Seven Faculty Named Spivack Scholars

I am pleased to announce that Lindsay Farrer, PhD, is the recipient of the Jack Spivack Excellence in Neurosciences Awards for 2015. Mr. Spivack established this award in 2013 to recognize and support the research of an outstanding BUSM faculty conducting either clinical or basic research in Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy and other neurological disorders. Dr. Farrer is a professor of Medicine, Neurology and Ophthalmology, and chief of the Biomedical Genetics Section of the Department of Medicine. He also is a professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the BU School of Public Health and directs the BU Transformative Training Program in Addiction Science and the BU Molecular Genetics Core Facility. Dr. Farrer is a Founding Fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) and a project director for the Multi-Institutional Research in Alzheimer's Genetic Epidemiology (MIRAGE) study. He co-directs analysis for the Alzheimer Disease Genetics Consortium, and serves on the executive committee of the Alzheimer Disease Sequencing Project. He has more than 350 publications on genetic risk factors for several neurodegenerative and other chronic diseases. In collaboration with laboratories worldwide, Dr. Farrer has identified genes causing complex disorders including Alzheimer disease, age-related macular degeneration, and substance dependence.

It's also a pleasure to announce six Junior Faculty Spivack Scholars including:

Camron Bryant, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics and Psychiatry, whose work focuses on determining the genetic basis of behavioral and molecular traits relevant to substance dependence in mice to improve understanding of the neurobiological mechanisms of addiction and to translate these findings into treatment and prevention strategies in humans.

Chris Gabel, PhD, assistant professor in the departments of Physiology & Biophysics and Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics and a member of the BU Photonics Center, studies how individual neurons and small neuronal circuits regenerate. He uses advanced imaging and laser surgery techniques to discover the genetic, molecular and physiological pathways that

enable neurons to regrow after physical damage, answering fundamental questions pertaining to the treatment of spinal cord injury and neurological diseases.

Narayanan 'Bobby' Kasthuri, MD, DPhil, assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology. His research focuses on mapping the neuronal connections of the brain to understand intelligence, memory and mental disorders.

Jesse Mez, MD, assistant professor of Neurology is the associate director of the BU Alzheimer's Disease Center (ADC) Clinical Core and an associate editor for the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.* His research focuses on the application of statistical genetics and genetic epidemiology to various forms of dementia. He particularly studies the role of genetic and non-genetic factors in atypical clinical presentations of AD, and how the interaction of genetic factors and trauma influence dementia risk. He also leads the clinical program of Dr. Ann McKee's NIH-funded UNITE study, which examines clinicopathologic correlation of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

Karin Schon, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology is the director of the Brain Plasticity and Neuroimaging Laboratory. She is a faculty member of the BU Alzheimer's Disease Center and has joint programmatic appointment in the undergraduate neuroscience program and Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and Center for Memory and Brain. Dr. Schon studies the role of aerobic exercise as a modulator of cognitive function and brain health in aging and Alzheimer's disease.

Jeffrey Spielberg, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry (Psychology) and associate director of Neuroimaging Analysis Development in the *Neuroimaging Research for Veterans Center* and principal investigator of the *Motivation & Executive Function in Trauma & Anxiety lab*, both located at VA Boston Healthcare System. Dr. Spielberg studies how brain networks become disturbed in individuals who are exposed to traumatic events and who develop anxiety, e.g., mild Traumatic Brain Injury, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.

Please join me in congratulating these colleagues on receiving this recognition.