

News

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*****Brain researcher receives Fulbright Grant for
University of Oslo.

DALLAS -- Dr. Gregory Mihailoff, associate professor of Cell Biology at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, has been selected a recipient of a Fulbright Grant for research at the Institute of Anatomy, University of Oslo, Norway.

From April through July, Mihailoff will be Fulbright Research Scholar in Residence in the laboratory of Drs. Alf and Per Brodal, who have pioneered in research on the area of the brain that controls motor activity.

Mihailoff has already done a great deal of work on the basilar pontine nuclei, an important link between the cerebral cortex and the cerebellum. The cerebral cortex activates the spinal cord to initiate muscle activity. It also sends information through the basilar pons to the cerebellum, which sends information back to modify the muscle movement. While in Oslo, the researcher will study the cell structure and the synaptic connections in the basilar pons with the goal of understanding the brain's network for motor control.

An additional experiment involves the ability of the brain to compensate for injury by forming new synaptic connections. Mihailoff has found this kind of compensation in rats in his own laboratory. In Oslo he will be studying cats, which have a more highly ordered cerebral cortex than that of the rat. These studies could have important clinical application in stroke patients.

In 1974 Mihailoff received his Ph.D. in anatomy at Ohio State University and joined the faculty at UTHSCD as assistant professor of Cell Biology. He now holds a secondary appointment as assistant professor of Neurology.

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