What makes fatty foods so tasty and irresistible? Can will power alone keep us away from temptation or are we wired to crave and seek out these foods? One culprit is a type of molecules in our body, called the endocannabinoids. Endocannabinoids activate neuron receptors, affecting certain physiological processes including food reward and energy balance. Recent research from the DiPatrizio laboratory at UCR has identified a critical role the endocannabinoid system in the upper small intestine play in driving one’s desire for more energy-dense foods. These studies suggest that endocannabinoids exert a powerful control over the consumption of fatty foods based on their taste qualities, and could be a target for safe, anti-obesity therapeutics.

The DiPatrizio laboratory at UCR studies the neurobiology and physiology that controls food reward, sensory processing, and energy balance by using combination of state-of-the-art analytical, surgical, biochemical, molecular, pharmacological, and behavioral tools. DiPatrizio’s research program investigates the molecular and neural underpinnings of obesity and hedonic eating, which may share the same characteristics as other addictive and compulsive behaviors. The lab’s work will support the discovery and development of novel therapeutic strategies to safely treat obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

A native of the Philadelphia area, Dr. Nicholas DiPatrizio received his B.A. in Psychology from Temple University and his Ph.D in Neuroscience from Drexel. After moving to southern California for a postdoctoral fellowship at the UC Irvine School of Medicine, he joined the UCR faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Biomedical Sciences of the School of Medicine.

Monday, October 5, 2015
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
UCR Alumni & Visitors Center

Space is limited! Please R.S.V.P. by Monday, September 28th!

Using the enclosed self-addressed envelope, return your luncheon reservation payable to: REGENTS UC University of California, Governmental & Community Relations – 101, Riverside, CA 92521-0153 Any reservations not cancelled by October 5th will be billed. Questions: Please call (951) 827-5184

Name ________________________________ Guest Name(s) ________________________________

[ ] Check for Vegetarian meal

Address ___________________________________ City ________________________________

Zip _______________ Telephone _______________ Email ________________________________

Luncheon ($20 for members or $25 for non-members) Payable to REGENTS UC $ ________
Luncheon Fee for a scholarship recipient ($25.00) Payable to REGENTS UC $ ________
My donation to the Affiliates Scholarship fund is enclosed—Payable to UCRF $ ________

RSVPs also accepted via email at robin.clark@ucr.edu