

FALL 2022

# NeuroNExT

from the Departments of Neurological Sciences & Neurosurgery

## Transforming Lives

The Fall 2022 *NeuroNExT* issue highlights our staff — clinicians, researchers, students and administrators — working together to advance care, education and scientific discovery, to improve the health of the patients, families and communities we serve.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored urgent needs for critical care, in our era, where hospitals are full and patients ever sicker. This echoes the challenges to our forebears, fighting to save the lives of patients struck down by the polio epidemic of the 1950s. In 2002, neurologists formed the Neurocritical Care Society. At UNMC, Amol Patil, MD, and native Nebraskan Daryl Gress, MD, a pioneer and leader in intensive care neurology, have built a “One of a kind Neurocritical Care Unit Nebraska,” as UNMC Strategic Communications reports herein.

Progress in understanding and treating viral infections reaches beyond the SARS/COV-2 COVID culprit. Rana Zabad, MD, Nebraska Medicine neurologist explains why some viral infections lead to neurological conditions and updates us on the relationship between Epstein-Barr virus and multiple sclerosis.

Most of us have experienced a headache — some mild, some debilitating migraines. Assistant Professor Peter Soh, MD, MPH, wants to fix that. The new Headache Clinic, led by Dr. Soh, will expand access to

care for those patients suffering complex headache disorders. Dr. Soh hopes that a multidisciplinary approach will provide relief for patients and better management skills for health care providers.

Patient care is local, national and international and must endure in times of peace and conflagration, as in Ukraine and too many other places. Olga Taraschenko, MD, PhD, and experts from six nations published the International Consensus recommendations for management of New Onset Refractory Status Epilepticus (NORSE) in the leading epilepsy journal *Epilepsia*. Dr. Taraschenko and colleagues hope to change the trajectory of this incapacitating disease in adults and children. We also congratulate Dr. Taraschenko on her Nebraska State Stem Cell Research grant to visualize stem cells noninvasively in the brain of patients with autoimmune encephalitis and cognitive failure.

Academic excellence is an enduring mission at UNMC, no better embodied by Dr. Howard Fox, MD, PhD, who received the University of Nebraska System Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award.

*cont. on pg. 2*

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Moving any research along from discovery to cures involves not only basic and translational science but also approvals by federal agencies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). More than 100 million people in the US have brain disorders. The cost of patient care in the US is enormous — exceeding \$1.5 trillion annually. The American Brain Coalition (ABC), led by Dr. Matthew Rizzo, wants to address the critical unmet needs for treatment and cures for brain disorders. Dr. Rizzo and ABC met with FDA Commissioner Robert Califf on building a Neuroscience Center of Excellence within the FDA.

Engaging all who are affected or can affect neuroscience research and care was the goal of the exploratory meeting convened by the Committee on Science, Technology and Law

of the National Academy of Science, Medicine and Technology. Dr. Rizzo presented on the strategies and structures for engaging diverse stakeholders.

Throughout this issue, we salute a number of faculty members and health care providers on their recent awards, career development and memberships.

As you read about the hard work of our staff for the patients and families we serve, know that we found time to refresh ourselves with music and gatherings so that we are ready to continue our mission of transforming lives to create a healthy future for all individuals and communities through premier educational programs, innovative research and extraordinary patient care.



Matthew Rizzo, MD, FAAN  
*Frances & Edgar Reynolds Chair  
Professor, Department of  
Neurological Sciences*



Aviva Abosch, MD, PhD  
*Nancy A. Keegan & Donald R.  
Voelte, Jr. Chair  
Professor, Department of  
Neurosurgery*



Howard Fox, MD, PhD  
*Senior Associate Dean, Research &  
Development, College of Medicine  
Professor, Department of  
Neurological Sciences*

# Welcome New Faculty!



Kuan-Hua Chen, PhD, MS  
Assistant Professor, Research

**Three things people may not know about me:**

1. In high school, my career goal was to become a musician. Now I enjoy playing and listening to classical and jazz music.
2. I enjoy cooking. I developed serious

Western and Eastern cooking skills over the pandemic shelter in place.

3. I play basketball. I never become competitive in it but really enjoy playing with friends on the court.

**Research Interests:**

- Affective Science: Emotions and Behaviors, Social Interactions and Relationship, Longitudinal Mental Health Change
- Aging: Dementia, Parkinson's Disease, Family Caregiving, Healthy Aging
- Observational Method: Psychophysiology, Neurophysiology, Naturalistic and Technology-based Research



Kati Cordts, PhD  
Chief Scientific Administrator,  
Great Plains IDEa-CTR  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Neurological Sciences

**Three things people may not know about me:**

1. As a native Nebraskan, I am a die-hard Husker fan. After graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I completed my graduate training in Lawrence, Kan. My husband is from Kansas, so we also cheer for the University of Kansas Jayhawks. Rock Chalk and Go Big Red!
2. I love memes and do my best to include them in emails as appropriate. If you have a favorite, please send it my way! I keep a file of my favorites on my desktop for easy access.
3. Another "hat" I wear at UNMC is associate director of education and training for the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN).

I am a licensed psychologist and with a PhD in clinical child psychology. I will be serving as the new chief scientific administrator (CSA) for the Great Plains IDEa-CTR with a faculty appointment as assistant professor of neurological sciences. As the CSA, I hope to continue to build on the wonderful collaborations that have been formed by the GP IDEa-CTR. I will be looking for new ways to expand its reach and increase researcher pipelines by promoting new pathways for undergraduate and graduate students across our educational partner institutions.



Peng Zhong, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Systems  
Neuroscience

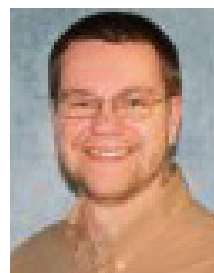
**Three things people may not know about me:**

1. I am a sleeper.
2. I am a sports fan.
3. I am a fan of Green Bay Packers football, Houston Rockets basketball and San Francisco Giants baseball.

**Research Interests:** Insufficient sleep can have devastating health consequences. Even acute sleep deprivation impairs cognitive performance, and chronic sleep deprivation suppresses immune functions and contributes to diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases. Sleep disturbances are linked to multiple neuropsychiatric disorders, including anxiety, depression and attention deficit disorder; it is also a common symptom among Alzheimer's patients, with sleep disruption thought to contribute to disease progression.

My research program aims to unravel the neural underpinnings of causal relationship between sleep disturbance and these brain disorders with the goal of learning how to repair the diseased nervous systems. Taking advantage of multiple state-of-the-art techniques (e.g., gene profiling, virus-mediated circuit tracing, in vivo calcium imaging/optrode recording, ex vivo patch clamp recording, optogenetic/chemogenetic manipulation and gene manipulation), we plan to take a multifaceted but integrated experimental approach for interrogating the neural circuits controlling sleep and studying the pathophysiology of sleep circuits in the generation of sleep disorders and neuropsychiatric/neurodegenerative disorders.

## New Neuropsychology Fellow



Nick Kavish, PhD

**Three things people may not know about me:**

1. My spouse and I are native Midwesterners (I'm from Illinois and Shannon is from Iowa), so we're very excited to be back in the region
2. I am a big sports fan, especially soccer
3. We love to try new restaurants, so everyone's recommendations are very welcome!

**Research Interests:** Social cognition in neurologic conditions and psychometrics of neuropsychological measures.



# Neurocritical Care Unit

## is one of a kind in Nebraska

by John Keenan, UNMC Strategic Communications

Although the early beginnings of neurocritical care date from the poliomyelitis epidemics in 1950s and 1960s, it was not until the 1980s and 1990s that neurologists started to round in intensive care units and in 2002 the Neurocritical Care Society was founded.

At UNMC, it wasn't until 2014 that Amol Patil, MD — a critical care medicine-trained intensivist with specific interest in critical care neurology decided the medical center needed to form a separate unit to care for neurocritical care patients. And only a year later, Daryl Gress, MD, a Nebraska native, returned to his home state to undertake the creation of the unit.

Dr. Gress, one of the pioneers in the field of neurocritical care and one of the co-editors for the first textbook on intensive care neurology, already had helped establish several renowned neurocritical care units in the United States. When he returned to Omaha, he helped establish Nebraska's first neuro ICU at UNMC, which, to this day, remains the only neuro ICU in the state of Nebraska.

"Our goal is to build a state-of-the-art neurocritical care program to provide personalized specialty care to our patients and promote the education of our future caregivers," Dr. Gress said.

Matthew Rizzo, MD, chair of the UNMC Department of Neurological Sciences, said that Dr. Gress is a true original.

"It's everyone's good fortune that he chose to return home to Nebraska," Dr. Rizzo said.

"The institution is better for it in the clinical and academic aspects of the UNMC/Nebraska Medicine missions, as well as reputationally.

"I was just in a meeting with Dr. Walter Koroshetz, director of the NIH National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, who worked with Dr. Gress at Harvard," Dr. Rizzo said. "He expressed lasting gratitude for



Neurocritical care team members include respiratory therapist Russ Sindelar, Daryl Gress, MD, nurse practitioners Tori Piercy and Kristi Jay and critical care nurse Emily Scahill.

all he learned from Dr. Gress on neurocritical care. Together, Dr. Gress and his colleagues are growing the next generation of much-needed expert clinicians and educators from an expanding pipeline of residents and fellows to tackle the most urgent and difficult brain problems facing our patients."

The UNMC Division of Neurocritical Care includes a neurological intensive care unit that boasts a staff of seven neurointensivists, neurosurgeons, fellow/resident trainees, advanced practice providers, nurses, clinical pharmacists, respiratory therapists, nutritionist and dietitians, physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, social/case managers and a palliative care team.

"Severely ill neurological patients require caregivers specialized in complex neurological diseases with knowledge and experience in critical care medicine," said Subin Mathew, MD, assistant professor in the division.

"Patients often require invasive/noninvasive diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. They need physicians trained to perform close neuromonitoring of the brain rhythms and dynamics who also understand the interaction between the brain physiology and other organ systems.

"Published studies have shown that a

dedicated neuro ICU and neuro intensivists save lives and improve outcome in patients with neurological diseases.

"Critical care for brain injuries is important for many reasons," Dr. Mathew said.

"Brain injury is associated with several temporal and spatial pathophysiological changes that can start with the primary injury and then lead to secondary brain damages," he said. "Depending on the degree and location of brain injury, it can lead to other organ dysfunction via autonomic nervous system, involvement of the endocrine system, release of inflammatory mediators and even from treatment itself."

The neuro ICU team sees almost 100 cases a month, handling diagnoses such as intracerebral and subarachnoid hemorrhage, neuromuscular respiratory failure, status epilepticus, encephalitis, massive hemispheric infarction, traumatic brain injury and brain infections.

"Neurocritical care is relatively a young field, and there are several new and exciting technologies we have for neuro monitoring and managing cerebral injuries," Dr. Mathew said. "This makes UNMC an exciting place for training young fellows and resident doctors, nurses and medical students."

# Highlights

## Howard Fox, MD, PhD, received the University of Nebraska System Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award

Howard Fox, MD, PhD, senior associate dean of research and development in the UNMC College of Medicine, professor in the UNMC Department of Neurological Sciences and director of the Center for Integrative and Translational Neuroscience — has been awarded the University of Nebraska's Outstanding Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) Award.

The award, one of the University of Nebraska's President's Excellence Awards,

honors members of the University of Nebraska (NU) faculty who have conducted outstanding research or creative activity of national or international significance. University of Nebraska System President Ted Carter on April 6 announced Dr. Fox was among the 2022 recipients of NU's most prestigious faculty awards for teaching, research and engagement.



*Dr. Howard Fox and University of Nebraska President Ted Carter*

## Harris Frankel, MD, named on Becker's Hospital Review "List of 89 chief medical officers to know"



*Harris Frankel, MD  
CMO and Chief Compliance Officer, Nebraska Medicine*

Dr. Frankel joined the Department of Neurological Sciences (DONS) after working for 21 years in private practice. He served as medical director for the UNMC Physicians Clinical Neurosciences Center from 2011 to 2015. He joined the executive leadership team at Nebraska Medicine in 2014. The Becker's Hospital Review listed Dr. Becker in its "List of 89 chief medical officers to know."

## Pierre Fayad, MD, receives recognition from ACGME President



Dr. Fayad is a member of the Review Committee for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The ACGME is the national organization that accredits and oversees the quality of approximately 12,000 graduate medical education programs. Congratulations to Dr. Fayad on his continued commitment to medical education.

## Nebraska Medical Orchestra played summer concert

*by Matthew Rizzo, MD, FAAN*

Our Nebraska Medical Orchestra played its Summer Concert on Aug. 3, at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Strauss Performing Arts Center, led by conductor Dr. Matthew Brooks and violinist, Professor Mary Perkinson. The music included Vaughn Williams' version of *Hyfrydol*, *Lichter's Vermont Summer*, *Haydn's Concerto for Orchestra* and even some of Williams' *Harry Potter* themes. The fall season opened on Sept. 14, with a forthcoming concert on Dec. 14. Meanwhile research on music and brain health continues in newly funded research by Dr. Vaishali Phatak, Perkinson and team on dementia and music.



# Highlights

## Congratulations to Megan Armbrust on Master of Health Care Administration

*By Robbe Peetz, Ambulatory Director, Neurosciences, Rehab, Chronic Pain, PM&R and Student Health Services*



Congratulations to Megan Armbrust, clinic manager for pain and neurosurgery, on completing her master's in health care administration (MHA) through Clarkson College.

Megan was also the Academic Excellence Award Winner for summer 2022, which is an award given to the student with the highest cumulative grade point average for the semester.

Bill Koile, adjunct instructor for the MHA program and director of emergency services and acute care support for Nebraska Medicine, stated, "Megan's drive and attention to detail was spot on. Her ability to articulate her concepts and boil down tough concepts proves that the lessons she learned in her educational journey paid dividends. She accepted feedback with a professional demeanor and was willing to provide additional details when the concepts were not crystal clear."

## Josue Avecillas-Chasin, MD, PhD, assistant professor of neurosurgery, chosen to participate in 2022 – 2024 Early Career Investigator Program (ECIP) to help develop research career



"The goal of the NIH-funded ECIP is to support early career faculty by helping them develop an R or K award or equivalent research career development application. The project is designed to help investigators obtain the strategic data, career development and hands-on grant writing assistance needed to facilitate an extramural grant application within one year of admission to the program. Awardees have been selected based on their vision and potential for unique contributions to clinical and translational research."

— Ted Mikuls, MD, MSPH, director, professional development core, Great Plains IDeA-CTR Network, Lani, Zimmerman, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN, co-director, professional development core, Great Plains IDeA-CTR Network.

## Arnett Klugh, MD, associate professor of neurosurgery, was recently selected to receive the Children's Hospital Neurosurgery Endowed Chair



Dr. Klugh's selection for this highest honor is in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments since beginning at Children's Hospital & Medical Center of Omaha in October 2020.



# Can viral infections lead to neurological disorders?

by Nebraska Medicine

We've known that viral infections are associated with neurological disorders. Some of the most salient examples include measles, meningitis, post-infectious encephalomyelitis, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, chickenpox and polio. Fortunately, these conditions are now rare or nearly nonexistent, thanks to scientific breakthroughs and public health measures, especially routine immunizations.

However, viral infections continue to provoke neurological disorders. Explanations as to why some viral infections are associated with neurological conditions is complex and still under intense research. This topic has gone "viral" since the pandemic with reports of "long COVID" in patients complaining of persistent low energy, mood and cognition after the initial respiratory infection.

"Even today our knowledge of viruses is limited," says Rana Zabad, MD, UNMC neurologist. It is important to note that besides vaccines that are known to decrease the risk of acquiring an infection, there is no specific measure to prevent the progression to a neurological disorder. Additionally, we still don't know why some people will develop neurological issues after contracting a virus, and some don't. But we think that those who do may be genetically predisposed.

The Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is known to affect 90 to 95% of the population worldwide and may increase a person's risk for multiple sclerosis. A recent study

by the National Institutes of Health found that individuals who contracted EBV that progressed to infectious mononucleosis sometime during their lives were 32 times more likely to develop multiple sclerosis (MS).

"While almost everyone acquires EBV, most people are asymptomatic," says Dr. Zabad. Only a small fraction of people will go on to develop infectious mononucleosis, also known as mono. Mono typically occurs in individuals who acquire the virus in adolescence or young adulthood.

In addition to MS, cases of EBV that progress to mono, are also associated with other inflammatory neurologic disorders in children and adults such as Guillain-Barré syndrome, transverse myelitis, encephalitis, meningitis and cranial nerve palsies such as Bell's palsy, notes Dr. Zabad. While these are all treatable conditions, they may leave the affected person with chronic limitations.

There are several mechanisms that may explain how viruses trigger neurological disorders.

When viruses and microorganisms invade the body, they can infect various organs with mild to severe effects. Sometimes these viruses can directly invade the nervous system, as with meningitis or encephalitis.

This direct infection may generate an inflammatory response throughout the body that can be further damaging, explains Dr. Zabad. A current example is COVID-19, that can cause an inflammatory response that is responsible for clotting disorders that have led to strokes.

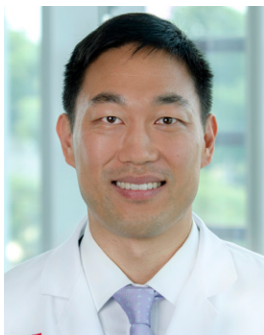
There is also an indirect mechanism of disease called molecular mimicry. Following the viral infection, molecules are left behind similar to those found in the body and nervous system. In some cases, the immune system may be lured to attack similar molecules in the healthy nervous system.

The scientific community continues to move forward in understanding how viruses lead to neurological conditions



# DONS Assistant Professor

## Peter Soh, MD, MPH, starts headache clinic



Peter Soh, MD, MPH

Dr. Peter Soh completed his fellowship in headache and facial pain from the Hartford Healthcare Headache Center in West Hartford, Conn. During fellowship, he performed clinical research with Dr. Brian Grosberg and Dr. Allison Verhaak on the safety and efficacy of onabotulinumtoxinA for the prevention of chronic migraine in patients over age 65. He was awarded a Frontiers in Headache Research scholarship award at the American Headache Society's 64th Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver, Colo. During fellowship, he attended the 9th annual International Headache Academy, held at the University of California in Los Angeles,

where he was one of 55 international delegates selected to attend, as well as one of the delegates selected to give a scientific presentation.

Dr. Soh is working to expand access to headache care for patients suffering from complex headache disorders. His approach employs a multidisciplinary approach that includes behavioral health, medical weight-loss, neuro-ophthalmology, neuroradiology, neurosurgery, nutrition, obstetrics and gynecology, and physical therapy, as well as optimal medical management, advanced interventional procedures, and outpatient infusion therapy. Through educational talks and one-on-one teaching, Dr. Soh hopes to instill basic headache diagnostic and management skills in neurology trainees and primary care providers.

Dr. Soh graduated with a Master of Public Health with a focus in health management and policy from the University of Michigan and has experience in management consulting and finance prior to both medical school and neurology residency training at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Ala.

One research topic that Dr. Soh aims to address is headache in the workplace, its prevalence and impact within an organization and the variables that can be modified and managed to help affected employees. Reducing absenteeism and stigma in the workplace due to headache disorders, and increasing a high quality of life for employees, could be accomplished by a collaboration between UNMC/Nebraska Medicine, the Department of Neurological Sciences and interested employers.

Dr. Soh seeks to raise awareness for headache disorders and has spoken and participated in the Miles for Migraine 5K event in Hartford, Conn. He has advocated for patients through Headache on the Hill, a yearly advocacy event hosted by Alliance for Headache Disorder Advocacy and American Migraine Foundation, and Neurology on the Hill, an annual meeting with law makers and advocates. He has a interest in raising awareness of headache disorders and increasing access to headache care in the under-served patient population.

## Updates on Epilepsy

by Olga Taraschenko, MD, PhD



Dr. Olga Taraschenko was awarded the Nebraska State Stem Cell Research grant to visualize stem cells noninvasively in the brain of patients with autoimmune encephalitis and cognitive failure. The overarching goal of this project is to use MR spectroscopy to determine if there is a depletion of stem cells in encephalitis patients and establish if this loss is related to their cognitive decline. The co-investigators on this project include DONS assistant professors, Drs. Matt Garlinghouse, Matt White and Sean Kelly along with Dr. Uberty Mariano (Department of Radiology).

With a group of eight other international experts from six countries, Dr. Taraschenko published the International Consensus recommendations for management of New Onset Refractory Status Epilepticus (NORSE). The paper was published in the leading epilepsy journal *Epilepsia*.

Drs. Sriha Pavuluri, Valia Gumenyuk and Sookyong Koh published a paper in *Neurology* titled: "Presurgical Evaluation of the Dominant Hemisphere Function in an Adolescent Patient with Rasmussen's Encephalitis Using Magnetoencephalography".



# Meeting with the U.S. FDA Commissioner

Dr. Matt Rizzo led a group from the American Brain Coalition (ABC) to meet with FDA Commissioner Robert Califf and US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Neuroscience Division leaders (spanning drugs, biologicals and devices) on strategies to address critical unmet needs for treatments and cures of brain conditions.

The September 8 meeting followed up on a 2021 meeting on creating a Neuroscience Center of Excellence within the FDA to enhance FDA focus on therapies for brain diseases and disorders, with patient representation.

Led by Dr. Rizzo, ABC is committed to finding policy solutions to address the lack of effective treatment options. As a nonprofit coalition of nearly 150 leading patient organizations; U.S. neurological, psychological and psychiatric professional associations; and allied industry partners, ABC serves as a powerful collective voice — dedicated to access to care and cures for the patients we represent. ABC strives to advance understanding and reduce the burden of brain disorders through public education, policy and advocacy. Currently, more than 100 million people in the U.S. have brain disorders, from over 1,000 conditions — some common, others incredibly rare. Another 400 conditions fall in the realm of psychiatry, which also depends on brain circuit functions. These disorders impose huge personal suffering, stigma and societal costs, and range across the lifespan, from acute to

chronic, manageable as an outpatient, to life threatening and entirely debilitating. Their staggering costs to the U.S. economy exceed \$1.5 trillion a year and just keep growing.

The burden of psychiatric disorders, including substance use, has burgeoned since the pandemic, while access to care in in psychiatric and neurological care has declined. The total costs of medical care in the U.S. are 4.6 trillion a year. Urgent action is clearly needed to balance costs, benefits and access to care. We believe that FDA is key to those solutions through innovative administration practices, in synch with robust, replicable, data at all stages of the national biomedical research system, from basic, to clinical and translational, with patient advocacy and community feedback on what is needed and what really works. ABC, through Dr. Rizzo, offered to enhance FDA capacity to focus on brain and CNS-related diseases, create regulatory certainty, and speed review within existing pathways.



Matthew Rizzo, MD, FAAN



# Jena Neesen, Neurology Advanced Practice Provider, receives the Nebraska Medicine 2022 Accountability Award

by T. Scott Diesing, MD

Congratulations to DONS Jena Neesen, APRN, on being recognized by Nebraska Medicine with the 2022 ITEACH Accountability Award.



Jena Neesen, APRN

This award is given to the Advanced Practice Provider at Nebraska Medicine who has best embodied accountability as a part of our ITEACH values. Jena has been the backbone of the DONS General Neurology Inpatient service for the last

seven plus years and has excelled at caring for some of the most vulnerable patients. The award was presented during a ceremony the last week of September, along with a monetary stipend.

From her multiple nominations: "She is more effective than anyone I have ever worked with when related to transitions of care from the inpatient to outpatient setting, arranging for complex immunomodulatory treatments, and preparing patients and families for going home. Jena provides a level of clinical care for her patients that goes beyond excellence." "Her clinical excellence also extends to the art of medicine as evidenced by the time and effort devoted to meeting with or

calling family members with updates and answering questions."

"We had a very complicated patient that needed coordination of about a dozen clinics and services in order to get back home to their family. It should have taken a week to organize, but it took a day. When I asked the team how this incredibly complex discharge happened, their answer was simply "Jena." No other explanation was needed."

"She makes every day better for her patients, for us on the inpatient service, and everyone she works with. She has an invaluable positive impact both directly and indirectly on all of us here at Nebraska Medicine."



The Division of General Neurology held a welcome party at Corkscrew in the Blackstone for new providers Melissa Donnelly, PA-C and Peter Soh, MD

*Melissa Donnelly, PA-C to the left in yellow sweater and Peter Soh, MD, MPH, to the right in blue shirt.*



# Dr. Matthew Rizzo spoke

## at Horizon Scanning for Neuroscience: Has the Time Come?

An exploratory meeting convened by the Committee on Science, Technology and Law of the National Academy of Science, Medicine and Technology, in July.

Participants in this Dana Foundation sponsored event included experts from several universities (Harvard, Rice, Michigan, Berkeley Center for the Science of Psychedelics, Duke Law, University of California, San Francisco), IBM, Salk Institute, Institute of Neuroethics, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, The Hastings Center, Wellcome Trust, Kavli Foundation, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the American Brain Coalition led by UNMC's Rizzo.

Dr. Rizzo spoke on strategies and structures for Engaging with Diverse Stakeholders.

Other topics included

- Novel emerging approaches/ technologies for studying and treating the human brain
- Ethical, legal, and societal implications of advances in neuroscience
- Role of the public inputs on research priorities
- Building bridges between science and society
- Partnerships between federal, academic and private sectors

Discussions addressed timely opportunities to develop a systematic approach to public engagement around societal issues associated with advances in neuroscience.



*UNMC's Dr. Matt Rizzo stands with Dr. Walter Koroshetz at Albert Einstein's Memorial at the National Academy of Sciences, Medicine and Technology, on July 28, 2022. Dr. Koroshetz is Director of the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke and a key leader in the NIH institute-spanning Brain Initiative.*



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If you have any news or upcoming events that you would like featured in the next edition of the *NeuroNExT UNMC* newsletter, please send the information to [sallie.weathers@unmc.edu](mailto:sallie.weathers@unmc.edu)



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