

NewsLine

News and information from Bradley University



Professor Receives Donation to Continue Stem Cell Research

Peoria, IL (June 3, 2009) - Dr. Craig Cady, Assistant Professor of Biology at Bradley University, recently received a \$10,000 donation from the Focus on a Cure Foundation for Parkinson's, a non-profit organization that advocates research to further the understanding of Parkinson's disease.

The mission of Focus on the Cure is to inspire community involvement, raise awareness for Parkinson's disease and fund research to find a cure. The Foundation was founded by Ken and Ann Glowienke in 2007 to raise awareness, increase education and provide support to patients and family members with Parkinson's disease.

Cady's research and teaching emphasis is in neurophysiology. He conducts research to develop neurons from stem cells that some day can be introduced into the brains of patients suffering from neurodegenerative diseases to restore functionality in areas of the brain affected by the disease.

His research has enabled him to transform stem cells into neurons while carefully controlling environmental conditions and introducing a precise cocktail of chemicals to encourage the desired differentiation.

"The tremendous expense of conducting stem cell research adds up," Cady said. "I have six Bradley undergraduate students working in the lab with me, and supplies and equipment are expensive. This generous donation will allow me to continue my research."

Cady came to Bradley after completing a National Institute of Health fellowship in the neurology department at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield. During his fellowship at SIU, his research focused on the effects of aging on the brain as related to neurodegenerative diseases. He has published papers on age-related changes in neuron function, methods of extending neuron survival and on how estrogen can protect the brain from neurodegenerative diseases. Cady is currently involved in several stem cell research projects.

Bradley University is an independent, privately endowed, coeducational institution. With an enrollment of approximately 6,000 students, Bradley offers a full range of undergraduate, graduate, and community outreach programs. Our faculty of teacher-

scholars collaborate with each other and students in their research and creative production.