

SUBMITTED BY:

**HILARY H. RATNER
VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH
DIVISION OF RESEARCH INFORMATIONAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2013 – FIRST QUARTER**

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

The Office of the Vice President for Research has managed the following Request for Proposals for internal funding programs over the past few months:

1. Research Enhancement Program in Arts & Humanities
 - 15 Letters of Intent received
 - 10 selected to submit full proposals
 - Full proposals due March 6, 2013
2. Research Enhancement Program: Collaborative Research Program among Engineering/Physical Sciences and Health Science Faculty
 - 45 Letters of Intent received
 - 19 selected to submit full proposals
 - Full proposals due March 13, 2013
3. Multidisciplinary Group Incubator Program
 - 31 Letters of Intent received
 - Review team meeting on January 18, 2013 to make decision on full proposals
 - Full proposals due March 18, 2013
4. Faculty Competition for Postdoctoral Fellows
 - 10 proposals received
 - 4 proposals selected for funding
5. Bridge Funding Program
 - 9 proposals submitted (10 submitted originally and 1 withdrew)
 - 4 proposals selected for funding
6. Grants Plus
 - 21 proposals received
 - Review team meeting on January 16, 2013 to make decision on selections for funding

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

- Began implementation of a fully integrated, state-of-the-art Research Compliance software package from Key Solutions.
- Received Full AAALAC accreditation (Animal Research).
- Received Full AAHRPP accreditation (Human Research).
- Implemented the new federal Financial Conflict of Information regulations.
- Developed and implemented a controlled substances oversight and compliance program.

- Disposed of over 900,000 pounds of e-waste collected over a period of 2 years at no cost to the university.

RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

The following are the headlines of research press releases distributed in the first quarter of 2013:

- Wayne State University researcher receives NSF funding to lay scientific foundation for operations of patient-centered medical home models – Dr. Kai Yang, College of Engineering
- New treatments for epilepsy, behavioral disorders could result from Wayne State University studies – Dr. Jeff Loeb, School of Medicine
- Institute of Gerontology employee wins top ‘Ability is Ageless’ award – Odessa Jackson
- WSU researchers find the missing link between mental health disorders and chronic diseases in Iraq war refugees – Dr. Bengt Arnetz, School of Medicine
- Wayne State NIDA-funded researcher named fellow of the American Psychological Association; presents research at numerous professional meetings in 2012 – Dr. Steven Ondersma, School of Medicine and Merrill-Palmer Skillman Institute
- Teen conference at Wayne State turns strangers into friends – Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute
- Wayne State University chemist’s research, podcast featured in prominent journal – Dr. Parastoo Hashemi
- Wayne State University startup biotech company receives Michigan Emerging Technologies Fund award – Dr. Sorin Draghici, College of Engineering
- New book on physics principles by Wayne State professor explains life as we know it – Dr. Peter Hoffmann, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Wayne State University receives Grand Challenges Explorations grants for groundbreaking research in global health and development – Dr. Jeffrey Withey, School of Medicine
- High-strength material advancements at Wayne State University may lead to new, life-saving steel, Dr. Susil Putatunda, College of Engineering
- Wayne State study focuses on returning wounded soldiers to meaningful civilian lives – Dr. Cathy Lysack, Institute of Gerontology
- Wayne State University researcher part of international effort to understand chemical movement, processes in oceans – Dr. Mark Baskaran, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Wayne State University researcher’s work could result in shorter, sharper MRI scans, earlier diagnoses – Dr. Matthew Allen, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Environment-genetics combination appears linked to children’s early antisocial behavior, Wayne State University researcher finds – Dr. Christopher Trentacosta – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Computer network upgrades will put Wayne State University researchers in the fast lane – Dr. David Cinabro – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Wayne State University researchers publish important study on problem gambling – Dr. David Ledgerwood, School of Medicine

INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY

Grants Funded

- \$2.7 Million for Michigan Center on Urban African American Aging Research (**Peter Lichtenberg** Principal Investigator with J. Jackson, U of M), National Institute on Aging, P30 Resource Center for Minority Aging Research.

Articles Published and Articles Submitted

- Bender, A.R. & **Raz, N.** (2012). Age-related differences in episodic memory: A Synergistic contribution of genetic and physiological vascular risk factors. *Neuropsychology*, 26(4):442-50. Epub 2012 May 21.
- Alosco, M.L., Spitznagel, M.B., van Dulmen, M., **Raz, N.**, Cohen, R., Sweet, L.H., Colbert, L.H., Josephson, R., Hughes, J., Rosneck J., & Gunstad, J. (2012). Cognitive Function and Treatment Adherence in Older Adults with Heart Failure. *Psychosomatic Medicine*. 74(9):965-973. Epub 2012 Oct 31.
- Alosco, M.L., Brickman, A.M., Spitznagel, M.B., van Dulmen, M., **Raz, N.**, Cohen, R., Sweet, L.H., Colbert, L.H., Josephson, R., Hughes, J., Rosneck, J., & Gunstad, J. (2012). The independent association of hypertension with cognitive function among older adults with heart failure. *Journal of Neurological Sciences*. 323(1-2):216-220.doi: 10.1016/j.jns.2012.09.019. Epub 2012 Sep 29.
- Lövdén, M., Schmiedek, F., Kennedy, K.M., Rodrigue, K.M., **Raz, N.**, & Lindenberger, U. (2013). Does variability in cognitive performance correlate with frontal brain volume? *NeuroImage*, 64, 209–215.
- **Lichtenberg, P.A.**, Stickney, L. & Paulson, D. (In press). Is psychological vulnerability related to the experience of fraud in older adults? *Clinical Gerontologist*.
- Paulson, D. & **Lichtenberg, P.A.** (In press). Vascular depression: An early warning sign of frailty. *Journal of Aging and Mental Health*.
- Rodrigue, K.M., Daugherty, A.M., Haacke, E.M., & **Raz, N.** The role of hippocampal iron concentration and hippocampal volume in age-related differences in memory performance, *Cerebral Cortex*, May 29. [Epub ahead of print].
- Fjell AM, Westlye LT, Grydeland H, Amlien I, Espeseth T, Reinvang I, **Raz N**, Dale AM, Walhovd KB. Accelerating cortical thinning: unique to dementia or universal in aging? *Cerebral Cortex*, in press.
- Alosco, M.L., Spitznagel, M.B., van Dulmen, M., **Raz, N.**, Cohen, R., Sweet, L.H., Colbert, L.H., Josephson, R., Hughes, J., Rosneck, J., & Gunstad, J. (in press). Depressive symptomatology, exercise adherence, and fitness are associated with reduced cognitive performance in heart failure. *Journal of Aging and Health*.
- Daugherty, A.M., & **Raz, N.** (in press). Age-Related differences in iron content of subcortical nuclei observed in vivo: A meta-analysis. *NeuroImage*.
- **Hector Gonzalez's** manuscript "Comorbid cardiovascular disease and major depression among ethnic and racial groups in the United States" is now in press with *International Psychogeriatrics*.
- Hinton, L., Apesoa-Verano, E., **González, H.M.**, Aguilar-Gaxiola, S., Dwight-Johnson, M., Barker, J., Tran, C., Zuñiga, R., Unützer, J. (2012) Falling through the cracks: gaps in depression treatment among older Mexican-origin and white men. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, Dec;27(12), 1283-1290.

- **Neufeld, S.**, Machacova, K., Mossey, J., Luborsky, M. Walking Ability and Its Relationship to Self-rated Health in Later Life. *Clinical Gerontologist*, to appear January, 2013.
- E Mahmoudi and **GA Jensen**, "Exploring Disparities in Access to Physician Services among Older Adults: 2000 - 2007," *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 2013, 68B(1): 128-138.
- RG Salloum, **GA Jensen**, and AK Biddle, "The 'Welcome to Medicare' Visit: A Missed Opportunity for Cancer Screening among Women?" *Journal of Women's Health* (available online in "early view" DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2012.3777).
- RG Salloum, TJ Smith, **GA Jensen**, and JE Lafata, "Survival Among Non-Small Lung Cancer Patients with Poor Performance Status after First Line Chemotherapy," *Lung Cancer*, 2012, 77(3): 545-549.
- Daugherty, A. & Raz, N. (2013). Age-related differences in iron content of subcortical nuclei observed in vivo: A meta-analysis. *NeuroImage*. Epub ahead of print.
- Rodrigue, K.M., Daugherty, A.M., Haacke, E.M. & Raz, N. (2012). The role of hippocampal iron content and hippocampal volume in age-related differences in memory. *Cerebral Cortex*. Epub ahead of print.

Papers Presented

- **Raz, N.**, Schmiedek, F., Rodrigue, K.M., Kennedy, K.M., Lindenberger, U., Lövdén M. Intensive cognitive training has a limited effect on regional brain shrinkage. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, New Orleans, LA, October 13, 2012.
- Daugherty, A.M., Bender, A.R., & **Raz, N** . Human Navigation Deficit is Associated with Hippocampal Subfield Volume. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, New Orleans, LA, October 14, 2012.
- Bender, A.R., & **Raz, N**. Age and treated hypertension modify change in diffusion properties of white matter in healthy adults. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, New Orleans, LA, October 16, 2012.
- Daugherty, A.M., Bender, A.R., & Raz, N. (2012). Human navigation deficit is associated with hippocampal subfield volume. Submitted abstract at annual Society for Neuroscience Conference, October, 2012.

Other Institute of Gerontology Updates

- **Hector Gonzalez** presented "Life's Simple 7s of cardiovascular health among Hispanic/Latinos: Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL)" at AHA Scientific Sessions, which was picked up by national media outlets. It was overshadowed by the election.
- **Hector Gonzalez** submitted the HCHS/SOL competitive contract to NHLBI. We expect notification next month with funding set to begin in June.

MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE

Grants Funded

- Flinn Foundation, \$190,000 over 2 years for " Detroit's Baby Court: A Systems Integration Initiative to Support Infant Mental Health." PI **Ann Stacks** (Other WSU collaborators, Carla Barron and Joanne Smith-Darden).
- **John Hannigan**, Anna Miller, and Sharon Elliott of the College of Education received a new 3-year \$245,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation, starting January 2013, to support Promoting High-Quality Early Childhood Education in the Woodward Corridor of Detroit.
- *Perinatology Virtual Discovery Grant* **Moriah Thomason** (PI), W.K. Kellogg Foundation. "Fetal Neuroimaging: Multi-modal Pathways to Early Identification of Brain Injury." 09/01/2012-02/01/2014. Total direct costs: \$121,463
- *University Grant Research* **Moriah Thomason** (PI), Wayne State University "Perinatal Imaging of Neural Connectivity (PINC): Stress and Human Development." 05/01/2012-04/30/2012. Total direct costs: \$9,986
- *Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation* **Ann Daugherty** (PI), "The Role of Iron Accumulation in Brain and Cognitive Decline (Dissertation)." \$3,000
- *Association for Gerontology in Higher Education* **Ann Daugherty** (PI), "Careers in Aging seminar." \$200

Articles Submitted and Articles Published

- Dexter, C. A., Wong, K., **Stacks, A. M.**, Beeghly, M. & Barnett, D. (revise and resubmit). Parenting and Attachment among Low-Income African-American Preschoolers. *Journal of Family Psychology*.
- **Ondersma, S. J.**, Winhusen, T., & Lewis, D. (2012). Pre-treatment change in a randomized trial with pregnant substance-abusing women in community-based outpatient treatment. *Contemporary Clinical Trials*, 33, 1074-1079.
- **Ondersma, S. J.**, Svikis, D. S., LeBreton, J. M., & Streiner, D. L., Grekin, E. R., Lam, P. K., & Connors-Burge, V. S. (2012). Development and Preliminary Validation of an Indirect Screener for Drug Use in the Perinatal Period. *Addiction*, 107, 2099-2106.
- Beatty, J.R., Svikis, D.S., & **Ondersma, S. J.** (2012). Prevalence and Perceived Financial Costs of Marijuana Versus Tobacco Use among Urban Low-Income Pregnant Women. In press, *Journal of Addiction Research & Therapy*.
- Torrisi, S.J., Moody, T.D., Vizueta, N., **Thomason, M.E.**, Townsend, J.D., Bookheimer, S.Y., & Altshuler, L.L. (2012) Differences in resting corticolimbic functional connectivity in bipolar I euthymia. *Bipolar Disorders*. Accepted 9-November-2012.
- *Monje, M., **Thomason, M.E.**, Rigolo, B.S., Wang, Y., Waber, D.P., Sallan, S.E., & Golby, A.J. (2012) Functional and structural differences in the hippocampus associated with memory deficits in adult survivors of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*. Accepted 5-March-2012. **Monje and Thomason are co-first authors.*
- Welsh, R., Nemecek, U., & **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Fetal magnetic resonance imaging at 3Tesla. *Topics in Magnetic Resonance Imaging*. (22):119-131.
- Neelavalli, J. Haacke, E.M., Mody, S., Yeo, L., Korzenieski, S.J., Saleem, S., Katkuri, Y., Jella, P., Bahado-Singh, R., Hassan, S.S., Romero, R., & **Thomason, M.E.** (submitted) Magnetic resonance venography of the fetal brain using susceptibility weighted imaging. *Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging*.

- **Thomason, M.E.**, Quednau, K.A., & Carré, J.M. (submitted) Idle behaviors of the hippocampus reflect endogenous cortisol levels in youth. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*.
- Anderson, A.L., & **Thomason, M.E.** (under review) Functional plasticity before the cradle: A review of neural functional imaging in the human fetus. *Neurosci. Biobehav. Rev.*
- Seshamani, S., Cheng, X., Fogtman, M., **Thomason, M.**, & Studholme, C. A. (under review) Method for handling intensity inhomogeneities in fMRI sequences of moving anatomy of the early developing brain. *Medical Image Analysis*.
- **Thomason, M.E.**, Dassanayake, M.T., Shen, S., Katkuri, Y., Alexis, M., Anderson, A.L., Yeo, L., Mody, S., Hernandez-Andrade, E., Hassan, S.S., Studholme, C., Jeong, J.W., & Romero, R. (under review) Cross-hemispheric functional connectivity in the human fetal brain. *Science Translational Medicine*.

Awards

- Esther Dean Callard Award **Ann Stacks**
- *Young Investigator Award* **Moriah Thomason** (PI), NARSAD. “Neural and Epigenetic Bases of PTSD in Youth.” 01/01/2013-12/31/2015. Total direct costs: \$60,000
- *Graduate Research Assistantships* **Moriah Thomason**, (PI), Wayne State University. “Perinatal Imaging of Neural Connectivity (PINC) Project: Functional MRI of the Human Fetus and Developmental Outcomes in Infancy.” 09/17/2012-09/16/2013. Total direct costs: \$40,000

Conference Abstracts

- Swartz, J.R., **Thomason, M.E.**, Wiggins, J.L., Carrasco, M., & Monk, C.S. (2013) Changes in PFC-amygdala connectivity across adolescence: Insights from multiple imaging modalities. Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting Abstracts.
- Feng, W., Neelavalli, J., Haacke, E.M., Hamtaei, R., Katkuri, Y., Xuan, Y., Latif, Z., & **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Measuring flow in the umbilical cord vessels using non-gated phase contrast MRI. Presented at the Radiological Society of North America 98th Annual Meeting in November 2012.
- Anderson, A.L., Elias, R.E., Katkuri, Y., Yeo, L., Hernandez-Andrade, E., Mody, S., Hassan, S.S., Romero, R., & **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) First report of the default mode network (DMN) in the human fetus. Society for Neuroscience 42nd Annual Meeting Abstracts.
- Daher, A.H., Bedway, A.R., Swartz, A.K., Youmans, M., Gardner, M., Swift-Godsziz, K.L., Kowaleski, K.M., Papiez, K., Goetz, S.M., Carre, J.M., & **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Associations between subjective and endocrine stress parameters in youth during an fMRI session. Society for Neuroscience 42nd Annual Meeting Abstracts.
- Dassanayake, M.T., Alexis, M., Anderson, A.L., Shen, S., Papiez, K., Katkuri, Y., Nguyen, H., Yeo, L., Hernandez-Andrade, E., Hassan, S.S., Romero, R., & **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Functional connectivity in the fetal brain increases with gestational age. Society for Neuroscience 42nd Annual Meetings Abstracts.
- Martin, K.R., Dassanayake, M.T., Frigon, T.A., Baliff, K.P., Katkuri, Y., & **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Brain activation in youth altered when stimuli are child versus adult emotional faces. Society for Neuroscience 42nd Annual Meeting Abstracts.
- Schaffhauser, J., Baldwin, G., Lozon, T.A., Rihan, B., Quednau, K.A., Shen, S., Katkuri, Y., Goetz, S., Carre, J.M., Marusak, H.A., & **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Hippocampal to default mode network (DMN) neural connectivity corresponds to cortisol levels during MRI in youth. Society for Neuroscience 42nd Annual Meeting Abstracts.

- Seshamani, S., Fogtmann, M., **Thomason, M.E.**, & Studholme, C. (2012) Resting state analysis of function in the moving fetal brain? International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine.
- Martin, K., Shen, S., & **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Separate neural systems resolve emotional and nonemotional conflict in children. Cognitive Neuroscience Society 19th Annual Meeting Abstracts.
- Neelavalli, J., Yeo, L., Mody, S., **Thomason, M.E.**, Singh, R.B., Haacke, E. M., & Romero, R. (2012) Magnetic resonance venography of the fetal brain using susceptibility weighted imaging at 1.5T and 3.0T: Preliminary results. Inaugural Pacific Rim Congress: Ultrasound and Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Fetus.

Invited/Refereed Oral Presentations at International Meetings

- **Thomason, M.E.**, tacks, A., Beeghly, M., Pappas, A., Yeo, L., Korzeniewski, S., Romero, R. (2013) fMRI of Functional Connectivity in the Fetus presented within conference workshop: *Functional Assessment Of Brain Development In The Human Fetus*. Organization of Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA in May 2013.
- **Thomason, M.E.**, Katkuri, Y., Shen, S., Anderson, A., Alexis, M., Dassanayake, M., Jeong, J.W., Yeo, L., Mody, S., & Romero, R. (2012) Identification of the default mode network using fMRI in the human fetus. Radiological Society of North America 98th Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL in November 2012.
- **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Individual differences in state anxiety and stress reactivity alter functional brain connectivity in youth. Presented within the “Emotion Regulation Across Risk Disorders: Risk, Moderators, and Mechanisms” symposium at the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry 59th Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA in October 2012.
- **Thomason, M.E.**, Shen, S., & Carre, J.M. (2012) Endogenous cortisol during MRI scanning is associated with amygdala-mPFC connectivity in youth. Society for Neuroscience 42nd Annual Meeting, Now Orleans, LA in October 2012.

Invited Seminars and Grand Rounds

- **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) The perinatal imaging of neural connectivity (PINC) project: Functional MRI of the human fetus. University of Vermont Grand Rounds, University of Vermont on September 7, 2012.
- **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Detection of functional neural networks in the human fetal brain. Rotman Research Rounds, Rotman Research Institute on April 9, 2012.
- **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Dynamics of human functional brain development in vivo in utero. Special Seminar Series on Child Brain Development, Center for Human Growth and Development, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI on March 21, 2012.
- **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Dynamics of human functional brain development in vivo in utero. Special Seminar, Stanford Center for Cognitive and Neurobiological Imaging, Stanford University, Stanford, CA on March 15, 2012.
- **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) The establishment of brain networks in the context of typical and atypical emotional development of children. Grand Rounds, Department of Psychiatry, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI in February 2012.
- **Thomason, M.E.** (2012) Individual differences in state anxiety and stress reactivity alter functional brain connectivity in youth. Developmental Brown Bag, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI in February 2012.
- **Moriah Thomason** at Cornell University to give a talk in the department of human development and neurosciences program in February 2013.

- **Moriah Thomason** at University of Pennsylvania Seminar Series: Multivariate Analyses of the Brain in February 2013.

Other

- WSU approved the Dual-Title Degree in Education
- **Casey Dexter** defended his dissertation proposal
- Since September 1: 753 professionals were trained (26 trainings)
- Explorations Conference: 120 attended (some attended both days) , sold out with a waiting list
- **Steve Ondersma** invited presenter and panelist at University of Oslo meeting regarding challenges in technology-based interventions in the addictions
- **Steve Ondersma** invited presenter at e-Mental Health Conference in Vancouver, BC, sponsored by University of British Columbia
- **Steve Ondersma** is co-investigator on new contract submission to CDC for evaluating screening tools for drug use during pregnancy; Grace Chang (Harvard) = PI; other Co-I's include Kim Yonkers (Yale University) and Enid Watson (Institute for Health & Recovery, Boston, MA)
- **Steve Ondersma** is co-investigator and area leader on new submission to OVPR for multidisciplinary teams (Weisong Shi, Computer Science, = PI)
- **Steve Ondersma** is PI of two ongoing NIH-funded studies, Co-I on two others.
- In October, with **John Hannigan**, Anna Miller and Sharon Elliott of the College of Education, the Woodward Corridor Early Childhood Consortium, held its first annual conference for directors, teachers and assistant teachers.
- In October, **John Hannigan** was appointed to the Program Advisory Committee of the University of New Mexico's NIAAA Alcohol Research Center.

CENTER FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE AND GENETICS

- **Erin Carmany, MS, CGC** (from the Detroit Medical Center) has been appointed an Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Genetic Counseling Program. She started in July.
- **Roger Pique-Regi, PhD** (from the University of Chicago) has been appointed to the position of Assistant Professor of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and of Clinical and Translational Science (DCaTS). He started September 1st.
- **Samiran Ghosh, PhD** (from SUNY Stony Brook) will be Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health sciences and of Molecular Medicine and Genetics. Dr. Ghosh also started September 1st
- **Leonard Lipovich, PhD** was featured in WSU and local news for two groundbreaking articles highlighting results from his lab which were included in a coordinated publication released Sept. 5. Dr. Lipovich's contributions, on long non-coding ribonucleic acids, or lncRNAs, could lead to new therapeutics for cancer and other diseases. The main article about the work was the lead story in the *New York Times* and other publications.
- **Henry Heng, PhD** was recently appointed as co-Editor-in-Chief for *Molecular Cytogenetics*.
- **Yan Yuan (Jeffrey) Tseng, PhD** (from the University of Chicago) has been appointed an Assistant Professor of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Wayne State's Systems Biology of Epilepsy Project, led by **Jeffrey Loeb, MD, PhD**, Associate Director and Professor of Neurology and of Molecular Medicine and Genetics, has released three new published studies that could have a major impact on the treatment of epilepsy.

- **Gregory Kapatos, PhD**, Professor of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and of Pharmacology and **Leonard Lipovich, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and of Neurology have received the 2012 College Teaching Award in the School of Medicine.
- **Michael Tainsky, PhD**, Professor of Oncology and of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and **Derek Wildman, PhD**, Associate Professor of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and of Obstetrics and Gynecology, have received the 2012 Research Excellence Award in the School of Medicine.
- **Kezhong Zhang, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and of Immunology and Microbiology and his lab have discovered why people living in areas with higher than normal levels of air pollution are at increased risk of developing metabolic disorders such as type 2 diabetes, obesity and atherosclerosis. The study, “Exposure to ambient particulate matter induces a NASH-like phenotype and impairs hepatic glucose metabolism in an animal model,” was published online at www.sciencedirect.com, and is expected to appear in the January issue of the *Journal of Hepatology*.
- **Dumrong Mairiang, Ph.D.**, Laboratory of Russell Finley, Jr., PhD, successfully defended his thesis, “Characterization of intracellular interactions between dengue virus and host proteins,” on August 2, 2012.
- **Daochun Sun, Ph.D.**, Laboratory of Michael Tainsky, PhD, successfully defended his thesis “Identification of Transcriptional Mechanisms Downstream of Nf1 Deficiency in Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumors,” on August 8, 2012
- 3rd year GRA **Dan Radecki** (laboratory of Alexander Gow, PhD) has been invited for an oral presentation at the Society for Neuroscience meeting in New Orleans in October. He will also chair the session in which he speaks.
- **Lisa Nevell, PhD** (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Laboratory of Monica Uddin, PhD and Derek Wildman, PhD) received an American Association of Anatomists Postdoctoral Fellowship. The title of the proposal was, “Adaptive evolution of cis-regulatory regions implicated in human neuronal plasticity and in vitro over-expression in neurons”. She will receive \$20,000.00 for one year for her salary.