BIOLOGY OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND AGING BRAIN

The work of Catilin Latimer and colleagues was recently featured in the 2011-2012 Alzheimer’s Disease Progress Report from the National Institute on Aging (NIA Progress Report). Latimer is a MD/PhD student in Nada Porter’s lab. Their research focuses on finding out how physical exercise may influence cognitive health into late age. The data published in PLoS One showed that exercise benefits aging glial cells (which support and protect neurons), blood vessel cells, and neurons. The researchers compared the brains of middle-aged female mice with and without access to exercise wheels. (Mice provided with exercise wheels tend to run on them without encouragement.).

Compared to sedentary mice, exercising mice had decreased blood pressure (measured with assistance from the Cassis lab) that was accompanied by reductions in brain markers of glial and blood vessel aging. Along with Latimer, authors were JL Searcy, MT Bridges, LD Brewer, J Popović, EM Blalock, PW Landfield, O Thibault, and NM Porter.

NEW WEBSITE UPDATE-
Launch date for the new College of Medicine website has been pushed back. This gives you a little more time to upload your picture and post some information about yourself on the Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology site. Some faculty and staff have done this, but there are still a lot of blank faces in the lineup. Populate your page by going to: pharmacology.med.uky.edu/. Log in and find “People”. The process is intuitive and takes very little time to complete. If you do not have a suitable photograph, contact Mary Lowell to help you.

Winter is not over yet

With more snow expected this week, Ren Xu and family may get another round of downhill sledding. Early last month Ren Xu enjoyed sledding with his 4-year-old daughter, Amay Xu, and 7-year-old son, Tony Xu, on a hill off South Point Dr, Saturday, February 2, 2013. The photo appeared in the Herald-Leader and was taken by staff photographer Charles Bertram.