

Medical Student Takes the Field By Storm, Recipient of SIR Foundation Grant & Award

Brad Barnett, a medical student at Johns Hopkins Medicine, first became interested in image-guided therapies as a first-year student watching a professor coil an aneurysm.

He found it fascinating that over a decade ago, the majority of image-guided procedures were not feasible, but within a short period the breadth of treatment options has grown significantly.

Awards and Recognition

At the 2007 SIR Annual Scientific Meeting, Barnett received the SIR Foundation Constatin Cope Award for his abstract, "Real Time MR-Guided Delivery and Imaging of Human Islets Immunoprotected by Magnetocapsule." He was also the recipient of the SIR Foundation Summer Research Award for his project, "Endovascular Treatment of Aneurysms with EmboGel in conjunction with AlgiNet," where he continued efforts in developing hydrogels for the treatment of vascular malformations.

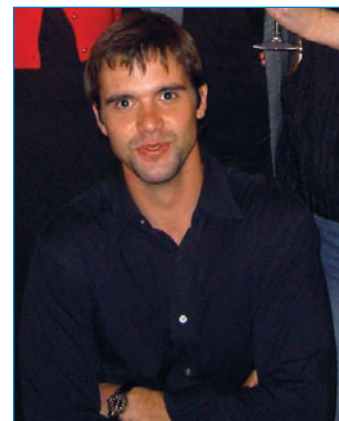
Research

Barnett has also been engaged in developing new treatments for type I diabetic patients through a two-year Howard Hughes Medical Fellowship, in which he developed magnetic capsules that simultaneously provide immunoisolation and MRI visibility of pancreatic islet cells. His article, "Magnetic Resonance-Guided, Real-Time Targeted Delivery and Imaging of Magnetocapsules-

immunoprotecting Pancreatic Islets Cells," has been featured by many national newspapers and has been licensed by Surgi-Vision with an eye towards clinical trials.

SIR Fellow, Aravind Arepally, MD, mentored Barnett at the Johns Hopkins Center For Image-Guided Therapy during a summer research project in which the team explored delivering therapeutic agents such as islet cells into the portal vein. Arepally notes that Barnett, "Is extremely energetic and creative in approaching research problems and finding solutions. He is constantly thinking out of the box, and this kind of creative talent will provide him tremendous insight as a clinician-scientist. In short, Brad is the most outstanding medical student that I have come into contact with as an attending physician."

The deadline for the SIR Foundation Medical Student and Resident Summer Research Grants is February 1, 2008. For more information, please visit www.SIRfoundation.org. ❖



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Increasing IR's Involvement in the Grant Review Process

Filip Banovac, MD



The Center for Scientific Review (CSR), <http://cms.csr.nih.gov>, at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) oversees the review process of the NIH grant proposals. The CSR acts as a portal for NIH grant applications and their review for scientific merit. The CSR study sections review approximately 70 percent of the research grant applications sent to NIH. Approximately 80,000 applications each year are reviewed by the CSR and over 18,000 external experts sit on the study sections that review the grants. Additional scientists serve on other NIH advisory councils, which provide a second level of peer review.

In September, the CSR announced an effort to create a national registry of senior scientists that would make good reviewers. Recommendations by societies and institutions were sought to create such a list of potential reviewers

The SIR Foundation's Research Policy Committee, under the leadership of James Duncan, MD, PhD, initiated a process in October 2007 to create a preliminary list of potential reviewers from SIR. Those active in the Society's grant programs, some previous recipients of SIR Foundation grants, and those who have review experience from the SIR Foundation Grants Review Committee, will be asked to consider participating.

Grant review is a very time-consuming process and requires significant preparation. "You typically get assigned about ten applications to review, five as a primary reviewer and five as secondary," stated Kevin Cleary, PhD, from Georgetown University, a CSR reviewer on the Biomedical Imaging Technology Study Section. "It takes me about a full week to prepare for the review sessions, about one day per proposal," he added. "One must read the proposal and write a written response, then travel to the Washington, D.C., area and participate in a two-day session to discuss the recommendations with other study section members."

With the time constraints that most interventional radiologists have in the clinical practice, this review process is daunting. Wayne Monsky, MD, PhD, an interventional radiologist at UC Davis and SIR Foundation Review Committee member, recently served on one study section. "It is of paramount importance for us to have better representation on study sections," adding, "It was a fantastic experience to be involved in the review process and to better appreciate how grant reviewers score grants." Monsky also underscored that there are very few reviewers who fully understand what interventional radiologists do. "I found few participants who had an understanding of interventional radiology in the study section I served on, which was dominated by engineers and oncologists. We should do all that we can to be more integral to the review process."

The CSR hopes that this new registry will be a key tool for Scientific Review Officers to (1) more quickly identify experienced, volunteer reviewers and (2) provide societies and institutions with additional input into the peer review process. If you are interested in the CSR review process or want more information on becoming a reviewer, visit <http://cms.csr.nih.gov/PeerReviewMeetings/StudySectionReviewers> ♦

SIR Foundation Research Grant Application Deadlines

Visit the SIR Foundation Web site for more information and to view grant and award guidelines:
www.SIRFoundation.org.

February 1, 2008

Medical Student Research Grant
Radiology Resident Research Grant

THE FUNDING CORNER

TITLE	GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT	APPLICATION DEADLINE DATES
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation: Clinical Scientist Development Award	http://www.ddcf.org/	Proposals Due: January 8, 2008 Notice of Awards: June 1, 2008 Award Start Date: August 1, 2008
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation: Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award	http://www.ddcf.org/	Proposals Due: January 23, 2008 Notice of Awards: September 17, 2008 Award Start Date: January 1, 2009



What's Playing in the IR Suite?

Reed Omary, MD, MS, FSIR



Panda Bear "Person Pitch" (Paw Tracks)

My favorite album of 2007 and one of the handful of top records of the new millennium. Brian Wilson's doppelganger, *Person Pitch* sounds like the album that *Smile* should have been.



Matthew Dear "Asa Breed" (Ghostly International)

Electronica masquerading as indie-pop songs, this is highly infectious stuff. Guaranteed to have the whole IR suite grooving.



Radiohead, "In Rainbows" (self-released)

Certainly no *Kid A*, but a Radiohead release is always worth listening to.

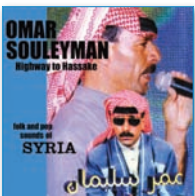


Moby Grape, s/t. (Columbia/Sundazed)

Recently reissued by Sundazed on CD and even better in mono vinyl format (with the enclosed "finger" poster). Arguably the top album to come out of San Francisco's heady Summer of Love.

Kanye West, "Graduation" (Roc-A-Fella Records)

Kanye finally grows up and removes all of those stupid filler skits. A great, accessible mainstream hip hop record.



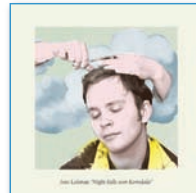
Omar Souleyman, "Highway to Hassake (Folk and Pop Sounds of Syria)" (Sublime Frequencies)

I always look forward to attending the annual meeting of the International Center for Image-Guided Therapy, in part because I get to trade music with some of my international colleagues. At this year's meeting in Istanbul, it seemed that noted interventional radiologists Marie LeBouchon d'Poisson-Saindoux, Thidaporn Niratpattanasai, Wi Li, and Big Chief Eagle Feathers were all listening to Omar Souleyman. You should too.



PJ Harvey "White Chalk" (Island)

On the surface, if one of the most recognizable female voices in rock traded her guitar in for piano, it would be acceptable to suddenly claim a bout of Who-induced deafness. However, any worries about annoying Elton John-style piano ballads have been destroyed by Nick Cave-inspired dirges. The two first tracks say it all: "The Devil" and "Darkness".



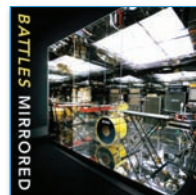
Jens Lekman, "Night Falls Over Kortedala" (Secretly Canadian)

Breezy, modern pop from Sweden. Apparently, this album is causing Associates of the Pet Shop Boys Fan Club to retract their memberships.



Handsome Furs, "Plague Park" (Sub Pop)

A side project of Wolf Parade member Dan Boeckner that easily bests his own band's work. Guitars, electronics and killer melodies.



Battles, "Mirrored" (Warp)

Ingenious collage of futuristic electronic loops and guitars, which is even more incredible when seen live or on video. Should be arty prog rock, but instead comes across visceral and sometimes (nearly) dance-able. ❖