

Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute RESEARCH UPDATE



The Institutional Review Board: Service to Subjects, Service to Researchers



All research involving human subjects must be approved by the IRB before commencing.

Any research activities involving human subjects at ACH and ACHRI must be approved before they are conducted. This approval is granted only by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) established at UAMS. IRBs are federally mandated and regulated committees responsible for the review of all human subjects research projects to protect the rights and welfare of human subjects recruited to participate in research. Through its initial review of a study project, the IRB conducts a scientific and regulatory review of the proposed work. The IRB also weighs the risks involved with the research versus the benefit of the study and directs safety monitoring and approval of changes during research conduct.

The UAMS IRB oversees the research of all UAMS faculty regardless of the location of the research. Therefore, all human subjects research at ACH and ACHRI is reviewed by the UAMS IRB. Annually, the group has over 1,000 open studies at UAMS and over

500 open studies at ACH and ACHRI. The UAMS IRB is composed of four committees. Each committee meets monthly to review the projects assigned to it. Federal regulations require the membership to include men and women of varying professions and at least one scientist, one non-scientist, and a member unaffiliated with the institution. The UAMS IRB also appoints a representative from the Department of Pediatrics for each committee.

Jennifer Sharp, Director of the UAMS IRB, welcomes the interest of potential committee members. The IRB has pushed for new medical and scientific reviewers and received volunteers but strives to maintain a roster of potential members. The training of new members requires an educational session and observation of IRB meetings. With the assistance of a mentor, a new committee member is comfortable with their role after six months according to Ms. Sharp.

A week prior to each committee's meeting, its chair assigns up to 5 study projects for each IRB member to review as a primary or secondary reviewer. An experienced individual reviewer may need 4 to 6 hours to prepare for a meeting that may run from 3 to 5 hours: a commitment of approximately one day a month. IRB members generally serve 2 to 3 years.

The IRB provides its committee members with the opportunity to protect human subjects. Committee members also benefit from learning how the IRB process works. This familiarity will help the researcher serving on the IRB to design and perform their research better. IRB service also indicates experience that may appeal to industry sponsors of studies and demonstrates commitment to

responsible research and to the research community. "Committee members understand how the regulations fit into the protection of human subjects," says Ms. Sharp, "and the experience leads to successful IRB submissions." Ms. Sharp notes that IRB members are able to help their colleagues improve their submissions and navigate the IRB process as well.

Ms. Sharp encourages physicians, scientists, and their research staff members to contact her regarding potential committee membership. She points out that the most pressing need for the IRB are reviewers who do not have any science or medical background and welcomes interest from community-based or patient support groups. ACH- and ACHRI-based researchers can also contact ACHRI's IRB Liaison Margie Brackeen about the IRB as well as for assistance and staff education regarding human subjects protection.

IRB committee membership consists of approximately one-fourth pediatric representatives. ACHRI thanks these reviewers for their dedication and vital service to the protection of human subjects and to the conduct of research at ACH and ACHRI.

President's Choice Publications of the Month

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.

- Casey PH, Bradley RH, Whiteside-Mansell L, Barrett K, Gossett JM, Simpson PM. Evolution of obesity in a low birth weight cohort. *J Perinatol*. 2011 Jun 9. doi: 10.1038/jp.2011.75. [Epub ahead of print]
- Thrailkill KM, Moreau CS, Swearingen C, Rettiganti M, Edwards K, Morales AE, Kemp SF, Frindik JP, Fowlkes JL. Insulin Pump Therapy Started at the Time of Diagnosis: Effects on Glycemic Control and Pancreatic β -Cell Function in Type 1 Diabetes. *Diabetes Technol Ther*. 2011 Jun 30. [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 the hospital and ACHRI boards, so it is important that we receive an accurate count of the publications your research produces.

Fiscal Year-End is Here!

Ensure that invoices for FY 11 services (not ordered through a P.O.) are coded with an appropriate account number, approved, and routed to Accounts Payable, Slot 663. To help us better manage the year end volume, we ask that you submit invoices as soon as possible after you receive them. The cut-off date for submitting FY 11 invoices is July 15, 2011.

- Contact vendors that are slow to invoice and remind them you will need an invoice through June 30.
- Remember that physical items (ordered through a P.O.) that cost less than \$5,000 will post to your general ledger account based on the received date of the P.O. In order for expenses purchased through a P.O. to post to FY 11, the item must be received by June 30.

- If you have capital equipment that you have not authorized to be received due to a testing phase or problems with the equipment then please contact Shelly Cheatham (x42627) to discuss the appropriate accounting treatment.

Please email Alex Rich at richal@archildrens.org with any year end questions or concerns.

Request for Research Highlights for Fiscal Year 2011

We are gathering research highlights for Fiscal Year 2011 (7/1/10 - 6/30/11) as we prepare the upcoming ACHRI annual report. All highlights submitted will be placed on ACHRI's Research Highlights web page that complements the printed report and will be provided to ACHRI's Board of Directors. Please forward your research accomplishments to [Phaedra Yount](#).

Do You Have a Student in Your Research Group?

ACHRI is preparing a newsletter feature on the various students (high school through post doctoral) working across ACHRI for its researchers. If you have a student or students (that are **not** Summer Science Program participants) working in your offices or laboratories please send the information in an email to [John Gregan](#).

Recent Grant Awards and Submissions

Awards				
PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding
Jill James	HRSA sub Massachusetts General	The Study of Toddlers with Autism and Regression (STAR) Protocol - Screening for Treatable Disorders, and Biomarkers of Inflammation and Immune Activation in the Plasma	1/1/2011- 8/31/2011	\$47,056
Dennis Kuo	MCHB/HRSA	Building an Accessible, Integrated, and Family-Centered System of Services for Children with Youth and with Special Health Care Needs in Arkansas	7/1/2011- 6/30/2014	\$885,777
Submissions				
PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding
Whit Hall	NIH	Preventing the Long Term Consequences of Premature Birth	4/1/2012- 3/31/2015	\$1,698,471
Jill James	NIH	Metabolic and Molecular Antecedents of Autism: Potential for Prevention	4/1/2012- 3/31/2017	\$2,183,934
Uma Nagarajan	NIH	Genital Chlamydia Infection, Cholesterol, and Atherosclerosis - The Inflammation Connection	1/1/2012- 12/31/2014	\$407,000
Gresham Richter	NIH	In Vivo Model for Congenital Aberrancies of Vascular Development	7/1/2011- 6/30/2014	\$222,000

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ABI Photo Competition

The Arkansas Biosciences Institute has announced a Photo Competition for the cover art for its tenth anniversary Annual Report. ABI has requested that ABI-funded researchers submit images that are striking, impressive, or “cool looking” that have been part of a recent manuscript (2010-2011). The submission does not have to be a micrograph, but it can be any eye-catching image. The related manuscript should include at the minimum one author that is an ABI investigator, student, technician, etc.

Submit your images to [Jenny Kubacak](#) by July 29. Please include the relevant citation and a brief description of the photo.

Assuming ABI receives enough images, they will be selecting several for inclusion in the report. However, the “winning” image will be the one used for the cover of the annual report. The winner will receive a set of nicely framed and matted prints of the Annual Report covers for each of the authors of the paper (within reason) for their office or lab. The awards will be formally presented at the 2011 ABI Annual Meeting in Little Rock on September 21, 2011.

Attention Grant Seekers!

Each week we will post NIH’s Weekly Funding Opportunities and Notices and NACHRI’s Funding Finds and Grants Alerts. You can receive immediate notification of additions of postings by using “Alert Me” under Actions at the new [Weekly Funding Opportunities](#) page at ACHRI’s Sharepoint site.

ACHRI/ABI Competitive Research Grant Program

The ACHRI/ABI Competitive Research Grant Program provides funding for Individual Principal Investigator Support, Program Support, and Core Support proposals. Funded scientists focus on agriculture and basic and clinical scientific research that will lead to health improvement, especially in the area of tobacco-related diseases.

Deadline: Monday, August 1, 2011

Eligibility: MD, PhD, or equivalent doctoral degree; full-time faculty or staff; either located on ACHRI/ACH campus or the 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.

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

Amount Available: This cycle, ACHRI estimates that the total amount available for disbursement is \$650,000.

Contact: If you are planning on applying, contact Amy Stalls, Research Grants Specialist, at 364-3627 ASAP. For more information visit

http://achri.archildrens.org/resources/intramural_grant_programs.htm.

Orders from Nutritional Services

Effective June 27, the process to order food and paper supplies from Nutritional Services will transition to erequest.

WHO: clinics, outpatient areas, offices, and other ancillary locations

WHAT:

- The form is called CAFE STOCK REQUEST and replaces all other ordering methods previously used.
- Quantities are preset and the cost for each item is provided.
- Supplies are categorized and items are chosen from a drop down menu.
- Defined ordering deadlines and delivery or pick up times
- Access has been given to the same individuals who currently have access to Catering Request.

WHEN:

- Monday, June 27
- We will continue to accept orders through fax or form through July 13.

WHERE:

- Orders submitted and approved by 12:00 noon on Tuesday will be available for pick up at 1300-1500 on Friday, or delivery 1230-1630 on Friday.
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WHY:

- Increase efficiency and service response to our customers
- Standardize ordering

HOW:

- Orders will need to be submitted and then approved in erequest per your cost center's signature authority
- Notification will be sent when order is completed

All feedback is welcome at any time to improve this service. Questions can be directed to Lynn M. Ostrem, PhD, RD, LD, Director Nutritional Services (364-3526 or ostremlm@archchildrens.org)

Grant Writing Tip: Creating PDFs For Your Grant Submission

Many electronic applications require text attachments to be submitted as portable document format (pdf) files. For your application, you will create these files by converting your word processed documents to pdfs. Before converting a file, ensure the document has been formatted correctly according to the application instructions and that the text is final.

You will need pdf-creation software to produce pdfs. Note that Adobe Reader does not create pdfs; you must have Adobe Professional versions 8.0, 9.0, or 10 to create pdfs. If you do not have access to this software, Grants.gov has published a list of available tools and software:

http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp#pdf_conversion_programs. Text attachments should be converted to pdfs not scanned to pdfs; often letters of support (which are not considered text files) will be scanned.

The names of the pdf attachments may be dictated by the applicant instructions, so ensure the correct name is used to avoid submission errors or rejection. If naming files is up to you, it is best to save each file with a concise, meaningful name. The best way to achieve this goal is to relate the file name to the document's content. Unless directed otherwise by the application instructions, do not use special characters (for example, %, /, #) or spacing in the file name for word separation. If you need spaces in the name, use the underscore (_). Length of the file name may be imposed by the agency as well. If it is not, it is best to be concise with a file name (Grants.gov Customer Support notes that names longer than approximately 21 characters can cause problems processing application packages).

To ensure file conversion is complete, view the new pdfs. Confirm that the new file has maintained format requirements and the correct content is there. The file is now ready to attach to the appropriate part of the application.

Need Clinical Data From Meditech To Be Easily Accessible for Research?

Development of user-friendly databases containing patient data retrieved from Meditech is among the many services offered by the ACHRI/DOP Biostatistics Program. Jennie Stern, Clinical Systems Analyst, has experience with accessing data in Meditech and providing the data in databases that are user-friendly and easy to search and sort for IRB-approved research studies.

Under the direction of Dr. Todd Nick, the Biostatistics Program is dedicated to providing outstanding statistical and database support to researchers while advancing the reputation and research capacity on campus. Their services include grant development assistance with framing and refining research questions and reshaping the study design. In addition, they 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. They can provide database management, statistical analysis, and interpretation, instruction and preparation of results for publication and presentation.

If you are interested in database development or other services offered by the Biostatistics Program, please contact Darcy Ewalt at 364-6638.

Writing and Editing Resources on Campus

Your work is worthwhile to the Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute and the Department of Pediatrics. Publishing and publicizing your accomplishments are essential obligations that we share with you. We also know that obtaining and maintaining funding requires good writing. These are the reasons why we offer ACHRI researchers and Department of Pediatrics faculty on the ACH campus editing and writing services. To learn more about these resources, visit <http://compoint/DOP/SWE/default.aspx>. You must be logged on to the UAMS network to access compoint.

Missed the Recent Investigator Meeting?

Slides from the May ACHRI Investigator Meeting can be found at <http://compoint/ACHRI/Investigator%20Meeting%20Slides/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. Be sure to mark your calendars for the remaining 2011 meetings. The dates are August 23 and November 2. These meetings are at 11:30 at South Campus in the Brandon Auditorium.