



RESEARCH update

July 2009

Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center to be Awarded \$31 Million Over 5 Years



The ACNC was notified of an USDA award to continue its research in the areas of human development and disease prevention.

In late April, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) notified the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center (ACNC) of an award to continue its research in the areas of human development and disease prevention. The ACNC will receive more than \$31 million from the USDA over the next five years to continue its innovative and groundbreaking research into how nutritional status and dietary factors shape human development and influence susceptibility to childhood diseases, as well as those illnesses that initiate early in life but do not appear until adulthood. The award amounts to more than \$6.2 million over each of the next five years and follows an intensive peer review process that lasted over a year.

"Children across the globe will thrive because of the discoveries that will spring from this renewed funding," says

Thomas Badger, PhD, ACNC Director and Professor of Physiology/Biophysics and Pediatrics at UAMS. "Miracles begin with the research our hard-working scientists produce, and they wouldn't be possible without the USDA's support."

The ACNC is one of only six centers in the USDA's National Human Nutrition Research Centers Program and the second to focus only on pediatric nutrition. While federal funds paid for the construction of the other five Human Nutrition Research Centers in the United States, private donors to the ACH Foundation funded the ACNC facility, which opened in 1997. It uses state-of-the-art procedures, equipment, and facilities to determine how dietary factors and nutrition can affect brain development, learning, and attention span, as well as how early dietary intervention can prevent diseases of development and aging.

Research into the benefits of soy formula and the development of childhood obesity are among the projects that will benefit from the renewed funding. ACNC investigators are also exploring a theory that overweight women who are pregnant send biological signals to their developing fetuses which predisposes them for obesity when they grow up. The researchers believe this happens through programming of a baby's metabolism before birth.

"The USDA funded ACNC program at ACHRI has always been one of the major highlights of our research success," notes Richard F. Jacobs, ACHRI President and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, adding, "This program, the largest research center at ACHRI and UAMS, has a rich tradition of producing cutting-edge science that benefit the children of the world. We are very proud of their continued excellence."

The ACNC employs 15 scientists and more than 50 additional staff members. Each investigator also receives funding from other agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart

Association, and the Department of Defense. More information about the exciting work at the ACNC can be found at their [Web site](#).

President's Choice

Stop by the bulletin board located in the first-floor lobby of the ACHRI building to see this month's President's Choice publications. The following articles were selected as this month's feature publications.

- Morris MG. A novel physiological investigation of the functional residual capacity by the bias flow nitrogen washout technique in infants. *Pediatr Pulmonol*. 2009 Jul;44(7):683-92.
- Singhal R, Shankar K, Badger TM, Ronis MJ. Hepatic gene expression following consumption of soy protein isolate in female Sprague-Dawley rats differs from that produced by 17{beta}-estradiol treatment. *J Endocrinol*. 2009 Jul;202(1):141-52. Epub 2009 Apr 16.

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 the hospital and ACHRI boards, so it is important that we receive an accurate count of the publications your research produces. To see all [recent publications](#) by ACHRI researchers and their collaborators, please visit the publications web page.

ACHRI Research Day - August 19

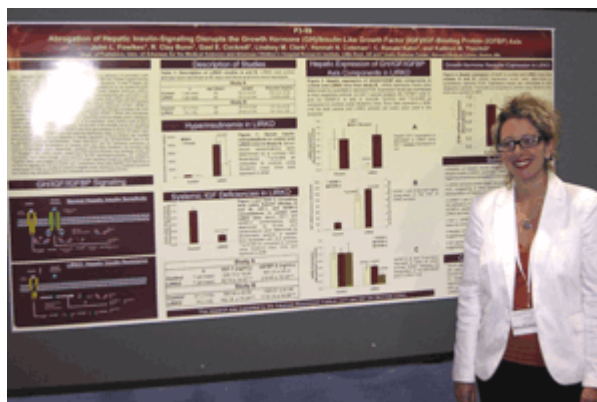
In August, ACHRI will hold a day of brief research presentations by its researchers in place of its monthly research conference. Dr. Clay Bunn, ACHRI Research Conference Coordinator, asks that researchers at ACH, ACHRI, and ACNC interested in giving a 15-minute presentation on their research contact him by email (BunnRobertC@uams.edu) or phone (364-4589). He welcomes inquiries from persons from all levels of research experience. "This is a great opportunity for graduate students and post-docs to get experience in giving presentations," notes Dr. Bunn. The research day will be held on the first floor of the Medical Arts Building in South Campus. It will start with a breakfast at 8:30 followed by presentations beginning at 9:00. After a half-hour noon lunch break, the presentations will resume. Dr. Bunn and Joyce Norton from ACHRI Administration will release a complete agenda for the day later in July.

Shared Research Equipment Meeting

On Monday, August 17, at 11:00 am in Brandon North A&B, ACHRI will host a discussion of ideas you may have for future shared equipment purchases or research equipment that you have that could be shared with researchers on campus. From time-to-time grant opportunities for shared/core equipment are released. It can be difficult to assess the institute's needs and develop a proposal in time to meet the deadline. Not only will discussions regarding equipment allow ACHRI administration to prepare a list of research equipment needs, it will provide a forum in which our research community can find out about research equipment and technologies that already exist on campus.

Dr. Lindsey Clark Presents Poster to Endocrine Society

In June, Lindsey Clark, PhD, a Research Associate in Pediatric Endocrinology, presented a poster at the Endocrine Society Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The Endocrine Society is the world's oldest and largest professional organization of endocrinologists and endocrinology researchers. This year's meeting had nearly 8,000 attendees from more than 75 countries. The poster, titled "Abrogation of Hepatic Insulin-Signaling Disrupts the Growth Hormone (GH)/Insulin-Like Growth Factor (IGF)/IGF-Binding Protein (IGFBP) Axis," discussed the Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Working Group's ABI- and



NIH-funded studies. The studies investigated the influence of hepatic insulin signaling on growth hormone receptor expression and its down-stream targets in liver-specific insulin receptor knock-out (LIRKO) mice. The research was conducted by John L. Fowlkes, Kathryn M. Thraillkill, Gael E. Cockrell, R. Clay Bunn, Lindsey M. Clark, and Hannah N. Coleman of UAMS and C. Ronald Kahn of the Joslin Diabetes Center at Harvard Medical School.

UAMS IRB Chair Announcement

Dr. Louanne Lawson has agreed to Chair the first week IRB meeting that is being vacated by the departure of Dr. William Evans. Dr. Lawson will also hold the position of Senior Chair for the IRB.

ATTENTION – CUMG Grant Program Changes

The CUMG grant program has been modified as of May 13, 2009, with approval by the Dean of the UAMS College of Medicine in conjunction with the CUMG Children's Faculty Group Practice Committee.

The recent changes will not affect any currently pending or active CUMG grants; new changes will affect all submissions beginning with the fall 2009 CUMG cycle.

If you are planning on applying for a CUMG grant, please review the new guidelines. The [new guidelines](#) are posted on the ACHRI web site. The [intramural grant application](#) has been updated to reflect the changes.

If you did not receive an email from [Amy Stalls](#) with a summary of the changes, please contact her.

REMINDER: ACHRI/ABI Competitive Research Grant Program

Deadline is Monday, August 3, 2009

The Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute/Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ACHRI/ABI) Competitive Research Grant Program provides funding for Individual Principal Investigator Support, Program Support, and Core Support proposals within the ABI's five major research areas:

- Agricultural research with medical implications
- Bioengineering research that expands genetic knowledge and creates new potential applications in the agricultural-medical fields
- Tobacco-related research that identifies and applies behavioral, diagnostic, and therapeutic knowledge to address the high level of tobacco-related illnesses in Arkansas
- Nutrition and other research aimed at preventing and treating cancer, congenital and hereditary conditions, or other related conditions
- Other areas which are primarily related to primary ABI-supported programs

Eligibility

Applicants must have an MD, PhD, or equivalent doctoral degree earned at application time.

Applicants should be full time faculty or staff.

Applicants must be either located on ACHRI/ACH campus or the applicants research must be contracted through ACHRI.

Applicants who currently directly benefit from non-competitive ABI funding may not apply, or be included on a submission, unless the proposed project begins after current funding ends.

Please contact Amy Stalls for more eligibility conditions at 364-3627 or for more information visit the ACHRI website at http://achri.archildrens.org/resources/intramural_grant_programs.htm. If you are planning on applying, contact Amy as soon as possible.

Award Amounts

Individual PI Support = \$50,000 for up to 24 months

Program Support = \$125,000 for up to 24 months

Core Support = \$125,000 for up to 24 months

New Industry-Sponsored Projects

PI	Agency	Project Period	Total Cost
Frindik, Paul	Tercicia	10/07 - 10/10	20,166.50
Romero, Jose	MedImmune	6/09 - 5/10	24,495.00

Recent Grant Awards and Submissions

Awards				
PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding
Laura James	NIH	Identification of New Mechanistic Biomarkers of Adverse Responses to Acetaminophen in Children and Adolescents	6/15/09-3/31/14	\$2,040,875.00
Roger Rank	NIH	Role of the Neurogenic Inflammatory Pathway in the Genital Tract Immune Response	6/5/09-5/31/11	\$404,250.00
Kartik Shankar	NIH	Maternal Overweight: Consequences for Insulin Signaling in the Offspring	7/1/09 – 6/30/14	\$1,664,775.00
Submissions				
PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding
Jin-Ran Chen	NIH	Estrogen-Independent Effects of Soy Consumption on Bone Formation	3/1/10-2/28/15	\$1,837,500.00
Nicolaas Deutz	NIH	Optimal Amino Acid Nutrition in Sepsis	12/1/08-11/30/13	\$248,095.00
Reza Hakkak	USDA	Overweight/Obesity Prevention in Rural Communities: Nutrition Science and Wellness Education for K-6 Teachers and Community-Based Educators	3/1/10-2/28/14	\$924,435.00
Charlotte Hobbs	NIH	Genetic & Metabolic Determinants of Congenital Heart Defect Risk - Recovery Act Funds for Administrative Supplement	8/1/09-6/30/11	\$737,922.00
Charlotte Hobbs	NIH (Stanford University Subcontract)	Gene-Nutrient Etiologies of Neural Tube Defects - Recovery Act Funds for Administrative Supplement	9/1/09-8/31/10	\$93,207.00
Tamara Perry	NIH	Reducing Asthma Disparities Through School-Based Telemedicine for Rural Children	4/1/10-3/31/15	\$2,169,498.00

Maria Portilla	NIH (Stanford University Subcontract)	Directly-Observed Monthly Risedronate for Low Bone Mass in Anorexia Nervosa	4/1/10-3/31/15	\$143,399.00
Ronald Sanders	NIH (Children's Hospital of Los Angeles Subcontract)	Critical Asthma in Pediatrics	9/30/09-9/29/11	\$173,603.00
Eldon Schultz	HRSA	Rural Autism FACTS (Family Support, Assessment in Community, and Therapeutic Services)	9/1/09-8/31/11	\$799,973.00
Gregory Sharp	NIH (Emory University Subcontract)	Antiepilepsy Drug Effectiveness in Pediatric Localization Related Epilepsy	4/1/10-3/31/15	\$360,637.00

Grant Writing Tip: Letters of Intent

A number of funding opportunities require a letter of intent from potential applicants. For some funding agencies, a letter of intent is part of their process to determine which potential applicants will be allowed to submit a full proposal. Some funding agencies, however, consider a letter of intent as a mini proposal and may make immediate awards based on the letter. Despite the lack of an industry standard as to what a letter of intent is, the letter's content may make assertions concerning resources and commitments on behalf of the applicant and ACHRI.

For that reason, ACHRI's [Research Award Policy](#) states that researchers submitting letters of intent must follow the same routing procedures that are followed for grant proposal submissions. ACHRI asks that you contact our offices when considering submitting a letter of intent. Contact Lee Smith (4-3581) to discuss budget and resource obligations and routing procedures.

Discussing your letter of intent is very important so that if after it is submitted and a full proposal is requested or an award is made, ACHRI can assure that F&A costs are included and are correct and that items such as the required space, subject care costs, equipment, safety issues, chemical and radioactive disposal, and other needs are appropriate and indeed available. Also, working with ACHRI, you can determine the impact of the proposed project on existing, pending and/or future research projects.

Beware: Recent Version of Adobe Reader or Acrobat Required for Grants.gov Submissions

To complete a Grants.gov application package (e.g., SF424 forms used for NIH grant proposal submission) or to convert files that attach to the package you must either install the Grants.gov compatible version of Adobe Reader for free or have an equivalent version of Acrobat Standard or Professional software (8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.3, 8.1.4, 8.1.5, 9.0, 9.1, 9.1.1) already installed on your computer.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities There are several on-campus educational opportunities scheduled in the next couple months. Learn more about these opportunities and others at <http://achri.archildrens.org/resources/calendar.htm>.

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 is updated monthly. Bookmark the page! The listing of funding opportunities is located on the intranet; you must have access to MyACH vault files to open the file.

Contact ACH Public Relations with All Media Requests

It is a policy of Arkansas Children's Hospital that all employees (both ACH and UAMS who work on ACH campus) contact the ACH Public Relations department after any media request. Employees who are contacted by media for interviews regarding their work on the ACH campus, in connection with an outside organization, for their personal opinion on a particular topic, or any other reason should contact the ACH Public Relations department. Media are not allowed on the ACH campus unless they are escorted by a Public Relations representative. Employees who wish to conduct an interview with the media on matters not relating to Arkansas Children's Hospital must conduct those interviews off-site from the hospital campus. Please direct any questions or concerns to the Public Relations office at 364-6444. [ACH Policy J02 – Press Relations Policies and Release of Patient Information](#) (available in the ACH Vault) addresses this issue.

Wanted: Researcher Profiles!

In April, there were 917 page visits to ACHRI's "Our Researchers" index page. These views were from many of the over 1,800 unique visitors to ACHRI's Web site. Would you like to add your researcher profile to our Web site? If so, send [John Gregan](#) the following information: your title, a paragraph about your research interests and accomplishments, a list of your current research funding, appropriate contact information, and a list of five key publications. Include a current digital photograph if you have one available. You can view the profiles we've developed here: <http://achri.archchildrens.org/researchers/faculty.htm>.

If you already have a profile at our web site, contact John if you need to revise it in regards to accomplishments, publications, and funding.

Emails Bouncing Back or Not Received?

Please be aware that we have heard numerous reports of emails to individuals with UAMS addresses getting lost or bouncing back with messages "undeliverable." One of two things might be happening. #1) Your Microsoft Outlook may be operating in cache mode and is not pulling the most current email address/account information from the global address book. Changing the setting from cache mode takes only a minute and Techsource (phone: 364-5299) will be happy to walk you through making the change. #2) If you are using the autocomplete feature (you type a couple letters of a name in the address bar and a list pops up with a few names to select from), you may need to go to the global address book and select the person's name to ensure you are using the most recent email address since the most current address might not pop up with the autocomplete feature.

Several ACHRI staff members have had recent changes to their email accounts and have learned that emails to them have been returned or lost. If you have sent an email to one of them and you have not received a response in a reasonable amount of time, please verify that your email was received.

ACHRI Address Change

With the dedication of Children's Way (formerly Marshall Street), ACHRI has a new street address: 13 Children's Way. Use this address on grant applications submitted through ACHRI. Refer to the [sample SF 424](#) with ACHRI information at our Web site to view the change for NIH submissions.

Also, don't forget to update your study consent forms and other research-related documents (and any templates) that may contain the old address as you make new submissions to the IRB.

Advertise Your Clinical Trial on the ACH Web site

Are all of your potential research subjects aware of your clinical trial? An excellent tool you can use to recruit participants for your studies is available at www.archchildrens.org/research. This web site lists currently enrolling studies, so interested parents can contact you about possible participation. To have your study included on the web site, you must have received IRB approval for your study advertisement. Once you have done so, please email a copy of the approved material and a completed [Clinical Trial Website Form](#) to [Rebecca Myrick](#) or call her at 364-3577.

