

NEC EARNs \$650,000 GRANT

THREE PROFESSORS TO CONDUCT BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Three New England College professors have received a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as part of a \$15.4 million award to ten institutions of higher education in the State of New Hampshire. The grant makes it possible to upgrade the College's science facilities, provide training for both students and faculty, and for faculty and students to conduct biomedical research.

NEC research investigators Dr. Lori Bergeron, Assistant Professor of Biology, Dr. James Newcomb, Assistant Professor of Biology, and Dr. Heather Chabot, Associate Professor of Psychology, will have the opportunity to continue their specific research projects with additional resources, and to involve undergraduate students in their work over the academic year and the summer break.

The grant establishes the New Hampshire Idea Network of

Biological Research Excellence known as INBRE, and allows for a statewide collaboration of institutions of higher education that includes: Dartmouth Medical School; the University of New Hampshire; Plymouth State University; Keene State College; New England College; Colby-Sawyer College; St. Anselm College; Franklin Pierce University; River Valley Community College; and Great Bay Community College.

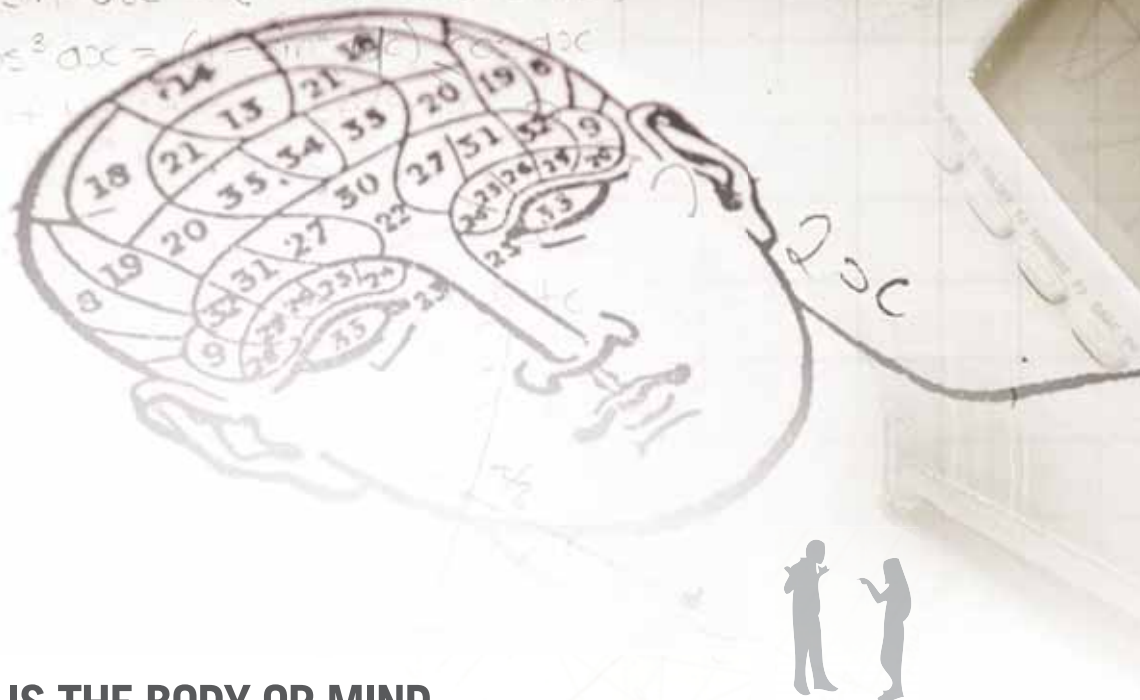
"The INBRE grant is a direct reflection of the New England College mission to support engaged learning for our undergraduate students," states President Michele Perkins. "This is an opportunity for our College to enhance the culture of research on our campus, to sustain the important research projects currently pursued by our faculty, and to provide opportunities to engage in research that would lead to potential careers in biomedical research for our students."

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$$\cos^2 \alpha x = (1 - \sin^2 \alpha x) \cos \alpha x$$



IS THE BODY OR MIND MORE EAGER TO HELP?

DR. HEATHER CHABOT'S RESEARCH INTO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION



With funds from the INBRE grant, Dr. Heather Chabot will investigate physiological and psychological responses toward victims of domestic violence. Her study will explore whether the perceptions of victims of domestic violence influence the way others treat them and their willingness to provide assistance to victims. The question that informs her research is, to what degree is the general population aware of domestic

violence? Her search also examines the age-old mind/body relationship as she hopes to reveal the underlying psychology and associated physiology that drives a certain decision and behavioral pattern. Additionally, Dr. Chabot hopes to determine if would-be helpers experience relief or stress after they decide to intervene.

In her teaching at New England College, Dr. Chabot, Associate Professor of Psychology, consistently encourages students to engage in the research process and to share their findings with others. In her "Research Methods" class, students investigate a topic of their choice and conduct and present a research study. Students choose a variety of presentation options, and have shared their research in the form of presentations at regional and national psychology conferences and contributions to scholarly papers.

Dr. Chabot has co-authored papers with her students, including one that was recently published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. She views research as a collaborative endeavor and believes that most students can do science - they just have to believe that they can. She sees her role in the classroom as giving

students the skills and confidence to pursue scientific goals.

"You can't just assign a project and tell your students it's due in 14 weeks," she remarks. "They need to be talked through it and supported throughout the project."

Dr. Chabot plans to initiate the next phase of her research into domestic violence in the 2011 spring semester, and will actively seek the participation of NEC students. Through the INBRE grant, Dr. Chabot will be able to train students in research, purchase equipment and supplies, and offer students a stipend, allowing them to continue to assist in the research process through the summer months.

The INBRE grant will also provide much-needed funds so that students can attend scientific conferences. According to Dr. Chabot, "The INBRE grant presents a tremendous opportunity for students to advance their knowledge in science while participating in professional level interactions with other researchers."

Another important aspect of the grant is the collaborative relationships that will be established with the other institutions receiving INBRE funds. Students will have the opportunity to connect with researchers at other institutions in New Hampshire, learn research techniques, attend presentations, and share research and facilities.

Throughout the three-year grant cycle, Dr. Chabot will work closely with Dr. Victoria Banyard, a colleague at the University of New Hampshire, who specializes in exploring innovative approaches to preventing interpersonal violence.

Contributing writers are Kathleen Williams, Director of Public Information, and Dawn Coutu, Graduate Communications Assistant. INBRE grant administrators at New England College are Dr. Debra Dunlop, Professor of Biology, and Greg Palmer, Director of Development Operations.