

NIH awards Brown \$11.5M for computational biology research

Brown University will launch a Center for Biomedical Research Excellence in Computational Biology of Human Disease to expand its research using sophisticated computer analyses to understand and fight human diseases.

PROVIDENCE — With a new five-year, \$11.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, Brown University will expand its research in computational biology and launch a new Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE), which will support five early career faculty members as they tackle the genomics underlying diseases such as cancer, preeclampsia and severe lung infections.

“There’s data and then there’s information,” said **DAVID RAND**, director of the new center and chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB). “Turning data into information you can use for something is what computational biology is all about.”

The new center will bring together diverse teams of researchers to generate new insights to advance medicine and health, said **DAVID SAVITZ**, Brown’s vice president for research.

“Brown scientists and students from a number of departments around the University – from computer science and applied mathematics to biology, medicine and public health – have been working collaboratively to understand and realize the benefits of advanced genomics,” said Savitz, who is also a professor in the School of Public Health. “This new COBRE will expand those programs to help move Brown to the forefront of this exciting, promising field of research.” ❖



South County Health opens Medical & Wellness Center in Westerly

WESTERLY – After three years in planning and construction, the South County Health Medical & Wellness Center in Westerly welcomed its first patients May 23.

The 32,000 square foot Center, located at 268 Post Rd. (Rt. 1) in Westerly, is home to more than a dozen medical services, including primary care physicians, OB/GYNs, dermatologists, orthopedic surgeons, cardiologists, podiatrists, a general surgeon, diabetes management, urgent/walk-in care, lab, x-ray, ultrasound, and 3-D mammography among the array of services available.

The urgent/walk-in center is open seven days a week. ❖

Fatima opens Long-Term Behavioral Health Unit

Will assist with state waiting list

PROVIDENCE – CharterCARE Health Partners and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital recently opened a Long-Term Behavioral Health Unit, where beds will be immediately available to patients on the waiting lists for long-term psychiatric care at the state’s Eleanor Slater Hospital.

The new 20-bed unit offers the following:

- Dedicated open community spaces;
- Several acres of outdoor space for walking;
- An evidence-based care model that offers a variety of individual, family, and group modules, and that incorporates principles of rehabilitation and recovery;
- The opportunity for patients to develop positive coping and daily living skills that will enhance patient autonomy and individual decision-making;
- A multi-disciplinary team with Psychiatry, Nursing, CNAs, Licensed clinicians, Milieu Therapists, and Occupational Therapists who routinely receive training for best practices in the treatment of patients on the new long-term unit.

REBECCA PLONSKY, LICSW, CharterCARE Vice President of Integrated Behavioral Health, worked in partnership with the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Disabilities and Hospitals, and the Rhode Island Department of Health to reach the agreement to create the dedicated long-term unit. ❖