

Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute RESEARCH UPDATE



Strengthening Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs



MCHB recently awarded Dr. Dennis Kuo a grant to organize a care system for children with special health care needs.

ACHRI researcher Dr. Dennis Kuo has been working over the past few years to develop a clear understanding of Arkansas children with special health care needs (CSHCN). The profile that Dr. Kuo of the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE) in the Department of Pediatrics has developed provides an understanding of the health care needs of this population of children and their families, the role of government agencies and other groups involved in the service delivery system, and the progress made in the state in achieving the core outcomes for this population as outlined by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). The effort to compile and to assess this information was funded through Dr. Kuo's Marion B. Lyon New Scientist Development Award, ACHRI's CUMG research program, collaboration on an MCHB grant, and a NIH KL2 Career Development Award through UAMS's Clinical and Translational Science Award. This diligent work has enabled Dr. Kuo to develop a foundation of pilot programs, and his latest funding award will further bring optimal care practices to CSHCN in Arkansas.

This summer, Dr. Kuo began work on a three-year, \$800,000 program grant from MCHB to design the infrastructure of a program to provide a strengthened system of coordinated care for Arkansas children with special health care needs. At ACHRI, Dr. Kuo will work partner organizations including Arkansas Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs, the Arkansas chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Arkansas Family-2-Family Health Information Center to meet five objectives.

The first objective is to develop and maintain a statewide consortium for strategic oversight and planning of the system of care for CSHCN. The next objective is to provide a directory of resources that organizes medical and developmental services for easy accessibility and use by all families, medical professionals, and service providers. The collaborators plan to build directed outreach to underserved families and those with limited English proficiency to enable service access and family leadership development. The fourth objective is to partner with community physicians and parent partners to develop Medical Homes for such children, through technical assistance and quality improvement. Finally, the collaborators will promote health care transitions from pediatric to adult health care, engaging providers, youth, and families to develop and disseminate resources.

Dr. Kuo's team will measure and demonstrate the project's outcomes against criteria set forth by MCHB. Dr. Kuo describes the evaluation as extensive and thorough to ensure MCHB criteria are met for the benefit of all using the system. By the end of the grant, the system that the collaborators will

have developed in Arkansas will be sustainable and the activities will continue through the institutions' own budgets and activities.

"We have the opportunity at ACHRI to bring all of these components together to integrate a system of care that really works to streamline costs and improve medical outcomes," explains Dr. Kuo. The system provides families a means to focus on care and health care partners an approach to help these children and their families properly.

Dr. Mary Aitken, Director of CARE notes, "There is no doubt that the care of children with special healthcare needs and their families will be improved through the combined efforts initiated by Dr. Kuo, including the new system of care grant from MCHB. His energy and dedication to help meet the challenges in coordinating and streamlining the system for this high risk group will have a long-term positive impact on the lives of many families across Arkansas and beyond."

ACH has issued a [news release](#) about Dr. Kuo's MCHB award. The release can be found at www.archildrens.org under "News".

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.

- Bhutta AT, Schmitz ML, Swearingen C, James LP, Wardbegnoche WL, Lindquist DM, Glasier CM, Tuzcu V, Prodhan P, Dyamenahalli U, Imamura M, Jaquiss RD, Anand KJ. Ketamine as a neuroprotective and anti-inflammatory agent in children undergoing surgery on cardiopulmonary bypass: A pilot randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Pediatr Crit Care Med*. 2011 Sep 15. [Epub ahead of print]
- Rahal OM, Simmen RC. Paracrine-acting adiponectin promotes mammary epithelial differentiation and synergizes with genistein to enhance transcriptional response to estrogen receptor β signaling. *Endocrinology*. 2011 Sep;152(9):3409-21. Epub 2011 Jun 28.

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.

LAST CALL - 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](#).

NIH Early Career Reviewer Program

NIH has launched the Early Career Reviewer (ECR) Program to:

- Train and educate qualified scientists without significant prior review experience so that they may become effective reviewers
- Help emerging researchers advance their careers by exposing them to review experience
- Enrich the existing pool of NIH reviewers by including scientists from less research-intensive institutions

What Are the Requirements for Being an ECR?

- You must not have reviewed for CSR beyond one mail review
- You have an active research program and publications in high-impact journals
- You don't have to have NIH or equivalent funding

What Does an ECR Do?

- Attends study section meeting
- Writes a full critique of each assigned application
- Participates in no more than one study section per year and no more than twice total

What Are the Benefits?

- You have an opportunity to serve the scientific community by participating in NIH peer review
- You develop critique-writing skills
- You learn what drives the review discussions and how impact is evaluated
- You can use your insights into the review process to improve your own grant applications

For detailed information on reviewer responsibilities see the Reviewer Orientation site at <http://bit.ly/qXufJr>

More information at <http://cms.csr.nih.gov/ReviewerResources/ECR.htm>

New Clinical Studies

PI	Agency	Project Period	Total Cost
Michael Schmitz	BristolMyers Squibb	9/1/11 - 8/30/12	\$29,493
Robert Saylor	Helsinn	9/1/11 - 8/30/12	\$30,594
Laura James	Duke/PTN	9/1/11 - 8/31/12	\$67,000

Recent Grant Awards and Submissions

PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding
Angela Green	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta	Transition to Self-Management after Pediatric Heart Transplantation	11/1/2011-10/31/2012	\$11,426
Charles Lumpkin	NIH	Cisplatin & Direct Bone Regeneration	7/1/2012-6/30/2017	\$1,759,126
Rosalia Simmen	NIH	Maternal Obesity and Dietary Prevention of Breast Cancer	7/1/2012-6/30/2017	\$1,850,000

Cathy Stanger	NIH	Incentives and Motivational Therapy for Teens with Poorly Controlled Type 1 Diabetes	7/1/2012-6/30/2017	\$3,075,532
Intramural Submissions - Student & Clinical Staff Grants Submissions				
PI	Source	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding
Melissa Heard	ACHRI	Kruppel-Like Factor 9 in Endometrial Tumor Progression	10/1/2011-9/30/2012	\$2,000

Grant Writing Tip: Letters of Support

Your grant application should include appropriate letters of support. These letters are necessary to demonstrate the support of collaborators such as senior/key personnel and Other Significant Contributors included in the grant application. The letter should appear on official letterhead. The letter's author should include the following information as necessary:

- Project name
- Project period
- Their role on the project
- The scope of the work being provided
- Expertise and resources to be used
- The rate/charge for consulting services (for consultants)

Letters are not required for personnel (such as research assistants) not contributing in a substantive, measurable way to the scientific development or execution of the project.

Upcoming Intramural Grant Program Workshops

ACHRI intramural grant programs provide an opportunity for beginning and established investigators to obtain funding for their research projects and programs. To help investigators of all experience levels, ACHRI will provide workshops on two of its competitive research grant programs soon.

CUMG: Tuesday, December 6, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, Brandon Auditorium

Student/Clinical Staff: Tuesday, January 10, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, Brandon Auditorium

The next application deadlines for these programs are in the spring, but starting on your application early can ensure it is complete and competitive. The upcoming application deadlines are 3/1 for CUMG and 3/15 for Student/Clinical Staff. More information on these programs is available at the ACHRI Web site: http://achri.archchildrens.org/resources/intramural_grant_programs.htm.

NIH to Fund Pediatric Biomarker Studies

Through three new funding announcements, NICHD and NINR seek to support studies that would investigate the use or adaptation in children of biomarkers tested for adults. The studies could involve a wide range of research approaches and use a variety of types of biomarkers.

The three grant programs NIH will use to support the program include [R01 research project grants](#) of up to five years with no pre-set budget, [R03 small grant program awards](#) of up to \$50,000 per year,

and [R21 exploratory/developmental grants](#) of up to \$275,000 over two years. Researchers may propose using or validating biomarkers developed in adults for use in pediatric diagnosis, prognosis, and estimation of disease progression, toxicity, and response to therapies.

NIH Loan Repayment Programs

The 2012 application cycle for the National Institutes of Health's Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs) is now open. Start your application online at <http://www.lrp.nih.gov>. The LRPs repay the outstanding student loans of researchers who are or will be conducting nonprofit biomedical or behavioral research. Opportunities are available in five research areas – clinical, pediatric, health disparities, contraception and infertility and clinical research for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Applications will be accepted until 8:00 p.m. Eastern time on November 15, 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.

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.archildren.org/staff.htm>). The directory now includes descriptions of services offered by ACHRI staff.

Did you miss the Annual Policy Review on September 7, 2011?

This annual presentation focused on the over 50 Institutional Review Board (IRB) policies that were updated this year, the update of the IRB's Human Research Protection Program Plan, and more. If you would like to get copies of the handouts, have questions about the changes, or would like to bring an abbreviated version of this program to your area meeting, please contact Margie Brackeen at brackeenmargiei@uams.edu or 364-3586.

Registering Your Clinical Trial with Clinicaltrials.gov

The link below is a great resource regarding your recent questions about Clinicaltrials.gov. This site will help you determine when and at what institution a research project should be registered.

http://grants.nih.gov/clinicaltrials_fdaaa/

If you will click on the link "Steps to Compliance for NIH Grantees" you will find 2 flow charts that will help you identify an applicable Clinical Trial and Identify the Responsible Party for which the clinical trial should be registered.

It is always important to remember, before the study is started, to know the plans for publications so the registration requirements can be determined. Keep in mind that while retrospective chart reviews and lab studies do not meet the general requirements for registration, the publisher can refuse to publish if it is not registered.

For more information, contact Janet Storment, RN, CCRC, ACHRI Clinical Trials Administrator at 364-2760.

Elevator Upgrade Schedule

The elevators at ACHRI's front entrance will be out of service periodically between August 29 and December 5 while they are upgraded. The construction schedule is as follows: **September 12 - September 29: The South elevator will be out of service; September 26 - December 5: Both elevators will be out of service.**

During this construction phase, employees may take the stairs or they may enter ACHRI via the skywalk located on the 4th floor of the South Campus Medical Arts Building. From that point, stairs may be taken to access ACHRI's 2nd or 4th floors. The freight elevator is designated for animal and materials management purposes. Employees with handicaps that prevent them from using the stairs may receive authorization to use the freight elevator only after receipt of animal certification.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Blake Harrison at 364-2710 or Al Martin at 364-7519 (pager 405-0272).

New UAMS Policies Concerning Clinical Trials

UAMS has released three new policies that may affect your research. The documents are available at <http://compoint/ACHRI/Lists/Announcements/DispForm.aspx?ID=123>.

Research Coordinator Meeting

The July ACH Research Coordinator Meeting was very well attended by over 30 people. Mark your calendar for the next meeting on October 25 from noon to 1 pm in Room EC49 (East Campus); lunch is available for the first 25 attendees. If you need more information about these meetings, contact Janet Storment at 364-2760.