

This fall we have a number of new colleagues joining us--too many for one message, in fact. This month I want to introduce you to a group of established neuroscientists who have moved their labs to Iowa from Texas, Florida, and the UK. Recruiting these three scientists was a joint effort among their departments--Psychological and Brain Sciences, Neuroscience and Pharmacology, Neurosurgery—and the INI, demonstrating once again that our strength is in collaboration.



Isabel Muzzio, is the Ronnie Ketchel Professor in Psychology, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. She arrived from the University of Texas San Antonio, but before that, she and I co-taught a course on the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory when we were both faculty at the University of Pennsylvania. Her current research is focused on effects of fear on encoding and stability of spatial representations in the dorsal and ventral hippocampus; strategies, representations, and circuits underlying spatial reorientation; and effects of sleep on memory and hippocampal representations.



Seth Tomchik arrived this summer from Scripps Research Institute and has hit the ground running as professor of neuroscience and pharmacology and INI associate director. Seth's research focuses on learning and memory, as well as neuronal effects of the genetic disorder neurofibromatosis type 1. These are related, as he and his team seek to understand both how the brain encodes memory in normal conditions, as well as how fundamental features of brain plasticity are altered in disorders that affect brain function.



After nearly a decade of collaborating with Matt Howard and the Human Brain Research Lab from his post at the Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University, UK, **Chris Petkov** joins us this fall as professor and vice chair of research in the Department of Neurosurgery. His research seeks to advance our understanding the neural mechanisms of communication and to impact on the treatment strategies and options available for perceptual and cognitive disorders in communication in people with stroke or brain degeneration.

Each of them connects to areas of strength in our research community and will help us continue to build on the solid foundation we have established. It's not a simple thing to pick up your lab and your life and move across the country or across the ocean. I am thankful to all of our Iowa neuroscientists for creating a welcoming space where new colleagues can see a successful path for themselves and their trainees. I encourage us all to continue building collaborations here at Iowa as well as around the country and around the world. These connections lead to discoveries we would never achieve on our own.

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