A breakthrough in pancreatic cancer research

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most deadly forms of cancer, with a five-year survival rate of only 9%. There are currently no targeted treatments for the disease, at least in part because the disease is so difficult to model in the lab, and therefore hard for researchers to study.

Now, a team of scientists led by Dr. David Tavazoie, CSILH Professor and Institute for Global Public Health Director of Research, has developed a way to grow human and cancerous pancreatic cells in the laboratory. This "3D cell culture system" enables scientists to accurately model pancreatic cancer — a great leap forward for research. The breakthrough could be the first step in the development of a treatment for pancreatic cancer.

High-resolution brain imaging links neural activity and behavior

Scientists worldwide are working to understand the neural connections that underlie thought, cognition, and emotion. But they have been challenged by low-resolution imaging techniques, which generally offer fuzzy images of neural activity. This year, CSILH Associate Professor Pavel Osten and colleagues have developed a powerful new method to detect the activity of individual neurons throughout the mouse brain. The technology allows researchers to see how activity changes during specific behaviors, or that a similar technology could be useful in figuring out some of what goes wrong in disorders like autism and schizophrenia in which social interaction is impaired. Read more.

Angel's Wish Gala supports CSILH research

On January 16th The Christina Renna Foundation hosted its 8th annual Angel's Wish Gala to raise money to support research and awareness of the brain cancer fibrinogenoma. The Foundation's president, Phil Renna of CSILH, presented the Laboratory with a check for $30,000. It will fund a new Sarcoma Research Project, a targeted effort to understand this group of rare and often fatal cancers. CSILH Associate Professor Chris Yakacki is launching the project, in collaboration with Oregon Health and Science University Professor Charles Keller.

New insights into SMA suggest alternative path for treatment

Spiral muscular atrophy (SMA), a devastating motor neuron disease with no approved treatment, is the leading genetic cause of infant death. Over the last few years, CSILH Professor Adrian Kraner's lab has developed a drug, now in Phase 3 clinical trials. In current protocols, the drug is administered into the cerebrospinal fluid of infants, but new work from Kraner's lab suggests that, at least in mouse models, less onerous subcutaneous injection is just as effective. The work has implications for researchers and clinicians to develop optimal treatment strategies for SMA. Read more.

In the News

The protein at the end of the tunnel

Winter 2015

Daily Mail.com

Fear reminiscent: Scientists discover exactly where anxiety resides in the brain.

January 19, 2015

TUESDAY DECEMBER 22

CSILH is a Salone nonsimilar, nonhuman site of those of modern humans.

January 14, 2015

U Lab creates cell-size weapon in pancreatic cancer fight

January 14, 2015

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How does the nose know what odors are and what they mean?

January 13, 2015

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Your last moments may be imprinted on your brain after death

January 6, 2015

Reliving 2014's scientific discoveries

January 2, 2015

The Scientist

May the best bud win

January 1, 2015

In Quodis

Research Assistant Professor Michael Ronovas in The Globe and Mail. Study of plants with autism reveals promising results.

January 26, 2015

Postdoctoral fellow Hillary Schiff in The Village Voice. Are New York City's new rats really anemic? Can I really eat Chinese food?

January 26, 2015

CSILH President Bruce Stillman in Scientific American: first of cancer-repairing human stem cells to reach clinical trials.

January 5, 2016

Upcoming Events


March 6

25th Anniversary Events

Come Celebrate.

Stay Connected

Celebrating our 25th anniversary in 2015, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) has shaped contemporary biomedical research and education with programs in cancer, neuroscience, plant biology and quantitative biology, home to eight Nobel Prize winners, the private, not-for-profit Laboratory is more than 600 researchers and technicians strong. The Meetings & Courses Program hosts more than 20,000 scientists from around the world each year on its campuses in Long Island and in Sudbury, Ontario. The Laboratory's education also includes an acclaimed publishing house, a graduate school and programs for middle and high school students and teachers. For more information, visit www.cshl.edu