STUDENT & MENTOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As told by Dr. Karin Schon, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, who shares exciting news about the success of her GPN student (and mentee!) Michael Rosario, and her new research grants!

“My primary exciting news is that my graduate student Michael won a Health Policy Research Scholarship from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which makes him the first graduate student at BU to receive this five-year award (providing four years of very flexible funding). Michael’s research associated with this award is directly linked to my Alzheimer’s Association Research Grant (“Perceived racism as a chronic stressor and cognition in Black seniors”), which I received earlier this year in March. For this research, for which we just started recruiting participants, we will compare two groups of African Americans on their cognitive functioning. These groups differ in racial minority status (St. Croix, USVI vs. Boston, MA) and presumably in perceived racism. Given that African Americans are twice as likely as White Americans to have Alzheimer’s disease, in the future this and subsequent research may help us understand whether racism-related chronic stress contributes to health disparity.

Additional Note: Michael also received an Honorable Mention on a Ford Foundation Fellowship.

In related grant news, I just received a just-in-time information request for an R21 grant from the NIA (which received the top percentile score of 1) for a related project comparing Black and White Americans on neuroimaging outcome measures. The grant title is “Psychosocial stressors and the hippocampal memory system in African American seniors”. Again, the primary psychosocial stressor we are interested in is racism/discrimination related chronic stress. Michael will also be the primary graduate student on this grant. I’ve also received a small one-year pilot grant this past summer from BU’s Alzheimer’s Disease Center to examine a similar question in their participant cohort, which in the future will allow us to follow participants longitudinally to then directly test the contribution of racism-related chronic stress to Alzheimer’s disease (grant title: “Impact of psychosocial stress on hippocampal integrity in the HOPE cohort: a pilot study”).

Michael Rosario

Dr. Karin Schon
MENTOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

Congratulations again to Professor Mike Hasselmo on his election this year to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences!

Congratulations to Hengye Man on his promotion to Full Professor!

A big welcome to our new Administrative Coordinator Nazifa Haque and the beginnings of our Monday afternoon teas in the South End.
Awards!

Janis Intoy was awarded an NIH NRSA Fellowship (F31) this past September for her project titled “Function of Fixational Eye Movements for Fine Depth Perception”.

Publications!

More Publications!


CONTINUED...
Congratulations to our GPN students who passed their Qualifying Exams this year!

Scott Bressler  
Marek Kowalski  
Shen Ning  
Byron Price  
Patricia Rein  
Sema Quadir (honorary member)

Samantha Shelton  
Elizabeth Spencer  
Louis Vinke  
Gregory Wirak  
Kimberly Young


SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018!

GPN Students and their Mentors presenting this year at Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA

Thanks to all of our students who helped to recruit the next class at the Graduate Student Fair... you are the heartbeat of our program!
MEMORIES OF OUR GPN HOLIDAY PARTY!

Congratulations to all of our GPN students and faculty as this has been an amazing year. Good luck to everyone on their way to graduation!
Winter in Boston

Looking for fun activities to do? Click here to find out about student discounts, including free admissions to museums!
Have a wonderful holiday and winter season!

OR are you waiting for summer like Sparkle!

Make sure to log in your accomplishments with GPN to post for next semester’s 2019 newsletter and look out for more announcements via Neurodome.