

## Record-Breaking Research Day at Feinberg

Nearly 400 students, trainees, staff, and faculty presented abstracts at Feinberg's 12th Annual Lewis Landsberg Research Day on April 7. Participation reached a new high for the event, which showcases the medical school's diverse, innovative research and celebrates the University's passion for scientific discovery.

"I hope that research remains a big focus for me as I go forward in my career," says **Hawkins Gay**, an internal medicine resident who won first prize in the public health and social sciences category during the event's scientific poster competition.

For his project, Gay compared the effectiveness of different dietary approaches to reducing hypertension, conducting a meta-analysis of 24 studies involving nearly 24,000 participants.

"Understanding dietary patterns can improve the health of populations," says Gay, who hopes to apply what he learned when practicing preventive health with patients. "Research Day is a great platform for me to show this research that I've spent so much time working on."

[Read more.](#)



## New Operations Directors Join Core Facilities

The Office for Research is pleased to announce the addition of three new operations directors at a trio of Shared and Core Facilities: **Valerie Tokars**, research associate professor of pharmacology (Structural Biology Facility); **Xinkun 'Sequen' Wang**, research associate professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics (Next-Generation Sequencing Core); and **Young Ah Goo**, research assistant professor in the Proteomics Center of Excellence (Proteomics Core).

"We would like to welcome these talented investigators to the Office for Research," says **Phil Hockberger**, assistant vice president for research. "It's a testament to the University's growing reputation that we were able to recruit these top-notch scientists to run our core facilities."

Tokars has a longstanding interest in molecular machines that was further developed while earning her PhD in molecular biophysics and biochemistry at Northwestern. An expert on x-ray structural studies of kinases, proteases, and cytoskeletal architecture, she has published nearly two dozen papers. Tokars completed postdoctoral fellowships at Northwestern and Rosalind Franklin University, and was a faculty

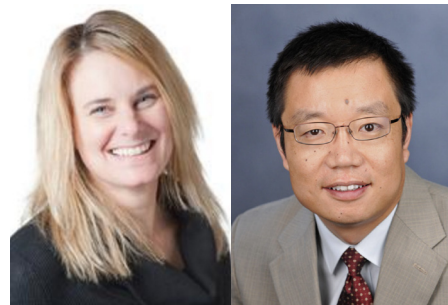
member at the University of Illinois-Chicago before joining Northwestern's faculty in 2010.

Before his recent arrival at Northwestern, Wang was founding director of the Genome Sequencing Core and the Genomics Facility at the University of Kansas where he supported projects related to a range of biomedical research interests, including cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, pediatric diseases, and psychiatric disorders. He also has directed research related to neurological and neurodegenerative diseases. Wang earned his PhD in cell and molecular biology at Oklahoma State University and has 13 years of experience building genome research infrastructure and directing genomics facilities.

Goo's research focuses on using mass spectrometry-based proteomics applications and applying global systems approaches to study biological questions, with an emphasis on discovery of diagnostic/prognostic biomarkers and therapeutic targets for human diseases. She earned her PhD in genome sciences/pathobiology with Leroy Hood at the University of Washington (UW) and did postdoctoral training in the Institute for Systems Biology before joining the

faculty at the UW School of Nursing.

She subsequently moved to the School of Pharmacy at the University of Maryland where she was research assistant professor and associate director of the Mass Spectrometry Center. She arrives at Northwestern on May 1.



Valerie Tokars

Xinkun 'Sequen' Wang



Young Ah Goo