

JNI News

Jacobs Neurological Institute, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York Spring 08

Welcome!

Welcome to the Spring edition of the JNI News of the Jacobs Neurological Institute. The JNI provides comprehensive care for adults and children with: **multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, stroke, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's disease, and movement, neuropsychological, sleep, and cognitive disorders.** The JNI has locations in five medical facilities and the University at Buffalo.

A Note from the Chief....

Over the past few months, there have been many positive things going on at the JNI. We have added key staff to the JNI team, celebrated the opening of the new Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center and received national and international recognition for our programs and advances in research. We are glad to be able to share this exciting news with you!



If you would like to learn more about the JNI, the programs mentioned in this newsletter or the services we offer, please visit our website: www.thejni.org or call us: 913-5746.

Dr. Frederick "Rick" Munschauer, III
Chief of the Jacobs Neurological Institute

Save the Date - Jog for the Jake on June 15, 2008

The seventh annual Jog for the Jake for the Jake 5K run and family fun day will take place on **Father's**



Day, June 15th from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Delaware Park and on the Nichols School Campus. This family-oriented event is held in honor of Lawrence D. Jacobs, M.D., a researcher internationally-renowned for his advances in the treatment of multiple sclerosis. All proceeds benefit research and patient care programs at the JNI. Last year, over 2,000 people participated in the 5K, kids dash and family-friendly activities. This year promises even more fun and, of course, the incredible post-race spread. It is a great way to celebrate Father's Day with the family. For more information, please visit: www.jogforthejake.org.

JNI Physicians & Research Receive Local & International Acclaim

The JNI has been recognized both locally and internationally for its excellence in clinical care, teaching and research. Limited space prevents us from listing all of the JNI's achievements but the following are a few examples of recent honors:

- Five JNI Physicians are included in a list of the Top 101 Docs in Western New York - Drs. Richard Cowan, Patricia Duffner, Thomas Langan, Norah Lincoff and Frederick Munschauer, III.
- The Research Center for Stroke & Heart Disease was awarded nearly \$1 million to manage and expand their nationwide H.E.R. Faith Fellowship (Heart Education & Risk-reduction) program which focuses on heart disease risk reduction for minority women.
- The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) awarded Edward Fine, MD, FAAN the H. Richard Tyler Award for the History of Neurology. There were 29 presentations from JNI at the AAN annual meeting.
- The University at Buffalo's School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences presented awards for excellence in programming to all four of the accredited training programs sponsored by the Jacobs Neurological Institute. The four programs are: Adult Neurology, Child Neurology, Clinical Neurophysiology, and Vascular Neurology. Eva Tamoga scored a "hat trick plus one" as Program Coordinator for all four programs, a reflection of the enormous effort and dedication she brings to supporting the graduate medical education efforts of the JNI.
- Frederick Munschauer, III, MD was appointed to serve on the National Board of Directors of the National MS Society.
- Mary Karpinski, SPA, LMSW, the JNI's wonderful Social Worker received the MS Society's 2007 Stephen H. Kelly Award for her dedication and support to people with MS.
- The JNI had over 20 presentations in Prague, Czech Republic at 2007 ECTRIMS, one of the most prestigious global conferences dedicated to multiple sclerosis. Dr. Robert Zivadinov, Director of the Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center (BNAC), was selected to lead a session on neuroimaging at the congress.



The JNI of the University at Buffalo is a neurological center of excellence located in five medical facilities and the University at Buffalo. The administrative office is in the E2 wing of Buffalo General Hospital, 100 High St., Buffalo, NY 14203.

JNI Adds New Staff

The JNI is pleased to announce the addition of several key staff to the JNI team:



Cornelia Mihai, MD, formerly the Director of the MS Clinic at University Hospital in Syracuse, NY, joined the Baird MS Center and serves as Executive Director of the NY State Multiple Sclerosis Consortium.



On January 1, **David Hojnacki, MD** joined the team as an attending physician after completing his fellowship in MS and neuroimaging at the JNI. Dr. Hojnacki also serves as the Medical Director of the Infusion Center.



Steve Kriasiak, MBA is the JNI's new CEO. Steve has significant medical administration and financial experience and will help lead the JNI as it expands programs and services.

Neuropsychological Studies & Testing

Neuropsychology focuses on the relationship between the brain and cerebral or mental functions such as language, memory, perception and behavior. Brain injuries and neurological disorders can result in cognitive impairment. Neuropsychological assessments are performed to help determine the extent of mental or cognitive impairment and guide medical management.

Ralph Benedict, PhD, Professor of Neurology and the Neuropsychology group have developed two tests that are brief and less costly than traditional neuropsychological testing services. The Hopkins Verbal Learning Test - Revised (HVLT-R) is used to assess verbal learning and memory. The Brief Visuospatial Memory Test - Revised (BVMT-R) is used to assess visual learning and memory. These tests have excellent reliability, can be performed in clinic or bedside and are commonly used by testing programs for the National Hockey League (NHL) and the National Football League (NFL).

In addition to providing assessments and psychological and neuropsychological counseling services to people with neurological disorders, Dr. Benedict also works with athletes after brain injury or concussion. He serves as a neuropsychological consultant with the Buffalo Bandits, Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres. He performs baseline studies on the athletes during their first year and then tests them after concussions to determine the effects of the concussion and assist in the decision on whether the athletes are ready to return to play.

KAMEC Expands Educational Services

The Kenneth M. Alford Medical Education Center (KAMEC) is the medical education arm of the JNI. KAMEC specializes in interactive, on-line continuing medical education (CME, CE) programs for physicians and healthcare professionals. In recent years, KAMEC has undertaken projects for many healthcare issues including: Medicare Part D, multiple sclerosis and dementia. The programs are accredited through the University at Buffalo's Office of Continuing Medical Education. The KAMEC has expanded services to include live CME programs such as the symposia they recently conducted for nurse practitioners at the Cleveland Clinic. The KAMEC is currently developing two new programs about stroke. To learn more about KAMEC's programs, please visit: www.thejni.org and click on CME.

New Research on Functional MRIs

The JNI is expanding its research capabilities in many areas including Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI).

Jennifer Cox, PhD, Director of Experimental Scanning for the Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center (BNAC), leads the JNI's research team on Functional MRI (fMRI). Functional MRI shows what part of the brain is used for different activities such as language and movement. In an fMRI, when a particular part of the brain is used, the area lights up on the MRI due to increased blood flow and oxygen to that area of the brain. Functional MRIs help "map" the brain and are useful in pre-surgical planning to determine whether surgery in a particular area of the brain would potentially impact language, cognitive or other functions. FMRI's are performed in the new, Buffalo Niagara MRI Center located in Buffalo General Hospital. For more information on fMRI's, please contact Dr. Cox: jcox@bnac.net.

BNAC Celebrates Opening of State-of-the-Art Research Space

In September, Dr. Robert Zivadinov, Director of the Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center (BNAC) and his team celebrated the opening of their new \$10 million, state-of-the-art office and research space located in Buffalo General Hospital. The event was well-attended by community leaders and received a significant amount of press. The technologically-sophisticated equipment, research and conference area allows the BNAC to expand its internationally-recognized neuroimaging research.

