

# RESEARCH UPDATE



Have a Happy Holiday Season  
and a Joyful and Prosperous New Year.

-ACHRI Administrative Staff

December 2009



Where Miracles Begin

Annual Report 2009

ACHRI's 2009 Annual Report provides a review of research revenue and milestones for the past fiscal year.

## ACHRI 2009 Annual Report Released

ACHRI has just released its 2009 Annual Report. The report provides an overview of research revenue and milestones for the Institute. ACHRI uses the report to provide information about itself to our board of directors, research community, donors and other supporters, as well as to ACH and the public. In the introduction to the 2009 Annual Report, Dr. Richard F. Jacobs discusses how the discoveries made at ACHRI would not have transpired without the dedication of ACHRI's supporters, board of directors, researchers, and staff, as well as the ongoing contributions of research grants and generous philanthropy.

The centerpiece of this year's annual report is a set of profiles on three of ACHRI's junior investigators: Sadia Malik, Amy Scurlock, and Kartik Shankar. These features explain how these young investigators are building enduring careers that will impact the lives of children in Arkansas and throughout the world. The accounts of these researchers' successes highlight the support and encouragement that they have received so far in their careers from senior investigators, ACHRI facilities, and our donors. These stories are

representative of the achievements of all of ACHRI's junior investigators and show the promise of these men and women to improve the health, development, and well-being of children everywhere.

The annual report also highlights the accomplishments in ACHRI's various research areas for the past fiscal year. The report reflects ACHRI's diverse research expertise, ranging from basic science to clinical and community-based research, and shows how ACHRI researchers are improving the health of children, families, and their communities through clinical, basic science, health promotion, health outcomes, health services, and prevention research. A more exhaustive list chronicling researcher achievements is provided at ACHRI's Web site.

The annual report addresses the subject of philanthropy this year. In this important feature, the ACH Foundation explains how philanthropy contributed to the creation of ACHRI and how ongoing support has helped ACHRI grow. This history is vital to understand and appreciate as ACHRI marks 20 years of pediatric research and as we look towards the future.

The [2009 Annual Report](#) is available online at ACHRI's Web site. ACH Photographer Kelley Cooper provided the many wonderful photographs found throughout the report.

## Research Misconduct Expert to Speak at ACHRI

ACHRI invites all researchers and research staff members to hear a presentation on research misconduct by Alan R. Price, PhD, the world's leading expert in reviewing allegations and in conducting investigations of research misconduct. Misconduct involves all aspects of research and is not limited to the laboratory or clinical setting and includes fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. Dr. Price's presentation will address falsification, fabrication, and plagiarism. He will also be available for questions afterwards.



Dr. Alan Price

Dr. Price served from 1989 to 2006 as Scientist-Investigator, Branch Chief, Division Director, and Associate Director for Investigative Oversight of the [Office of Research Integrity \(ORI\)](#) working for United States Public Health Service agencies in the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. In 2006, Dr. Price was involved in the case of Dr. Eric Poehlman, the first academic to be jailed in federal prison for falsifying data in a grant application.

The presentation is Tuesday, December 15, from 10 am to 11 am in Brandon Auditorium (South Campus). For more information about the Dr. Price's visit and presentation, contact Margie Brackeen ([brackeenmargiei@uams.edu](mailto:brackeenmargiei@uams.edu)) at 364-3586. Earlier in the day, Dr. Price will present Grand Rounds from 8 am to 9 am in Chairman's Hall (Sturgis Building).

## Graduate Fellowship Awards to 2 UAMS Students Working at ACNC

National funding agencies have awarded graduate fellowships to Christian Simmons, MD-PhD student, Department of Physiology and Biophysics (UAMS), and Omar Rahal, PhD student, Interdisciplinary Biological Sciences Program (UAMS). Christian received a 1-year Doctoral Dissertation award of \$15,000 from the Southern Regional Education Board-State Doctoral Scholars Program for his project "Krüppel-like Factor 9, Estrogen Receptor  $\alpha$ , and Endometrial Cancer Risk." Omar received a 3-year Pre-Doctoral Fellowship award of \$129,000 from the US Department of Defense Breast Cancer Program for his project "Dietary Regulation of the Tumor Suppressor PTEN Network and Tumor Initiating Population in the Mammary Gland: Implications for Breast Cancer Prevention." Christian and Omar are graduate students of Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center Senior Investigator Dr. Rosalia CM Simmen and were among the initial recipients of ACHRI's Student and Clinical Staff Research Intramural Grant Program awards in 2008. Congratulations to these diligent student researchers as they further their scholarship and research endeavors!



## President's Choice

Crider KS, Cleves MA, Reefhuis J, Berry RJ, Hobbs CA, Hu DJ. Antibacterial medication use during pregnancy and risk of birth defects: National Birth Defects Prevention Study. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med.* 2009 Nov;163(11):978-85.

Damiano P, Tyler M, Romitti P, Druschel C, Austin A, Burnett W, Kizelnik-Freilich S, Robbins JM. Demographic Characteristics, Care, and Outcomes for Children With Oral Clefts in Three States Using Participants From the National Birth Defects Prevention Study. *Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal.* 2009 November; 46(6).

## Biostatistical and Database Services Available to Researchers

Are you looking to improve the quality of your research project

and significantly increase your chance of funding? Do you need a user-friendly database built, an existing database restructured, or reports designed and analyzed? The faculty and staff of [Pediatric Biostatistics](#) under the direction of Dr. Todd Nick can help. We are dedicated to providing outstanding statistical and database support to researchers while advancing the reputation and research capacity of the campus. Our services include grant development (pre-award activities) assistance with framing and refining research questions and reshaping the study design. In addition, we can collaborate in creating a statistical analysis plan (SAP), develop a randomization plan, determine/justify sample size, and develop a data management and data collection plan. For other types of work, such as post-award activities, we can provide database management, statistical analysis, interpretation, and preparation of results for publication and presentation. Database development and management services include building end-user research or clinical databases on secured networks or using secured web-based applications (<http://project-redcap.org>) and providing data from MEDITECH on research-funded projects. For project management questions and funding options for services provided, contact Darcy Ewalt at 364-6638 or [DKewalt@uams.edu](mailto:DKewalt@uams.edu). For all administration questions contact Hannah Feild at 364-6631 or [FeildHannah@uams.edu](mailto:FeildHannah@uams.edu).

### **Get your Continuing Review to the IRB Early**

Have you gotten a reminder email lately from the IRB saying that it is almost time to submit your continuing review?

The IRB's timeline for any type of review is three weeks. If you do not have your continuing review submitted in time to have it reviewed your approval will be suspended. If your study approval is suspended you must stop all study activity. Any involvement of subjects in research activities, data collection or data analysis is a violation of federal law. If there are research subjects for whom stopping research activities will cause harm, you must immediately submit to the IRB Chair a list of those subjects with an explanation of what activities must be continued and why. If you do not complete the Continuing Review process after your study has been suspended, your study could then be closed administratively by the IRB.

So, when you get that reminder, go ahead and submit your continuing review to the IRB 6-8 weeks before they are due so that you can get it reviewed and respond to any contingencies before your study expires.

### **Business Mileage Rate for 2010**

The IRS has announced that the business mileage rate for 2010 will be \$0.50. This is a decrease from the 2009 rate of \$0.55. For travel occurring after 12/31/09, the new rate should be used when requesting mileage reimbursement.

### **UAMS to Enforce Password Protection on Blackberries, iPhones, Win Mobile, and Other Active-Sync Devices (Smart Phones)**

Because of changes to federal law, UAMS is taking steps to minimize the risks of a data breach involving confidential information. [Click here to read more.](#)

## Recent Clinical Trial Activity

Clinical Trials	Agency	Project Period	Total Cost
Jose Romero	MedImmune	11/09-10/10	\$20,202
Kathryn Thrailkill	TKL	11/09-10/11	\$36,920

## Recent Grant Awards

PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding
Jill James	ACH Foundation	Oxidative Stress and Epigenetic Dysregulation in the Autistic Brain-Foundation Funded Project	11/09-12/11	\$795,231
Judy Weber	USDA - Agricultural Research Service's Delta Obesity Prevention Research Unit	Increasing School Bonding through Gardening to Reduce Obesity	10/09-9/13	\$1.8 Million

## Recent Grant Submissions

PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding
Sarah Blossom	NIH	Maternal Immunoregulatory Pathways in a Mouse Model of Congenital Heart Defects	7/10-6/12	\$147,000
Sarah Blossom	NIH	Neuroimmune Dysregulation with Development Exposure to Trichloroethylene	7/10-6/12	\$401,430
John Carroll	NIH	Postnatal Resetting of Carotid Chemoreceptor Sensitivity	1/08-6/11	\$297,600
Michael Stroud	NIH/NICHD	Goal-directed Resuscitative Interventions during Pediatric Inter-facility Transport (The GRIPIT Trial)	7/10-6/12	\$403,535

## Grant Writing Tip: Additional Enhancing Peer Review Resources Available

On November 19, NIH post a video titled "Enhancing Peer Review: What Applicants Need to Know Now." ([http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/application\\_changes\\_video.html](http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/application_changes_video.html)) The video discusses some of the upcoming changes to the structure of NIH applications and how those changes are related to the peer review system emphasizing how these changes will affect people who are preparing applications that will be submitted for due dates that fall on or after January 25, 2010.

The video includes a discussion of two upcoming changes affecting all competing applications submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2010: restructuring of the application forms and a new set of instructions about the types of information to include in applications. While the most obvious of these changes will be shorter page limits for research plans, there are other important changes to the structure of the application.

The video also assists in explaining how the new application forms will align with the Enhanced Review Criteria for research grants and cooperative agreements. It notes how the Significance, Innovation, and Approach review criteria correspond to the three sections of the Research Strategy, while Investigator(s) and Environment correspond to the Biographical Sketch and Resources sections, respectively. The Enhancing Peer Review Web site shows the alignment for other types of applications (such as fellowships or

career development awards). This information will be very useful as you navigate the page count as you move from the Research Plan to the shorter Research Strategy.

The 13-minute video supplements the extensive resources already available on the [NIH Enhancing Peer Review Web site](#). A transcript of the video presentation and a file of the accompanying slides are also available from the video's Web page.

### **Revised Application Guide for NIH Electronic Submissions Released**

NIH has released the revised "[SF424 \(R&R\) Application Guide for NIH and Other PHS Agencies](#)". This guide is for preparing and submitting applications via Grants.gov to NIH and other PHS agencies using the SF424 (R&R). It is compatible with the Adobe Forms Version B (to be used with FOAs specifying use of Adobe-Forms-B application packages). Applications intended for due dates on or after January 25, 2010, must use the updated version of the FOA and SF 424 (R&R) ADOBE-FORMS-B. The new electronic application packages are not yet available; as FOAs are updated with new language, the restructured forms will become available. You can register at the grant opportunity listing on grants.gov, to receive email notification when the revised application package is released. Regardless, check the announcement and NIH's Enhancing Peer Review (<http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov>) Web page often to ensure you obtain the revised package and other crucial information as soon as possible. Contact John Gregan (364-6296) if you have any questions.

### **Pathology Services Available to the ACH Research Community**

After two years of intense recruiting, the ACH Pathology Unit is now fully staffed with eight MDs and two PhDs who have expertise in all areas of pathology practice. Our major clinical areas of interest include autopsy pathology, gastrointestinal pathology, hematopathology, neuropathology, and the pathology associated with pediatric malignancies of all types. Our group is keenly interested in collaborating with ACH scientists, particularly those working with human tissues or focused on animal models of disease for which histopathological evaluation is required. To make a connection with the ACH pathologist who can best meet your research needs, please contact Dr. Douglas Blackall, Chief of Pediatric Pathology, at 364-1316 or at [blackalldouglas@uams.edu](mailto:blackalldouglas@uams.edu). He will facilitate your interaction with one or more of our pathologists.

### **Need assistance but don't know who to call at ACHRI?**

If you have questions while considering or conducting research at ACHRI or ACH but aren't sure who to contact, call our office at 364-7373. Our staff will be glad to help you or to connect you with the person that can help.

Please check out our revised administrative staff directory on the web (<http://achri.archildrens.org/staff.htm>). The directory now includes descriptions of services offered by ACHRI staff.



