

# IBANGS News

Spring 2021, Issue 11

## Executive Committee Election Results



**Congratulations and a warm welcome** to our newly elected Executive Committee Members: President-Elect, Judy Grisel, Professor of Psychology, Bucknell University (Left) and Member-at-Large, Amy Dunn, Postdoctoral Associate, Jackson Laboratory (Right). We look forward to working with Judy and Amy and appreciate their willingness to contribute to the continued development of our society. Thank you to all of the nominees for participating in the elections and to all of our members for voting.

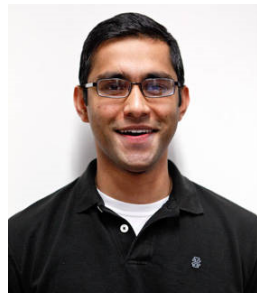
## A Tribute to Mark Rutledge-Gorman



Please join us in wishing Mark Rutledge-Gorman a wonderful and well deserved retirement. Mark has worked tirelessly for the society over many years in different capacities such as treasurer, travel awards coordinator, grants and meeting administrator and in countless other tasks central to the society's day-to-day functioning. His contributions have without a doubt helped shape the society and ensure its success. Mark has been a wonderful colleague and friend to us all. His professionalism, high standards, and collegiality are exemplary. Mark, on behalf of all of us at IBANGS, it has been an immense pleasure working with you and we hope that you stay in touch. If anyone would like to contact Mark, he can be reached at this email address [[rgspdx@gmail.com](mailto:rgspdx@gmail.com)].

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

from IBANGS DEI Committee Clarissa Parker and Vivek Phillip



### Abstract

#### Strategies to increase equity

Bhalla N (2019). Strategies to improve equity in faculty hiring. *Mol Biol Cell*, 30(22):2744-2749.  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31609672/>

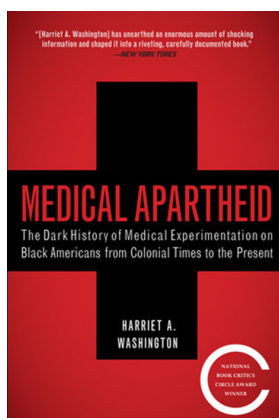
Through targeted recruitment and interventions to support their success during training, the fraction of trainees (graduate students and postdoctoral fellows) in academic science from historically underrepresented groups has steadily increased. However, this trend has not translated to a concomitant increase in the number of faculty from these underrepresented groups. Here, I focus on proven strategies that departments and research institutions can develop to increase equity in faculty hiring and promotion to address the lack of racial and gender diversity among their faculty.

### Book review

#### Reading for Anti-Racism

IBANGS is building an Anti-Racism Reading Guide to help everyone in the IBANGS community connect with books and other resources to support anti-racism efforts and self-education.

#### **Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present. By Harriet A. Washington**



*From Penguin Random House:* From the era of slavery to the present day, starting with the earliest encounters between Black Americans and Western medical researchers and the racist pseudoscience that resulted, *Medical Apartheid* details the ways both slaves and freedmen were used in hospitals for experiments conducted without their knowledge—a tradition that continues today within some black populations.

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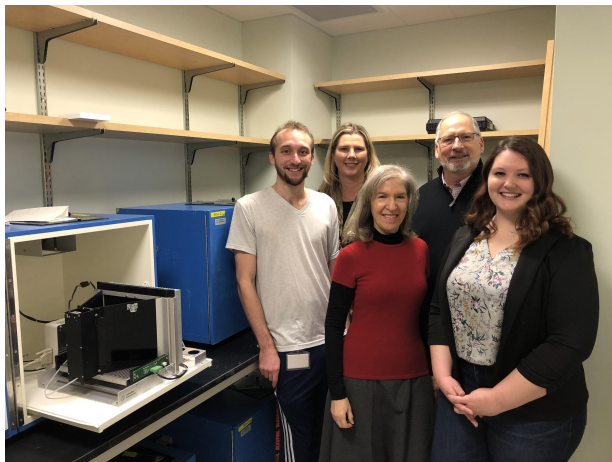
It reveals how Blacks have historically been prey to grave-robbing as well as unauthorized autopsies and dissections. Moving into the twentieth century, it shows how the pseudoscience of eugenics and social Darwinism was used to justify experimental exploitation and shoddy medical treatment of Blacks. Shocking new details about the government's notorious Tuskegee experiment are revealed, as are similar, less-well-known medical atrocities conducted by the government, the armed forces, prisons, and private institutions.

The product of years of prodigious research into medical journals and experimental reports long undisturbed, *Medical Apartheid* reveals the hidden underbelly of scientific research and makes possible, for the first time, an understanding of the roots of the African American health deficit. At last, it provides the fullest possible context for comprehending the behavioral fallout that has caused Black Americans to view researchers—and indeed the whole medical establishment—with such deep distrust.

Watch the author interview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzsNFBZK6ks>

## Resource

### **Announcement of Database of Mouse Behavioral Scores** from IBANGS member Jacqueline Crawley



A database of normative mouse behavioral scores has been compiled and is now available to the behavioral neuroscience community. This is an online compendium of test results from 12 behavioral assays conducted by the Rodent Behavior Core of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC) at the MIND Institute, University of California Davis, in Sacramento, California. Results were obtained from a wide variety of control groups of mice, including wildtype littermates of mutant lines, vehicle treated controls from drug experiments, and inbred strains.

Consulting this database may be helpful when setting up a new assay or training a new lab member. For example, if scores obtained are considerably outside the expected range, protocols and training procedures could be modified where needed.

A major goal of the database is to increase rigor and reproducibility of mouse behavioral findings, consistent with the goals of IBANGS.

Data spreadsheets and graphs were assembled by Dr. Crawley's team, with the permission of IDDRC investigators. Findings reported in the spreadsheets are consistent with the range of scores reported by other behavioral neuroscience labs.

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Here are the links to (a) the MIND Institute's IDDRRC Rodent Behavior Core webpage and (b) to the 26 database files:

<https://health.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/centers/intellectual-developmental-disabilities-research/cores/rodent-behavior.html>

<https://health.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/centers/intellectual-developmental-disabilities-research/cores/rbcdatabase.html>

Our team hopes that this compendium will be useful to your research program. Feel free to contact Dr. Crawley for further information, [crawley@ucdavis.edu](mailto:crawley@ucdavis.edu).

## **Member Spotlight**

**Tamara J. Phillips, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)**



Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience, School of Medicine  
Senior Research Career Scientist, VA Medical Center  
Director, Portland Alcohol Research Center (PARC)  
Interim Chair Department of Behavioral Neuroscience  
Neuroscience Graduate Program, School of Medicine

Check out this [recent article](#) about Tamara Phillips in the Bulletin of the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA). See pp. 10-12. Dr. Phillips is a past President of IBANGS, 2005-2008, and is the first female to serve as President of ISBRA, 2018-2019. The Society promotes research, training, and dissemination of information on alcoholism and alcohol-related biomedical phenomena, for the benefit of individuals and to inform national and international agencies on alcohol-related research and policy.

Dr. Phillips (Richards) was also named by OHSU's Sharon Anderson, Dean of the School of Medicine, to be Interim Chair of the Department of Behavioral Neuroscience. Dr. Anderson wrote in a recent letter to the department:

"...you are aware of Dr. Phillips-Richards' long tenure, her contributions to the advancement of our understanding of alcohol and drug addiction, and her leadership experience. In addition to serving as professor of behavioral neuroscience and senior research career scientist at the VA, she is director of the NIH NIAAA-funded Portland Alcohol Research Center and immediate past president and member of the Board of the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA). She has been with OHSU and the VA since 1987. In Dr. Phillips-Richards, we have a leader with a long history in and understanding of the department and the graduate



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program, and a well-organized approach to her work, with superb collaboration skills. I look forward to working with her to build on the department's many strengths."

## **Meeting Venue Proposals**

### **Call for Meeting Hosts, Genes Brain and Behavior**

The Genes, Brain and Behavior meeting is slated to be held in May 2023 and May 2024. IBANGS is currently accepting meeting proposals, per the instructions below. The GBB meeting generally draws 100-150 participants.

Key aspects of the proposal should include:

- Point person and local organizing committee members
- Information on the venue and surrounding area
- Information on hotels including costs, distance from venue, transportation options to and from venue
- Budget (Please contact IBANGS Administrator, Anna Delprato [administrator@ibangs.org] to obtain a budget calculator spreadsheet)
- Preliminary schedule that includes at least one-half day free for sightseeing during the meeting week
- Plans for an opening reception
- Plans for a closing banquet
- At least one poster session
- Availability of a small meeting room for Executive Committee meeting
- Information on sightseeing opportunities before or after the meeting (expenses paid separately by participants)

The IBANGS Executive Committee will accept proposals from all interested hosts. Please submit proposals to IBANGS President, Camron Bryant, by email [[camron@bu.edu](mailto:camron@bu.edu)] copy to the IBANGS administrator [administrator@ibangs.org], no later than October 31, 2021.

