



January 2008

ACHRI RESEARCHERS WORK TO EXTEND AND ENHANCE THE LIVES OF CF PATIENTS

In the US, about 30,000 children and adults have cystic fibrosis (CF), an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. The defective gene and its protein cause the body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus. This mucus clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections and obstructs the pancreas preventing natural digestive enzymes from helping the body to break down and absorb food.



Ashley, a 16-year-old with cystic fibrosis, knows that her participation in a clinical trial at ACH will help others.

Therapeutic approaches to address CF mainly treat its symptoms, but do not cure the disease. These treatments are mainly aimed at reducing respiratory infections and breaking up thickened mucous secretions that cause airflow obstruction and harbor bacteria. In the 1950's, few children with CF lived to attend elementary school. Today, through research and medical advances, many people with CF can expect to live into their 30s, 40s, and beyond.

At ACH, pulmonologist Dr. Dennis Schellhase is one of several clinical researchers working to extend and enhance the lives of CF patients. He is an ACH site investigator for two multi-center CF clinical trials. ACH is the only pediatric site for CF clinical trials in the state. Dr. Schellhase's efforts involve new pediatric therapies to reduce lung infections and to break up thickened mucous secretions. The drugs being studied include a dry powder and a nebulized solution that CF patients inhale.

The current clinical research involves patients of 6 to 21 years of age with CF. One of these patients is 16-year-old Ashley. "I wanted to participate to see if it would work," she says of joining the trial. "Also, I know I'm helping others."

Ashley is able to coordinate her normal clinic visits at ACH with her appointments for the clinical trial. Dr. Schellhase conducts his clinical trial at the Pediatric Clinical Research Unit at ACH. "The PCRU makes it possible to do these multi-center trials here," he says. Of the PCRU and its staff and services, he comments, "They make it simple." Ashley notes the staff is nice and fun. Ashley's mother Joanna finds the staff organized and compassionate.

Both mother and daughter know that Ashley may or may not benefit from participating in the clinical trial, but Ashley chose to participate anyway. Joanna says that Ashley has always been one to want to help others, and this teenager's brave, unselfish actions demonstrate it.

Ashley will complete her role in the trial in February. To other people with CF, Ashley says, "It will be rough, but don't give up hope. Stay positive. We're getting closer to a cure than we've ever been." The "we" isn't rhetorical, it's accurate. Because pediatric patients like Ashley are participating in clinical trials at ACH and across the country and dedicated physicians like Dr. Schellhase are involved in clinical research, new therapies for CF are becoming available and the lives of these patients are improving.

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Stop by the bulletin board located in the first-floor lobby of the ACHRI building to see the poster featuring this month's President's Choice publication. The following article was selected as this month's feature publication.

Shankar K, Harrell AM, Liu X, Gilchrist JM, Ronis MJ, Badger TM. Maternal Obesity at Conception Programs Obesity in the Offspring. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol*. 2007 Nov 21 [Epub ahead of print].

ACHRI would like to know about your published findings, as your articles are published, please email or mail a copy to [Phaedra Yount](#) (mail slot 842). The number of publications by our researchers is reported to hospital and ACHRI boards, so it is important that we receive an accurate count of the publications your research produces.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ACNC Study Links Moms' Health at Conception to Newborns'

A mother's weight and diet at the time of conception and throughout pregnancy may be linked to her child's risk of obesity later in life, according to research conducted at the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center (ACNC) and published this month in the *American Journal of Physiology – Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology*. The publication was selected as the January President's Choice Publication. To read more about these fascinating findings, please visit the [ACH Press Release Web page](#).

Pamela Killebrew Receives Bonny Hope Wallace Award for Excellence in Research

Pamela Killebrew, RNP, CCRC, a Research Coordinator for the Division of Pediatric Anesthesia and Pain Medicine at Arkansas Children's Hospital, was presented with the Bonny Hope Wallace Award for Excellence in Research during the second annual Certified Research Specialist (CRS) Awards Ceremony, held December 11, 2007 at UAMS. The award is named in memory of the late Bonny Hope Wallace, who was a highly regarded for her work in research for the Department of Surgery at UAMS for over 30 years. Pam completed the CRS program last year and was chosen from among 85 of her peers in the program to receive this honor. Along with her excellence in performing her regular duties as a coordinator in Anesthesia Research, Pam has also served on the UAMS IRB since 2004.

New CRA on Campus

ACHRI has a new Certified Research Administrator. Inna Selivra passed the certification exam administered by the Research Administrator's Certification Council. The certification exam is designed to establish the fundamental requirements and knowledge necessary for being certified as a professional research or sponsored programs administrator. The exam covers several areas including project development and administration, legal requirements, financial management, and general management as they apply to the field of research administration. Congratulations Inna!!!

WELCOME TO ACHRI

Mamie Johnson, Secretary III, joined ACHRI's staff on December 17. She has the smiling face you now see outside the 3rd floor elevators in the Research Building. Mamie primarily supports ACHRI's executive staff through various assignments including overseeing data storage, room scheduling, and ACHRI mailings. Previously, Mamie worked in Pediatric Psychology as a Management Project Analyst for a total of 14 years and a 2-year period as an Administrative Secretary for Dr. Jonathan Bates at ACH.

FEBRUARY CLINICAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute Human Subject Protections Area invites you to join your fellow clinical research professionals at the 2008 Clinical Research Compliance Symposium. This unique education and networking event focuses on solving your most complicated and pressing compliance challenges in a highly interactive platform.

Expert presentations will expose you to best practices, peer experiences, and authoritative advice that will give you insight and information on how to create strong research compliance programs.

The keynote speaker will be E. Haavi Morreim, PhD Professor Dept. of Human Values and Ethics, College of Medicine, University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Dr. Morreim will be discussing the issues of Quality Improvement projects (QI) versus Research.

This event is free and will be held on our campus, but registration is required.

Please see our symposium web site for more information. <http://achri.archildrens.org/guidebook/symposium.html>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Margie Brackeen; ACHRI Regulatory Compliance Specialist; at 364-3586 or brackeenmargiei@uams.edu

2008 ACHRI INVESTIGATOR MEETINGS

Please mark your calendar for the 2008 ACHRI Investigator Meetings:

- **January 14**
- April 9
- August 5
- October 29

All meetings will be held in the Brandon Auditorium at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided to the first 50 attendees.

COMPLIANCE CORNER

It is a new year and we take the time to look forward to the activities of the months to come. While you are reviewing your assets and commitments for the coming year, take a moment to make sure that you do not have any new conflicts of interest. ACHRI's Conflict of Interest policy can be found at:

http://achri.archildrens.org/resources/policies/conflict_interest.doc

UAMS revised their Conflict of Interest policy in November 2007, and it can be found at:

<http://www.uams.edu/orsp/COI%20policy%2011%201%2007%20final%20academic.pdf>

COMING SOON!

ACHRI will conduct a Customer Opinion Survey for investigators and their staff in the spring of 2008. Specific dates and details will be announced soon.

NEW RESEARCH FEE SCHEDULE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH

ACH has issued a new Research Fee Schedule for Clinical Research. Please contact Janet Storment 364-2760 regarding any clinical pricing your project may need. All previously arranged pricing will not change.

BUSINESS MILEAGE RATE FOR 2008

The IRS has announced that the business mileage rate for 2008 will be \$0.505. The current rate is \$0.485. For travel occurring after 12/31/07, the new rate should be used when requesting mileage reimbursement.

PURCHASE REQUESTS MADE CLOSE TO THE END OF THE PROJECT PERIOD

Requests for all purchases that are made close to the end of a project period should provide a justification for the purchase in the comment box of the request. Justification should include how the item will benefit the project and the reason the item is being ordered when the project is scheduled to close in the near future.

By including the justification in the comment box, the request can be expedited and you and ACHRI will have documentation in the event the project account is audited.

At this time ACHRI does not have a policy regarding purchases being made at the end of a project period but will be working to establish.

NEW INDUSTRY-SPONSORED PROJECTS

PI	Agency	Project Period	Total Cost
Kimo Stine	Amgen	12/07 - 12/08	39,692.50
Stephanie Stoval	Duke	12/07 - 12/12	5,000.00
Mark Heulitt	G.E.	12/07 - 5/08	63,508.53
Boban Abraham	Internal	12/07 - 12/08	4,550.00

RECENT GRANT AWARDS AND SUBMISSIONS

New Awards				
PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding for All Years
John Carroll	NIH	Postnatal Resetting of Carotid Chemoreceptor Sensitivity	1/1/08-12/31/11	\$1,528,639.00
John Carroll	NIH/Yale Sub	Mechanism of Perinatal-hyperoxic Suppression of Chemoreceptor Function	05/07-06/30/12	\$862,500.00
Jill James	Cure Autism Now	Autism Treatment Network Proposal	1/1/08-12/31/10	\$420,000.00
Submissions				
PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total ANNUAL Funding
K. Sunny Anand	Mayday Foundation	Does Noninvasive Electrical Stimulation of Acupuncture Points (NESAP) Reduce Heelstick Pain in Infants?	12/1/07-11/30/09	\$398,547.00
K. Sunny Anand	FDA	Effects of Ketamine on Neurogenesis and the Differentiation of Neural Stem/Progenitor Cells (NSPC's)	7/1/08-6/30/13	\$366,922.00
Adnan Bhutta	FDA	Ketamine Anesthesia During Cardiac Surgery in Infants - Assessment of Toxicity using Multiple Biomarkers	7/1/08-6/30/13	\$786,350.00
Karen Farst	Ambulatory Pediatric Association	Trends in Child Maltreatment Hospitalization in Young Children from 1997-2005	7/1/08-6/30/09	\$9,969.00
Whit Hall	FDA	Use of Ketamine for Intubation in Preterm Neonates	7/1/08-6/30/12	\$472,818.00
Shanmugam Nagarajan	NIH	Role of Fcγ receptors in atherosclerosis	6/1/08-5/31/13	\$357,500.00

UPCOMING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

For a complete listing of research education opportunities at ACHRI, please visit our [Research Education Calendar of Events](#) on the ACHRI Web page.

Submitting a Grant Proposal in the Spring?

If you plan to submit a grant proposal this spring and would like grant preparation assistance from an ACHRI science writer/editor, please contact us as soon as possible. Call or email yountphaedra@uams.edu (364-2469) or [John Grogan](#) (364-6296).

2008 SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Department of Pediatrics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is again sponsoring a Summer Science Program for college level juniors and seniors. This program is intended to give outstanding upper level college students the experience of working in medical research and a view of medicine in general. Students in the program are assigned to work with a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics on a research project involving children's health. The projects are varied, including both laboratory and clinical projects. In addition, a lecture series is conducted focusing on research methods and recent advances in medical research, along with valuable information regarding the pursuit of a medical career.

The program will last for ten weeks during the summer and will begin on June 2, 2008. Students at the junior or senior level in college and with a science background will be selected to participate in the program. Selection of students is based on information provided on their application form. Participants in the program should have completed at least 2 years of college or university studies. The deadline for receipt of the application in our office is March 1. We also require a copy of a current university transcript as well as a letter of reference from the student's advisor. Applicants will be notified of their selection by the end of March. Since this program is supported by the University of Arkansas, Arkansas residents are given priority in selection.

If you have a student interested in applying for a position in our program, please contact the Pediatric Clerkship Office (501) 364-1052 or e-mail hobbygwynndal@uams.edu for an application.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The National Association of Children's Hospitals (NACH) prepares and distributes upcoming funding opportunities every two weeks. Funding opportunities recently distributed by the NACH are available on the ACHRI web site (http://achri.archildrens.org/resources/funding_opp.htm). This file will be updated twice monthly. Bookmark the page! The listing of funding opportunities is located on the intranet; you must have access to ACH webapps to open the file.

GRANT PREPARATION TIP: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Typically, New Year's resolutions involve an attempt at moderating some indulgence. In the time it takes for some of us that are admittedly less resolute to revert to our overindulgent ways, why not do something that would make your professional life more efficient? Try one or more of these resolutions:

- Begin the internal routing for your submission 10 days before the agency deadline.
- Set up your NIH eCommons user name (contact [Lee Smith](#)).
- Register and attend ACHRI's [Clinical Research Compliance Symposium](#) on February 19.
- Attend a workshop on the CUMG or ABI intramural grant program.
- Check the [calendar of events](#) at ACHRI's web site and attend another research education event.
- Learn more about conducting clinical trials at the PCRU (contact [Janet Stormont](#)).
- Involve your department accounting office in your budget preparation.
- Attend ACHRI's quarterly Investigator Meetings (January 14, April 9, August 5, and October 29).
- Update your NIH biosketch.
- Revise or create your [Researcher Profile](#) for ACHRI's web site (contact [John Gregan](#)).
- Explore the online [ACHRI Research Guidebook](#).
- Notify [ACHRI](#) when new articles are published.

Substitute one of these items for the traditional New Year's resolutions. It will be a great failsafe investment of your time. Better yet, you'll still have time to enjoy a guilt-free double cheeseburger (or whatever your vice is)!