

Dr. Krish Sathian

A Fond Farewell to Our CVNR Director, Krish Sathian, MD, PhD

Congratulations and best wishes to **Dr. Krish Sathian**, who has left the Center for Visual and Neurocognitive Rehabilitation (CVNR) to become the Chair of the Department of Neurology for Penn State College of Medicine and Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. He has been Executive Director of the CVNR since 2009, and our Medical Director since 2005.

During his time as Director, Dr. Sathian helped us come together with renewed strength and purpose in conducting research that benefits Veterans to the greatest extent possible. He led us in two successful renewals of the CVNR and we are now funded through 2022! He also received funding for his own work in visual impairment and spatial cognition, memory rehabilitation, and neural basis of metaphor. Dr. Sathian has served on many of our investigators' grants and mentoring panels. He has served in numerous additional roles of distinction and achieved many accolades — too many to mention here.

Regarding his impact on the CVNR, Dr. Katharina Echt, a long time Principal Investigator at the Center, emphasized, "He made possible the establishment of an administrative infrastructure that provides critical support to investigators in keeping with changing national regulatory and administrative tasks so necessary to the conduct of excellent science. He strongly supported the establishment of outreach and education programs to provide our scientific understanding to Veterans, their families, caregivers and health professionals." This newsletter is one small enduring testament to these efforts.

High regard amongst his colleagues is exemplified by some of their tributes to Dr. Sathian. Dr. Steve Wolf, longtime friend, Emory Professor and CVNR Associate Director of Training says, "I have been most fortunate to call Krish Sathian a colleague and friend from the moment he first arrived at Emory in 1995. Dr. Sathian brought his intellect, curiosity and

(Continued on page 2)

Also Inside This Issue:

Upcoming Events

Page 2

Research Coordinator Highlight

Page 3

New Funding Recognition

Page 3

This publication is for information purposes only and may not apply to your situation.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Atlanta VA Health Care System

(Continued from page 1)

unparalleled desire to advance our understanding of the brain and neuro-rehabilitation to the VA. Under his leadership we have received national recognition for our collective work to improve the lives of Veterans with disabilities.” Dr. Machelle Pardue, Interim Associate Director, added to this, saying, “It has been a pleasure to work with Krish for the last five years. He is an outstanding leader who has guided our Center to new levels of success and excellence. I am particularly going to miss his positive energy and enthusiasm for research.”

While a search for a new director takes place, Dr. Bruce Crosson will serve as Interim Executive Director and Dr. Pardue will step up to act as Interim Associate Director. They both have worked closely with Dr. Sathian during the past several years and, as excellent stewards of the CVNR mission to serve our Veterans, will continue the tradition of progress established by Dr. Sathian.



Dr. Sathian & some of the CVNR staff at his farewell lunch. L-R: Patricia Griffiths, Adrienne Lloyd, Steven Wolf, Katharina Echt, Krish Sathian, David Ross, Erica Watkins and Lisa Calas



Photo by Kate Whitney

Machelle Pardue, Interim Associate Director (L) and Bruce Crosson, Interim Executive Director (R)

Thus, Dr. Michael Hart, Associate Chief of Staff for Research at the Atlanta VA Medical Center, expresses our collective appreciation by saying, “We are so grateful to Krish for his leadership. He assumed directorship of the CVNR at a difficult time and led its transformation into the successful, collaborative venture that it is today. We wish Krish every success in his new role as Chair of Neurology at Penn State!”

UPCOMING EVENTS:**14th Emory Brain Health Forum**

Sponsored by the Emory Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

Featuring health topics in neurology, sleep, and depression plus information about risk assessments, disease prevention and therapeutic advances

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

For more information, go to — <http://alzheimers.emory.edu/>



Meet the Coordinator: Holly Hudson, MPH

Our coordinators, research assistants, and technologists make possible the progress we achieve on a daily basis. So as one of our newsletter features, we'd like to acquaint you with these talented folks, especially since they may be the ones you encounter the most when participating in a study with us.

Holly Hudson, MPH

Over the past few years, if you have been in one of our brain health studies, you have probably had the good fortune to work with **Holly Hudson**. Holly has been with the Atlanta VA for 10 years and has worked in a variety of research programs like Health Services Research and Development, Mental Health, Surgery, and now, Rehab R&D. She has worked on studies looking at oncology outcomes and quality of life, nursing home satisfaction, suicide prevention, surgery outcomes, and brain health. Holly's interest in serving Veterans stems from a strong family association with the military. Holly shares that, "My grandfathers are retired war Veterans with the Marines and Air Force. My father was in the Army, I married a Marine, and many of my family members have served."

As recruitment coordinator for several of our study teams, Holly knows that retired people are still really busy and enjoying life. She says, "Many participants have given me words of wisdom and perspectives on things that you can only see when your life's picture frame is 60 years and beyond," and adds, "They have been a wonderful group of people to work with and their effort to our goal is greatly appreciated." The challenging part of her job is having to turn away people interested in participating. She admits, "It is difficult to tell someone concerned about their health or wanting to get involved that they do not meet the eligibility requirements to participate in a study."

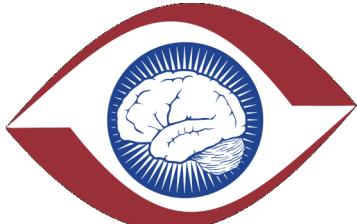
In her personal life, Holly is married with three wonderful kids. She loves sports and is an avid University of Kentucky fan — Go Wildcats! She loves to travel and wants to visit all 50 states.

Congratulations to Our Latest Grant Recipients!



L-R: Drs. Vaughan, Pardue and Yu

We are proud to announce that three of our investigators received VA Rehab R&D merit review funding: **Camille Vaughan, MD, MS** for research to look at exercise-based behavioral therapy for treatment of urinary symptoms in adults with PD, entitled *Behavioral or Solifenacain Therapy for Urinary Symptoms in Parkinson Disease*; **Machelle Pardue, PhD** for *Dopamine Treatments for Diabetic Retinopathy*; and **Shan Ping Yu, MD, PhD** for *Novel Regenerative Treatment for TBI and Post-TBI Depression*. Great job, Investigators!



Center for Visual and Neurocognitive Rehabilitation

**Atlanta VA Medical Center
1670 Clairmont Road
Decatur GA 30033**

Telephone: 404-728-5064

Toll Free: 1-800-944-9726, ext. 5064

Email: cvnr@va.gov

Website: www.varrd.emory.edu

CVNR NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

Page 4



**For information about participating
in CVNR research studies,
check out the list of study volunteer
opportunities at:**

http://www.varrd.emory.edu/active_studies/



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Atlanta VA Health Care System