

## **Women's History Month**

**March 1-31**

<https://womeninscience.nih.gov/>

**The NIH Clinical Center treats a diverse group of patients from all over the world. It also draws researchers from different cultures and backgrounds. Learn more about some of the many female researchers who conduct their work at the Clinical Center.**



**Carmen. C. Brewer, PhD**, who conducts research for the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at the NIH Clinical Center, is chief research audiologist in the NIDCD Audiology Unit.

Dr. Brewer received a BA from Rutgers University and an MA and PhD in Audiology and Hearing Science from the University of Maryland. Dr. Brewer began her career as a clinical fellow in audiology at the Washington Hospital Center, and eventually became director of the Hearing and Speech Center. During her tenure at Washington Hospital Center, she gained considerable experience in the audiologic assessment and rehabilitation of adult patients of all ages, developed and implemented a newborn hearing screening program, developed community outreach programs and administered a comprehensive audiology and speech pathology program.

In 2002, Dr. Brewer moved to the NIDCD, where she is the chief of the Audiology Unit.

Dr. Brewer's research interests include ototoxicity, genotype/phenotype relationships in hereditary hearing loss, heritability of auditory processing skills, and balance function in Usher syndrome.

In March 2014, The American Academy of Audiology presented Dr. Brewer with an Award of Distinguished Achievement in acknowledgement of her "dedication to the profession of audiology for almost 40 years as an innovator in clinical teaching and mentoring, a pioneer in the area of delivery of clinical services, and a translational researcher whose body of work has impacted generations of audiologists."

Visit her NIDCD [profile page](#) to learn more about her research.



**Jessica M. Gill, PhD, RN**, who conducts research for the National Institute of Nursing Research at the NIH Clinical Center, is a Lasker Clinical Research Scholar in the Tissue Injury Branch.

Dr. Gill's interest in research began during her nursing undergraduate career, during which she volunteered with women and children whose lives were negatively affected by violence. She observed that this extreme stress resulted in differing outcomes with some women being substantially impaired, whereas others were able to recover. She questioned the mechanisms underlying these divergent responses to extreme stress. This line of questioning led her to pursue a graduate degree from Oregon Health and Science University in psychiatric nursing, which included clinical training in the post-traumatic stress disorder program at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Research questions about trauma and resiliency were amplified during her work with Vietnam veterans who remained impacted by their combat service decades after returning home. Based on these volunteer and clinical experiences, she decided to pursue a doctorate at Johns Hopkins University's School of Nursing. Her dissertation research demonstrated the presence of high rates of PTSD in urban health care seeking women, and that a PTSD diagnosis was associated with perceived health declines as well as with higher concentrations of inflammatory markers and a dysregulation of endocrine functioning.

Following completion of her PhD, she obtained a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Nursing Research to better understand the biological mechanisms of PTSD and depression, finding central and peripheral alterations in the in-vivo functioning of both immune and endocrine systems. This line of research also led her to become a Clinical Investigator in the Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine.

At the CNRM, her program of research and clinical practice expanded to examining the biological mechanisms of PTSD and traumatic brain injury related impairments in service members where, again, she observed a high degree of differential response to combat trauma and TBIs. This experience led to questions regarding the mechanisms underlying these differential responses, a line of inquiry that could only be determined using a prospective design of patients immediately following a trauma. Dr. Gill returned to NINR as a Lasker Clinical Research Scholar to develop this program of research, which aims to determine the clinical and biological risks that predict PTSD onset and neurological compromise following a traumatic injury.

Visit her NIH Intramural Research Program [profile page](#) to learn more about her research.



**Karen Berman, MD**, is a senior investigator and chief of the Section on Integrative Neuroimaging and the Clinical Brain Disorders Branch at the National Institutes of Health, NIMH Intramural Research Program. After receiving her MD degree at St. Louis University, she completed a medical internship at Washington University in St. Louis and had residency training in psychiatry at the University of California at San Diego. Dr. Berman also completed residency training in nuclear medicine at the NIH Clinical Center and is board certified in both psychiatry and nuclear medicine.

She has received a number of awards, including the A.E. Bennett Award for Neuropsychiatric Research of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression Independent Investigator Award, the NIH Bench to Bedside Award and the NIH Director's Award for her outstanding pioneering research on Williams Syndrome.

Dr. Berman's research group conducts translational investigations, using multimodal neuroimaging to bridge the gap between neurogenetic, molecular, cellular and system-level mechanisms of brain dysfunction and the cognitive and behavioral manifestations of neuropsychiatric disorders neurodevelopmental and genetic sources such as schizophrenia and Williams syndrome, as well of other conditions impacting cognition such as normal aging. They also study the effects of gonadal steroid hormones on brain function. This body of work has been published in *Nature Neuroscience*, *Neuron*, the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and the *Journal of Neuroscience*, among others.

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**Rosandra N. Kaplan, MD**, is an investigator in the National Cancer Institute's Pediatric Oncology Branch and the NIH Clinical Center.

Dr. Kaplan received her medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, NH. She completed her pediatric residency training at Harvard Children's Hospital Boston and Boston Medical Center. Following residency, Dr. Kaplan pursued a fellowship in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medical Center, where she served as chief fellow. She did her postdoctoral research work in the laboratory of Dr. David Lyden. She was appointed assistant professor at Weill Cornell Medical College and assistant member at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 2006. In the fall of 2010, she joined the Pediatric Oncology Branch of the NCI. She is a clinician and physician scientist with active translational and clinical research interests focused on the mechanism of cancer spread.

Dr. Kaplan has been the recipient of several grants including the Charles, Lillian and Betty Neuwirth Clinical Scholar in Pediatric Oncology, Doris Duke Charitable Career Development Award, a co-investigator in the Komen Foundation Investigator-Initiated Award, Hope Street

Kids grant award, ASCO young investigator award and the Association for Research of Childhood Cancer.

Visit her NCI [profile page](#) to learn more about her research.