

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence
European and Eurasian Studies Program



EU Jean Monnet Project

Health and Innovation: “Nanotechnology for Medicine”

Initiatives and Perspectives: a comparison between Europe and the United States

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – Luncheon-Workshop – Coral Gables

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS: BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Panelists



Serge Braun, PharmD, Ph.D.
Chief Scientific Officer
AFM-Telethon, Evry, France
Member of the French National Academy of Pharmacy

Serge Braun, PharmD, PhD, is currently Scientific Director of AFM-Telethon, the French Muscular dystrophy Association acting in innovative therapies of rare diseases, and President of Genosafe, a CRO company dedicate to QC of biotherapeutic products.

He has 10 years of experience in the neuromuscular diseases field in the academic sector (Univ. Strasbourg France and USC Neuromuscular Center, Los Angeles) and 10 years in the biotechnology sector (Vice-President Research of Transgene SA, Gene therapy biotech company) where he developed his career in the field of gene therapy of genetic diseases and of immunotherapy of cancer.

He was co-founder of Neurofit, a contract research organization specialized in preclinical testings of both the central and the peripheral nervous system. He was Vice-President of Alsace BioValley, the tri-national initiative, non-profit making organization, for the development of a major biotech cluster in Europe.



Tarek R. Fadel, Ph.D.

Assistant Director, The Marble Center for Cancer Nanomedicine
The Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA

Dr. Tarek Fadel is the Assistant Director of the Marble Center for Cancer Nanomedicine at the MIT Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. Before joining MIT, Dr. Fadel was a Staff Scientist at the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office (NNCO), the coordinating body for the U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI). During his time at NNCO, he served as the Executive Secretary for the Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology (NSET) Subcommittee of the White House's National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Technology. The NSET Subcommittee coordinates planning, budgeting, program implementation, and review of the NNI.

Dr. Fadel received his PhD from Yale University in 2011, where he continued as a post-doctoral researcher to develop nanoscale platforms for cancer immunotherapy. He previously held positions as Vice President for Research at the International Technology Research Institute, and Product and Systems Interaction Engineer at Hewlett Packard Enterprise. Dr. Fadel is lead author of several peer-reviewed publications in the fields of nanomedicine, cancer immunotherapy, and biophysics.



Sergio Gonzalez-Arias, M.D, Ph.D., FAANS, FACS

Executive Associate Dean, Clinical Affairs
Chairman, Department of Neuroscience
College of Medicine, Florida International University
Chief of Neurological Surgery, Baptist Hospital, FL

Dr. Gonzalez-Arias is chief of neurological surgery at Baptist Hospital and chair of neurosurgery at Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. He is the founding and current medical director of Baptist Hospital's Neuroscience Center and has served as chief of the hospital's Department of Surgery and is past president of the medical staff. He has lectured nationally and internationally on minimally invasive spine surgery and stereotactic radiosurgery. He is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the American College of Surgeons. He served as chair of the international committee of the Joint Council of State Neurosurgical Societies and is a past president of the Florida Neurological Society.

He is currently involved in multicenter clinical research in minimally invasive spine surgery. Dr. Gonzalez-Arias received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Zaragoza in Zaragoza, Spain. He completed his surgical internship at Rush- Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago and his neurosurgical residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital – University of Miami. He is Board-certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.



Babak Kateb, M.D.

Founding Chairman of the Board of SBMT, President of Brain Mapping Foundation, Scientific Director of SBMT and Brain Mapping Foundation, Director of National Center for Nano-Bio-Electronics, Senior Editor of SBMT-NeuroMapping & Therapeutics, Chairman of Neuroscience-20/G20 Summit Brain Mapping Initiative, Scientific Director and Chief Strategy Officer (CSO), California Neurosurgical Institute, CA, USA

Babak Kateb, MD is a neuroscientist with more than 15 years of research experience. His research has been focused on introduction of advance diagnostics and therapeutics into clinical neuroscience in order to rapidly identify and introduce game changing technologies to treat neurological disorders such as brain cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, brain and spinal disorders. Dr. Babak established Society for Brain Mapping and Therapeutics (SBMT), and currently he is the founding chairman of the board of directors & CEO Society for Brain Mapping and Therapeutics (SBMT), President and Scientific Director of the Brain Mapping Foundation and Director of National Center for Nano-Bio-Electronics.; the center is focused on integration of nanotechnology, cellular therapeutics/stem cell, medical device and imaging. He was Director of Research and Development at the Department of Neurosurgery at City of Hope Cancer Center. He was a Research Scientist at Department of Neurosurgery at Cedars Sinai Medical center for near a decade where he developed partnership between Cedars-Sinai and NASA and established clinical trials using NASA technologies. He is a recipient of NASA Tech Brief Award for his pioneering work on sniffing cancer cells using NASA’s electronic nose and the SBMT Pioneer in Medicine award. He is editor of the “Textbook of Nanoneuroscience and Nanoneurosurgery”, published by Taylor & Francis 2013 and the editor of the textbook “Neurophotonic and Brain Mapping,” which is due for a release for Dec. 2015. In 2015 he took over a new role at California Neurosurgical Institute (CNI) as Scientific Director and Director of Strategic Alliance; CNI provides neurological and neurosurgical care for 5 major hospitals (4 million residents) in LA. He has been deeply involved in global neuroscience legislation: he has chaired 3 congressional briefing on Brain Mapping and given a talk to the Canadian Parliament. His initiatives have impacted the health care delivery to the wounded soldiers in the US. He has been one of the key players in President Obama’s BRAIN initiative and co-author of the G20 World Brain Mapping and Therapeutics Initiative and African Brain Mapping Initiative.



Viktoria Bodnarova

EURAXESS North America Regional Representative

Viktoria Bodnarova is the Regional Representative for EURAXESS North America, responsible for Canada and the US, as of 2013. Her main role is to inform the community of researchers of all scientific domains and nationalities based in North America about the funding and career opportunities the European Research Area (ERA) offers (European, national or regional funding opportunities). Another important role is the management of the European Scientific Diasporas in North America initiative together with the EU Delegations and EU Member/Associated Countries.

Prior to her position in the US, she was a Project Manager and EURAXESS Network Coordinator at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Viktoria holds a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and European Studies from the Metropolitan University in Prague. During her university studies, she participated in two exchange programs at Trent University (UK) and Concordia University (Canada).



Madhavan Nair, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor and Chair, Dept. of Immunology

Director, Institute of NeuroImmune Pharmacology

Associate Dean Bio-Medical Research

Associate VP, NanoMedicine; College of Medicine, Florida International University, FL

Dr. Madhavan Nair received his PhD from Tata Memorial Cancer Center, Bombay University, India in Cancer Immunology and trained at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City. He then joined the faculty of the Department of Pediatrics at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and subsequently worked at the Department of Medicine and Microbiology at SUNY, Buffalo, NY as a Tenured Professor and Director of Research in Allergy and Immunology. He is a certified Clinical Nutrition Specialist (CNS), Fellow of American College of Nutrition (FACN) and Fellow of American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (FAAAI).

Dr. Nair and his colleagues discovered the suppressor factor in cancer serum (1978) and first reported that intravenous drug users manifest low natural killer cell activity (1986) and morphine induces apoptosis of normal lymphocytes (1997). In 1988, Dr Nair reported for the first time (PNAS) that HIV recombinant purified gene products possess significant biological activities. His original discovery that cocaine increases the sensitivity to HIV infection by increasing the HIV co-receptors and methamphetamine exacerbates the HIV replication in dendritic cells had a profound effect on the role of these drugs on HIV disease progression. His recent research mainly involves the role of different drugs of abuses such as alcohol, morphine, cocaine and methamphetamine on neuro-AIDS and therapeutic approach to control Neuro-AIDS by specific drug targeting to brain using nanotechnology.

Dr. Nair is the first FIU researcher to earn a prestigious MERIT Award from the National Institutes of Health recognizing outstanding competence and productivity in research (2008-2018). Nair is also the recipient of University of Michigan Distinguished Research Scientist Award (1990), Exceptional Research Scholar Award from State University of New York (2005), Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award from FIU (2008) and Presidential Leadership Operational Excellence Award from FIU in 2009.

Dr. Nair has published more than 100 papers as first and/or senior author, mentored more than 50 undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral fellows, high school and minority students, served in various committees, organized various national and international conferences, chaired number of scientific sessions and served in various NIH study sections committees as chair/ member since 1980. His research is currently supported with four major NIH grants.

<https://medicine.fiu.edu/about/faculty-and-staff/people/nairm.html>