Institute of Technology - Roswell Park Cancer
Institute - Syracuse University - Trudeau Institute - University at Albany, SUNY
University at Buffalo, SUNY - University of Rochester - Upstate Medical University,
SUNY - The Canandaigua Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) and Rochester VA
Outpatient Clinic —Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH



**Potential
Funding
Opportunities for
Collaborative
Research**

(Titles are clickable)

[Collaborative Research Travel Grants Research Collaboration Grants \(American Brain Tumor Association\)](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Translational Development of Devices to Treat Pain](#)

[Collaborative Research Projects to Enhance Applicability of Mammalian Models for Translational Research](#)

[Multi-Site Studies for System-Level Implementation of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Services](#)

[NIH StrokeNet Clinical Trials and Biomarker Studies for Stroke Treatment, Recovery, and Prevention](#)

[Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network \(PECARN\)](#)

[NIDDK Multi-Center Clinical Study Cooperative Agreement](#)

[2019 St. Baldrick's Foundation Grant Application Information and Guidelines for Consortium Research Grant Awards](#)

**Registration is Open
Translational Genomics & Proteomics:
An Un-Meeting
March 13, 2019
University of Rochester**

This Un-Meeting is focused on bringing together researchers from across UNYTE institutions to discuss and develop new, innovative and effective ideas for genomics and proteomics translational research. The concept of the Un-Meeting is an event without the rules and structure of a classical conference.

Presenters from University at Albany, SUNY, Masonic Medical Research Institute, Roswell Park Cancer Center, University at Binghamton, SUNY and the University of Rochester will present on the following topics: Single Cell RNAseq, DNA Methylation, Metabolomics, gene and metabolomics signatures, 'omics analysis pipelines, among others!

[Click Here for the event website.](#) Registration is free.

Un-Meeting Call for Posters

Poster abstracts are now being accepted for presentation at the Translational Genomics & Proteomics: An Un-Meeting, sponsored by the UNYTE Translational Research Network (UNYTE). We are calling for two types of posters:

1. Research posters (may include rigorous program evaluations or quality improvement projects) focused on Genomics or Proteomics (Award Eligible),
2. Descriptive posters sharing information on your institution's programs, laboratories, services and resources related to Genomics or Proteomics.

Nonmonetary Awards will be offered in three categories, with awardees determined by popular vote of Un-Meeting attendees:

- Student/Trainee
- Post-Doc/Staff
- Faculty/Staff Scientist

[Click here for event information and the full submission guidelines.](#)

SAVE the DATE: October 25, 2019

The 3rd Annual Thruway Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Collaboration Conference, co-sponsored by UNYTE, will be held at the University of Rochester. John J. Strouse, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Duke University School of Medicine will be the keynote speaker.

Spotlight on: The Masonic Medical Research Institute



Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) is an internationally recognized biomedical research institute founded in 1958 by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York.

The MMRI seeks to uncover and answer key questions in basic and clinical research, identifying novel therapies and seeking cures for in areas of cardiac developmental disease, hypertrophy and heart failure, diabetes and metabolism, cardiac immunology, and electrophysiology. As well, the Institute has research excellence in innovative technologies, such as pluripotent stem cells, genetics, signal transduction, in vivo animal model systems, and development of drug delivery platforms to be used for treatment of disease.

In 2018, and with the recruitment of the new Director of Research, Dr. Maria Kontaridis, the MMRI embarked on a multi-million dollar renovation project to update and modernize its existing laboratory space and started a major recruitment effort to bring in talented and innovative new scientists to the institute.

"In the last year, MMRI recruited 19 new scientists, including from Harvard, Yale, and other world renowned institutions. We expect to continue our growth in the coming few years, with a hope of recruiting at least 8 additional investigators and their group members," said Dr. Kontaridis, "Each will help facilitate success of their academic programs and fulfill their scientific missions."

Indeed the MMRI is at a transformative time in its history; they are on a growth trajectory and on a quest to unravel the mechanisms underpinning the causes of disease. To help do this, they are also forming collaborations and partnerships with multiple regional institutions, including SUNY-Poly, Hamilton College, MVCC, Utica College, and Suny-Upstate. "We are hoping to continue these collaborations, including with additional institutions around the entirety of NY State, and welcome all opportunities to do so," Kontaridis said, "By working together, we can faster and more effectively identify novel and innovative solutions to resolving human disease." For more information on collaboration opportunities, you can contact Dr. Kontaridis at mkontaridis@mmri.edu.

Syracuse University Cluster Hires

Syracuse University has recently identified that they will support seven clusters of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary study and fund 53 faculty positions in those clusters.

The first round of hiring involves the following seven clusters: (1) Aging, Behavioral Health and Neuroscience; (2) Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, Autonomous Systems and Policy; (3) Big Data and Data Analytics; (4) Bio-enabled Science and Technology; (5) Energy and Environment; (6) Innovation and Entrepreneurship; and (7) Social Differences, Social Justice.

UNYTE partnerships

Syracuse University would consider partnerships across the UNYTE Universities in coming up with synergistic grant applications, such as the National Science Foundation-Major Research Instrumentation competition. (<https://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri/>). For more information, contact Natalie Russo at nrusso@syr.edu.