$800,000 Awarded for Neuroscience Research by SUNY Students and Faculty

Posted on August 6, 2014  |  By Brian Nearing

The State University of New York and the Research Foundation for SUNY announced the first round of funding for projects supported by the SUNY Brain Network of Excellence. The foundation awarded $800,000 to eight projects engaging students and faculty on seven SUNY campuses, and partners in the private sector, to research causes, treatments, and cures for neurological-based diseases and disorders.

The SUNY Brain Network of Excellence, one of five networks throughout SUNY, was created to maximize interdisciplinary and collaborative neuroscience research across SUNY campuses and facilitate partnerships with academia, industry, and the community.

“On SUNY campuses across the state, our students and faculty are making major medical breakthroughs, discovering with each new venture a more effective way to understand, diagnose, or treat diseases that affect brain and eye function in people of all ages,” said SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher. “Congratulations to all of the project partners supported by this first round of funding.”

Timothy Killeen, president of the RF and SUNY vice chancellor for research, said, “SUNY Brain advances the frontiers of neuroscience research by integrating current investments in neurosciences, neuroclinical services, and analytic sciences at multiple SUNY campuses. The range of projects funded showcases the diversity of expertise across SUNY that is applied everyday to resolve neurological-based health problems.”

Each of the following projects will be awarded funding as follows, as a result of today’s announcement:

• $150,000 to SUNY Optometry, College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering
  Manufacturing and testing ultra-thin implants to effectively record brain function

• $147,000 to Stony Brook University, Downstate Medical Center, University of Rochester Medical Center
  Exploring the relationship between glaucoma and waste removal system dysfunction around the optic nerve and eye

• $85,000 to SUNY Optometry, Stony Brook University, Upstate Medical Center
  Developing novel approaches to determine the environmental risk factors and genetic components that lead to myopia or nearsightedness

• $106,500 to Stony Brook University, University at Albany
  Implementing new technology for high-resolution recording and visualization of brain activity associated with urinary tract function

• $46,000 to SUNY Optometry, Stony Brook University
  Illuminating the brain mechanisms responsible for generating purposeful eye movements in naturalistic environments

• $80,400 to University at Buffalo, Stony Brook University, Jacobs Neurological Institute
  Relying on images of the anatomy and function of the brain to detect rare genetic disorders that affect the central nervous system in infants

• $98,600 to SUNY Optometry, Upstate Medical Center
Mapping computational modeling with human behavioral measurements to explore the contextual effect on color perception

• $93,700 awarded to Upstate Medical Center, University at Buffalo

Generating eye cells that can be used to cure blinding diseases