

Committee for Biomedical Research

2025 Summary

Susann Brady-Kalnay, Chair

CBR Meetings 2025

Committee for Biomedical Research Reviews		
Thursday January 23		
Time	Name	Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Daniel Pendergast	Executive Director, Technology Transfer Office
Thursday February 27		
Time	Name	Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm		NIH
Thursday March 27		
Time	Name	
3:00 - 4:00 pm		NIH
Thursday April 24		
Time	Name	Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Martha Sajatovic	Neurological and Behavioral Outcomes Center
Thursday May 22		
Time	Name	Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Emily Hamburg-Shields	New Faculty
Thursday September 25		
Time	Name	Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm		AI in Biomedical Research
Thursday October 23		
Time	Name	Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm		Other Funding streams
Thursday November 20		
Time	Name	Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm		Faculty Survey of AI Use
Thursday December 18		
Time	Name	Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm		Discussion with AI Experts

Major Issues Discussed

- AI in School of Medicine
- Changes to the NIH and Research Funding
- Challenges for New Faculty
- Technology Transfer
- Center for Neurological and Behavioral Outcomes

Neurological and Behavioral Outcomes Center (NBOC)



**Martha
Sajatovic, MD**



**Jennifer
Levin, PhD**



**Molly
McVoy, MD**



**Siran
Koroukian, PhD**



**Christopher
Burant, PhD**



**Angela
Ridgel, PhD**



**Farren
Briggs, PhD**



Mission of the Neurological & Behavioral Outcomes Center (NBOC)

- *To identify, develop and assist with implementing methods and approaches and creating new knowledge in patient care, education, and research that deliver the highest value healthcare as defined by improved outcomes in patients with conditions that affect the brain and nervous system.*
- This is aligned with CWRU research priorities of Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders and Public and Community Health–Social Determinants of Health, Health Policy and Implementation as outlined in the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan.

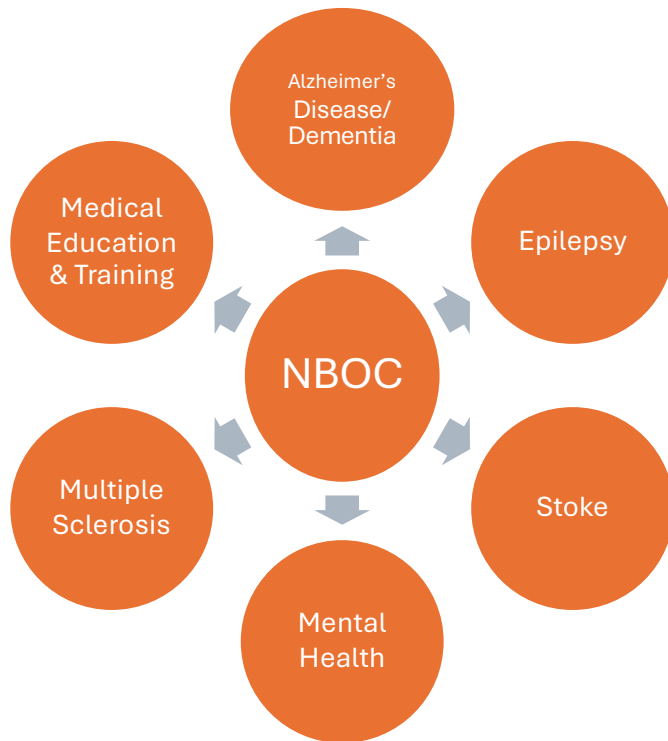
Brief History

- As a primarily research focused collaborative, NBOC has been existence within the University Hospitals Neurological Institute (NI) since 2009
- In 2009, the UH NI established the Willard Brown Chair in Neurological Outcomes, with Dr. Martha Sajatovic as the inaugural chair holder
- 2009 to approximately 2012: UH NI provided modest “start up” funds that allowed for the hiring of a administrative support staff member limited infrastructure support
- 2010: Inception of the NBOC Scholars program. NBOC Scholars are scientists with complementary expertise who collaborate on research grant proposals, scientific presentations, teaching and publications with the goal of creating new knowledge on conditions that affect the brain and nervous system.
- The NBOC scholarship team has established an extensive portfolio of externally-funded research, developed successful mentorship models and maintained a robust output of peer-reviewed publications and regional, national and international recognition of their work.

Scope of NBOC

- **Maintain and expand an externally- funded research portfolio:** Collaborators include CWRU SOM, Arts & Science and Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, the VA, MetroHealth System, Cleveland Clinic, Northern Illinois University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Cincinnati, University of California San Diego, University of Colorado, University of Iowa, University of Texas Houston, Massachusetts General Hospital, Mayo Clinic, Northwestern University, Yale University, Makerere University in Uganda and Taipei Medical University.
- **Provide education on research methods/application:** NBOC Faculty and Scholars support trainees and mentees in neurology, psychiatry, health services, epidemiology and biostatistics. NBOC ran a neurosurgical research mentorship program 2018-2023 & a current NIH-funded training grant in Uganda based on the NBOC mentorship model
- **Disseminate NBOC research methods and findings on a regional/national and international level:** Growing awareness and advancing findings of NBOC research are a key goal of NBOC.

Research and Activity Domains



Exemplar:

Self-management Intervention for Reducing Epilepsy Burden among Ugandans with Epilepsy (SMART-U)

PIs: Sajatovic & Kaddumukasa, Co-Is: Levin & Burant

Source: NINDS

Dates: 8/1/2023 – 7/31/2028

Funding: \$2.5 million

Cleveland Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (CADRC)

PI: Leverenz Co-I: Sajatovic Outreach and Engagement Core Leader

Source: NIA 1P30AG072959-01.

Dates: 09/01/2021 – 06/30/2026. Funding: \$15 million

SOAR – State of Ohio Adversity and Resilience (SOAR) study

Site PI: McVoy Site Co-I: Sajatovic

Source: State of Ohio Dates: 2/1/2024-06/30/2025

Total funding: \$10,000,000. Site funding University

Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center: \$477,000

Operational Structure Current & Proposed

- NBOC is a virtual center, reflecting the geographic and interinstitutional diversity of the faculty pool.
 - Administrative support, derived in part from Dr. Sajatovic's endowed position, facilitates collaboration in a shared academic mission of research and education.
 - Faculty are independently supported via NIH and other sources of external funding.
- If established as a CWRU Type B Center, NBOC will enhance training/mentorship initiatives, with a specific focus on building capacity and growing collaborative research in neurological and behavioral outcomes. Specific activities that will help operationalize this goal:
- a. Have an internal advisory committee that meets annually
 - b. Establish/ maintain a dedicated web presence
 - c. Provide an annual report that outlines progress made in the last year and provide this report to the SOM Dean
 - d. Provide modest infrastructure support for scholars
 - e. Develop/maintain a more intensive mentee experience

Type B Center “Asks” to support NBOC growth/evolution

- Adjunct appointments to CWRU SOM for all non-CWRU NBOC Scholars
- NBOC internal advisory committee (IAC) stipends: Up to 5 internal advisors will meet once annually to review NBOC accomplishments, goals and future strategy
- Support for 2 students/mentees per year to have an “intensive” NBOC mentorship experience that involves input from a core team of 3 NBOC Scholar mentors.
- Student travel fund: NBOC intensive students who do not have other support will receive modest support for travel to present their work at appropriate venues, such as scientific meetings
- Core faculty stipend: NBOC faculty who serve on an intensive student core team will receive a modest annual stipend
- NBOC faculty travel fund: NBOC faculty who do not have other support will receive modest support for travel to present their work at appropriate venues, such as scientific meetings

2026 Agenda

- Reviewing Centers that have not been discussed in the past 3 years
- Neurosciences Department and Brain Health Initiative
- Changes in the financial oversight of the SOM