

February 2016 Newsletter

Introducing . . .

Our Vision and Mission

As part of the startup of the Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging (KIHA), Executive Director Lotta Granholm and the Knoebel Institute Strategic Planning Group have been hard at work on a business plan. The group meets monthly. As a result of the collaborative brainstorming process, the group agreed on the following Vision and Mission statements for our innovative Institute.

VISION: Quality in Life, Wellness, and Community

MISSION: The Institute creates and implements solutions for aging issues through multidisciplinary research, education and outreach. The Institute collaborates with other academic institutions, corporations, NGOs, government, philanthropic partners, healthcare providers, and policy makers to develop new solutions to complex problems involving aging. KIHA serves as an information clearinghouse for media on matters related to aging. KIHA educates and trains a diverse workforce to serve a rapidly aging population. KIHA promotes innovation, research and business development related to aging.

BRAIN ROUNDS: Monthly Lectures in Translational Science



Organizer: Kim Gorgens (Kimberly.Gorgens@du.edu)

Location: Ruffato Hall Commons

February 10, 2016 | Noon-1 pm | Lotta Granholm, PhD (pictured at left)

Brain Rounds in February featured the Knoebel Institute's Lotta Granholm, who presented her research on Down syndrome (DS). The audience consisted of attendees from the university as well as residents of Clermont, a local retirement community. DS is the most common genetic condition, with about 1 in 700 babies born in the US. People with DS have increased their life span significantly the last couple of decades and now live well into their 60s and 70s. Because of several genes located on the human chromosome 21, which is triplicated in DS, those with DS exhibit Alzheimer's disease pathology already in their 20s, and are highly susceptible to dementia later in life. Her talk focused on data obtained from mouse models of DS as well as humans with DS. She also discussed potential treatment strategies and biological mechanisms.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming lectures:

March 30, 2016 | Noon-1 pm | Michael Pearlman, M.D., PhD

April 20, 2016 | Noon-1 pm | Dan Linesman, PhD

As usual, the Farm to Truck food truck will be onsite from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm.

Do you have creative students who want to win \$500*?

Share this announcement with your students! They can submit a logo, which may be used for events, signage, and social media.** The winner receives \$500 prize and an opportunity for global industry recognition. Runners up receive prizes as well.

Guidelines are: 1. Logo should reflect the vision: **Quality in Life, Wellness, and Community**. Design requirements: minimum print size 1.5 inches|online 100 pixels. Submission deadline: **March 1, 2016**. Students should submit their logo to: Aging@DU.edu

We will announce the winner in April at our first student event.

* *This award is taxable and may affect financial aid and/or scholarship.*

** *We reserve the right to work with the winning design as the logo will have to conform to DU standards for logos/design.*

Update on Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging received 15 intramural pilot research proposals in the area of aging research on January 15, 2016. The Institute has \$150,000 available to fund three or four outstanding submissions. Members of the Institute's Strategic Planning Committee are now reviewing the RFPs on merit and likelihood of funding and/or scientific impact. We will announce the winners in April 2015 at our first student event. Stay tuned!

Progress on the New Building



Biology Students interview patients for a project with CNI

Colorado Neurological Institute (CNI), a nonprofit neuroscience organization, has provided research, patient services, and education for persons with neurological conditions and their caregivers since 1988. CNI has 60 MDs, four PhDs, and eight nurse practitioners who are associates of CNI. In September of 2014, CNI approached DU to see if there was a way to become more involved with DU and to work closely with DU's faculty and staff on research, education, and community service initiatives. This collaboration has resulted in several grants between CNI and DU investigators, one pending patent application, and a steadily increasing group of DU students who are currently in internships with CNI-related clinics. The partnership is now formalized with a Memorandum of Understanding, and has resulted in Brain Rounds, a cooperative Lecture Series (see page 1).

Dr. Daniel Linseman, an associate professor in the Biology department at the University of Denver, is conducting a clinical study at Colorado Neurological Institute entitled *Use of Supplements and Medications in Patients with ALS*. Several graduate students have been involved in interviewing patients in order to collect data for analysis and use in a larger clinical trial of a potential therapeutic agent for ALS. These students include Noelle Punessen and Liz Ignowski.

Meet Our Strategic Planning Group Members

The Institute would like to thank the members of our Strategic Planning Group, who have worked hard during the last several months to create the Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals for the Institute. Our members represent our multi-disciplinary approach to aging.

Lotta Granholm-Bentley, Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging

Bradley Davidson, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Kim Gorgens, Clinical Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Professional Psychology & founding Executive Director of the Center for Professional Development

David Greenburg, Institutional Partnerships

Shannon Grey, Center for Professional Development

Leslie Hasche, Graduate School of Social Work

Patty Hickman, University of Denver Career Center

Karen Krupar, retired communications PhD

Corinne Lengsfeld, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Dan Linseman, Eleanor Roosevelt Institute

Nancy Lorenzon, Department of Biological Sciences | Pre-Professional/Allied Health Advising | Undergraduate Research Center | Professional Science Master's in Biomedical Sciences

program

Martin Margittai, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Mike McCall, Office of University Advancement

Cynthia McRae, Morgridge College of Education

David Patterson, Eleanor Roosevelt Institute

Lynn Taussig, Office of the Provost

World-renowned medical research institute selects DU's Granholm as guest professor

Lotta Granholm, executive director for DU's Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging, recently received a three-year appointment as a guest professor in neurosciences at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. One of the largest and most prestigious medical universities in the world, Karolinska is the premier research institute in Sweden and the university that gives out the Nobel Prize in Medicine (official name: Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology). The institute installed new guest professors at a ceremony in October, along with new full-time and adjunct professors. Granholm received her PhD in neurobiology from the Karolinska Institute.



Granholm (standing, in middle) at the Karolinska Institute installation ceremony in Stockholm.

Attend a Biology Seminar

The Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging invites you to attend a Biology Seminar!

Who: Marisco Scholar Barbara Shukitt-Hale from Research Center on Aging Tufts University

Date: Monday, February 22, 2016

Time: 2:00p.m. Boettcher West 254

Title: Food for Thought: Nutrition and the Aging Brain

Our Faculty and Staff



Lotta Granholm-Bentley, PhD, DDS

Executive Director

Lotta.Granholm-Bentley@du.edu

303.871.2366 office

843.670.7891 cell



Mary B. Cullen

Coordinator

Mary.Cullen@du.edu

303.871.2362 office

CONTACT US!

We would love to hear from you!

Email: Aging@DU.edu

Phone: 303.871.2362

