



Carlucci Puts Spotlight on Mental Health Research in Rockland

Researchers at the Nathan Kline Institute in Orangeburg are studying the human brain with the NKI-Rockland Sample project.

*Excerpts from **Pearl River Patch***

Posted by Ryan Buncher (Editor), August 09, 2013

Researchers at the Nathan Kline Institute in Orangeburg are breaking new ground with the "NKI-Rockland Sample" study of the human brain, now in its second of four years using cutting edge techniques to examine volunteers of all ages and demographics in Rockland County.

New York State Senator David Carlucci (D-Rockland/Westchester) joined scientists at the institute Thursday to put the spotlight on the study, which he hopes will improve quality of life for those suffering from mental illness and bring research dollars into Rockland County.

"We want to make sure Rocklanders and New Yorkers know how important this work being done here is," Carlucci said.

The NKI-Rockland Sample is focused on understanding how the brain develops and changes over the course of the human lifespan. Nathan Kline Institute Director of Research Dr. Donald C. Goff compared the goal to the Framingham Heart Study, which provided the basis for vast improvements in the prevention of heart disease in the United States, though this research is focused on mental illness.

"The NKI-Rockland Sample is an extraordinary opportunity for an entire community to create knowledge that will help scientists around the world unlock the mysteries of the brain," Goff said. "The children, adolescents and adults in Rockland County are generously giving of their time and energy to participate in the NKI-Rockland Sample, a research project that for the first time covers the entire lifespan allowing us to gain a far better understanding of how the brain develops in both health and diseases like schizophrenia, depression, Alzheimer's disease, ADHD and autism spectrum disorders."

"We are designing this as a resource for the scientific community," Milham said. "We are bringing it into the larger scientific community and creating a data set that will get the rest of the world involved and bring their attention to mental health. That is a major advance, that we have a data sharing philosophy that is serving as a model for the field. We're not waiting four or five years for the study to be done to share. As we are progressing, we are sharing while collecting and analyzing."

"I'm so excited to stand with the Kline Institute to promote the Rockland Sample," Carlucci said. "We are calling on all Rockland County residents interested in participating from ages six to 86 to participate in this wonderful study that is ongoing here at the Nathan Kline Institute."

For more information or to volunteer, call (845) 398-2183
or go to <http://rocklandsample.rfmh.org>