SPIRIT Newsletter

Volume 3/Issue 3
September 2021

The Southern New England Partnership in Stroke Research, Innovation and Treatment

NIH StrokeNet
Prevention | Treatment | Recovery
Funded by a Grant from the National Institutes of Health

Don't Miss the
STROKE NET SPIRIT CONFERENCE!

- Keynote Speaker Joseph Broderick, MD, Director of the National Coordinating Center for StrokeNet, discussing the future of the network
- Richard T. Benson, MD, PhD, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH, discussing Diversity and Equity in Recruitment
- PIs from six of the National StrokeNet Trials discussing topics such as idea conception to clinical trial, best practices, and specific challenges!

Scheduled: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021 | Zoom | 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. EST

Conference Flyer
Conference Agenda
Enrollment Firsts at North Shore!

First ASPIRE Enrollment
CONGRATULATIONS to Site PI Dr. Tania Rabeiz, Primary Study Coordinator Melinda Harbhajan, and Secondary Study Coordinator Sarah Nazir at North Shore University Hospital for their first ASPIRE enrollment in August!

First ARCADIA-CSI Enrollment
KUDOS for the first ARCADIA-CSI enrollment at North Shore University Hospital in August to Site PI Dr. Jeffrey Katz, Primary Study Coordinator Kirendra Pasram, and Secondary Study Coordinators Emma Grace Lao, Charell Brinkley, and Sneh Munder!
Clinical Trial Enrollment Updates:

- ARCADIA
  - Yale - 60 consented, 9 randomized
  - North Shore - 16 consented, 5 randomized
  - Rhode Island - 38 consented, 6 randomized
  - Hartford Hospital - 17 consented, 3 randomized
  - Lenox Hill Hospital - 10 consented, 1 randomized
- SLEEPSMART
  - Yale - 21 consented, 9 randomized
  - North Shore - 46 consented, 16 randomized
  - Hartford Hospital - 9 consented, 2 randomized
  - Staten Island - 6 consented
- MOST
  - Yale - 11
  - North Shore - 1
- ARCADIA-CSI
  - Yale - 2
  - Hartford - 3
  - Rhode Island - 2
  - North Shore - 1
- I-ACQUIRE
  - Yale - 3; Rhode Island site - 1
- ASPIRE
  - Yale - 6 consented, 3 randomized
  - Hartford - 0
  - Rhode Island - 0
  - North Shore - 1 consented, 1 randomized
- SATURN
  - Hartford - 3
  - Yale - 2
  - Rhode Island - 2
  - North Shore - 0
SPIRIT RCC Total Enrollments by Centers, 7/1/18 to 9/16/21

- Yale
- Northwell
- Hartford
- Rhode Island

Legend:
- ARCADIA
- ARCADIA-CSI
- MOST
- Sleep SMART
- I-ACQUIRE
- ASPIRE
- SATURN
PI & Coordinator Spotlight: Dr. Yan Hou & Research Coordinator Reena Patel

Three Cheers for Dr. Yan Hou and Coordinators Reena Patel and Laura Grenier for the 3rd Saturn enrollment at Hartford Hospital! BRAVO!!

Fellow Introductions - More in the next issue!

FRANSISCA INDRASWARI, MD
BROWN/LIFESPAN

- Where are you from/where were you raised: Jakarta, Indonesia
- Undergraduate: B.Sc in Life Sciences, National University of Singapore (NUS)
- Medical training: M.D., Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore
- Residency: George Washington University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C. (Neurology), Preliminary internal medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY.
- Research interests: stroke imaging, intraparenchymal hemorrhage.
NAVDEEP LAIL, MBBS, MD  
BROWN/LIFESPAN

- Where are you from/where were you raised: Born in Punjab, India  
- Medical training: Government Medical College, Amritsar  
- Residency: Jacobs School of Biomedical Sciences of State University of New York at Buffalo, NY  
- Other fellowships: Vascular Neurology at RIH-Brown University  
- Research interests: Primary and Secondary prevention of stroke, anticoagulation, neuroprotection

MONA AL BANNA, MD  
YALE

- Where are you from/where were you raised: From Bahrain, raised in Bahrain. Moved to the U.S. for residency  
- Medical training: Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Medical University of Bahrain  
- Residency: University of Minnesota  
- Research interests: stroke systems of care, stroke epidemiology, CNS vasculitis, PFO, cryogenic stroke
TENG PENG, MD
YALE

- **Where are you from/where were you raised:** Mexico City, Mexico
- **Undergraduate:** Boston University
- **Medical training:** Boston University School of Medicine
- **Residency:** Yale New Haven Hospital
- **Research interests:** cerebral autoregulation in stroke and ICH, post-stroke hyperglycemia, angiography
SPIRIT Fellowship Collaborative

On 7/13/21, Dr. Rohan Arora of Northwell and Dr. Kevin Sheth of Yale welcomed the new vascular neurology/stroke and neurocritical care fellows across the SPIRIT sites in a kick-off SPIRIT Fellowship Collaborative meeting. The hopes for holding these meetings are that they will allow fellows across SPIRIT sites to connect with faculty and with each other, facilitate training in research and clinical trials, and support clinical trial enrollments. Overview of the meeting:

- Fellows introduced themselves - Download the full meeting PowerPoint slides.
- Great opportunity for trainees to be involved with the NIH StrokeNet clinical trials
  - Provide opportunities to network and find mentors across the network
    - Zoom allows the chance for fellows to reach out to others in your class, and to brainstorm about ideas across sites.
  - Autonomy in the identification of and enrollment of patients
  - Learn about:
    - Goals of the trials
    - Departmental funding and grants
  - Work closely with study PIs, research coordinators, and staff
  - Envision your own participation in trials as a researcher
  - Enhance your career
    - In-depth knowledge overall about research
    - How standard of care shifts with new information gathered over time
- Experiences working with clinical trials, shared by Vishal Gupta, MD, who just completed his fellowship at Northwell.
  - What it means to be an academic neurologist
    - Working real-time on trials
    - Learn more about medicine advancements
  - Builds confidence
    - Learn the specifics of conducting research/trials
    - Sit and discuss this work with experienced clinicians/attendings
    - Not intimidated by research: understand how research becomes standard of care
  - Leadership enhanced by the enrollment process
    - Developing communication style by building rapport with patients
    - Talking with other neurologists
    - Building an understanding of the specifics of the trials

A second meeting was held on 9/14/21, where recruitment ideas were shared.

- An email will be going out, asking when would be a good time to meet going forward?

Don’t forget! - 1 p.m. EST, during the SPIRIT Conference on Wednesday, 10/6/21 - Attend the informal chat between K-awardees/junior faculty/fellows & Richard T. Benson, MD, PhD, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH.
**SPIRIT Featured Publications**


Ice Cream for 10 MOST Enrollments
It's a Team Effort!

Congratulations to Team Yale for reaching 10 enrollments in MOST! Team members recently enjoyed Graeter's ice cream sent by National! Pictured from left: Lauren Toft (resident), Anisha Garg (resident), Hanya Qureshi (med student), Teng Peng (fellow), Duong "Izzy" Chu (resident), Milo White (resident), Adam Jasne (site PI), Mary Ann Harmon (Stroke APRN); not pictured: current coordinator Kate Meurer and former coordinator Alex Soto.

Research Update

Rachel Forman, MD from Yale New Haven Hospital is the SPIRIT StrokeNet Fellow for 2021-2022. This year, she is evaluating the characteristics of stroke patients who participate in home blood pressure monitoring and identifying existing testing barriers to help guide future interventions.
**Free Webinar on 9/29/21, 1 p.m.: Improving Retention in Clinical Trials Research**

**UCONN CENTER FOR MHEALTH AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

*Improving Retention in Clinical Trials Research* with Danielle Jake-Schoffman, PhD and Sherry Pagoto, PhD on Wednesday, September 29 at 1 p.m. EST. Drs. Jake-Schoffman and Pagoto will discuss steps we can take to encourage greater participant involvement through follow-up assessments, including innovative procedures implemented pre-enrollment. [Registration] required.

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**Sara Jasak, Yale Stroke and Neuro ICU Clinical Research Nurse Manager, to run the 125th Boston Marathon**

Sara Jasak is up to running between 22-33 miles on average a week to be ready for the full 26.2 on 10/11/21! She is the Clinical Research Nurse Manager for Yale and a former neurology clinical research coordinator for Hartford Hospital. She will run as part of Tedy's Team, which was founded in 2005 when Tedy Bruschi, former linebacker for the New England Patriots, suffered a stroke shortly after winning his third Super Bowl. The mission of Tedy's Team is to raise awareness of stroke and heart disease while supporting survivors on their journey, giving them a means for a comeback! Check out [Sara's fundraising page](#).
Happy Fall!

Thank you for all your efforts!