ENERGETICS AND AGING: MITOCHONDRIA DO IT
THE 2019 SYLVAN M. COHEN ANNUAL RETREAT AND POSTER SESSION

On Wednesday, May 1, 2019, the Institute on Aging (IOA) hosted their annual Sylvan M. Cohen Retreat and Poster Session with co-sponsor, the Center for Mitochondrial and Epigenomic Medicine (CMEM), Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

This theme of this year's retreat was "Energetics and Aging: Mitochondria Do It" which included talks from two keynote speakers, Richard J. Youle, PhD, Senior Investigator at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), NIH, and Robert Balaban, PhD, Senior Investigator at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH, as well as the Penn Presenter, Liming Pei, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

With 166 attendees and nearly 50 posters, the event proved to be another great success.

Find more, including poster presenter interviews at www.penninstituteonaging.wordpress.com
The Alzheimer’s Association Delaware Valley Chapter recently awarded five University of Pennsylvania researchers with grants from their International Research Grant Program, totaling nearly $790,000.

According to the announcement in the Philadelphia Inquirer (www.inquirer.com), the funds will support:

- A small ceremony on Penn’s campus.
- PhD research on brain processing speed and memory.
- The important work of the International OCD Foundation (IOC).
- The financial support for Dr. Mechanic-Hamilton to develop and validate a mobile cognitive assessment tool using digital games to measure cognitive skills, brain processing speed, and memory.
- The study of how problems with the protein Aβ may affect learning and memory in people with Alzheimer’s disease.
- The study of how damaged nerve cells lose a brain volume and deminished cognitive functioning.
- The study of specific aspects of Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

Many patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma (RCC), or kidney cancer, are seeing overall survival benefits from treatment with targeted therapies, according to a new study from Penn Medicine researchers. As stated in the Penn Medicine News Release, “analyzing 13 years of data on Medicare patients, the study found that the patients who received targeted therapies were more medically complex than those who received the older, more toxic treatments that were available earlier in the study period, indicating that newer treatments are offering hope to more people.”

In the past, clinical trials looking at these therapies often excluded sicker patients and those over the age of 65, leaving a gap in knowledge about the effectiveness of newer versus older treatments in the sick and elderly population. The study also found that targeted therapies offered moderate survival benefits as compared to older treatments, even though as a whole, the targeted therapy treatment group was vulnerable to worse outcomes.

“Treatment decisions involve weighing potential risks, benefits, and costs of treatment as well as quality-of-life considerations, which may vary from person to person depending on their medical situation and preferences,” said Penn Medicine’s Amy R. Petitt, PhD, adjunct fellow at the Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives. “Good communication between patients and their treatment teams is essential, and knowing more about real-world outcomes can help with these discussions.”

"My goal as a member of the EAB is to gather and disseminate information about the important work of the IOA and CNDR in order to increase the financial support for Drs. Trojanowski and Lee’s award-winning research."  

Learn more about David and meet the rest of our IOA External Advisory Board (EAB) Members at: www.med.upenn.edu/aging
The mission of the Institute on Aging (IOA) at the University of Pennsylvania is to improve the health of older adults by increasing the quality and quantity of clinical and basic research as well as educational programs focusing on normal aging and aging-related diseases across the entire Penn campus.

www.med.upenn.edu/aging | 215-898-7801 | aging@pennmedicine.upenn.edu