

The Research Notebook

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Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce new and continued efforts to enhance research at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Some high points from this issue of The Research Notebook: The Office of Clinical Research, located at 66 N. Pauline, will open next month to assist faculty with services and space needed for clinical trials research (see page 2 for more details).

The Lab Animal Care Unit (LACU) has implemented new functionality in their invoicing system, which allows each investigator to view his or her current cage inventory and to view past statements and pending charges on line through the ACAP system. Training for weaning, separations, and transfer requests is available to PIs and approved staff. Please contact the LACU at lacu@uthsc.edu or 901-448-5656 to make arrangements.

Additional research resources are now available to the campus. A scanning Electron Microscope via the College of Dentistry Bioscience Research Lab and two new cloud-based statistical analysis programs SAS and Stata through the Office of Biomedical Informatics.

Changes in process and additional staff in the Office of Research Administration (ORA) have shortened Material Transfer Agreement turn-around time. We have also included inside some recent NIH and AHA updates and helpful hints to assist with the grant process; and the Office of Foundation and Corporate Relations offers some suggestions for improving letters of intent to private funders.

All researchers involved with radiation safety are asked to redouble compliance efforts in light of a recent surprise inspection, which revealed lax compliance in some areas. Safety compliance is important not only to secure licensing, but also to ensure the welfare of our employees; it must be a top priority for lab directors.

I encourage you to contact me if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the UTHSC research enterprise.



Dr. Lawrence Pfeffer

Lawrence M. Pfeffer, Ph.D.
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research

The Office of Clinical Research - Pauline Outpatient Clinic Open to UTHSC Clinical Researchers

The Office of Clinical Research, under the direction of Associate Vice Chancellor of Research Ari VanderWalde, MD, is pleased to announce the opening of a new clinical research space on campus. Located in the 66 N. Pauline building, the new Pauline Outpatient Clinic will be available next month for clinical investigators performing clinical trials on campus.

The new outpatient clinic houses eight patient rooms (seven exam tables, two recliners, and one bed), an assessment room with weights and measures and phlebotomy capabilities, a full clinical laboratory (cold and regular centrifuges, two -70 freezers, and refrigerator), pharmacy (refrigerators and individual locked lockers for medication storage), office space for research investigators and personnel by request, and ample storage for investigator study materials.

In addition to the clinical space, the Office of Clinical Research is able to provide clinical trial support services. These services include navigation through budgeting, contracting, and regulatory (IRB) processes, full project management (including research nurses/coordinators), data managers, invoicing/collections, and access to biostatistics and medical writing services.

Services and space are usually available to investigators as part of study budgets, and can also be utilized *a la carte* by investigators for individual study needs for a reasonable fee. Clinic rooms and staff office space are available as block time and on a first-come, first-served basis.

For an appointment to view the space or any assistance in determining if the space and services can meet your needs, please contact the Pauline Outpatient Clinic at 901-448-2520 or Risa Ramsey, PhD, Director of the Office of Clinical Research at r Ramsey@uthsc.edu.



Compliance Training Requirements for Summer Research Students

Now that summer has arrived, many of our investigators have agreed to direct summer research projects conducted by medical students, college students, and/or high school students. This note is meant as a reminder that these students, like everyone else who is working in a research laboratory on campus, are required to receive Laboratory Safety Training that is administered through the Safety Office. Please make sure that all summer research students receive the required training before they begin working in the laboratory because failure to do so is a violation of NIH/OBA and UTHSC policies. In addition, summer students will also need to be added to any approved IBC or IACUC protocol(s) for the studies in which they will be participants. The form for adding personnel to an IBC protocol can be found at this address ([IBC Update Form](#)). To add personnel to an IACUC protocol, please contact the IACUC office at 448-3904 or mbraslow@uthsc.edu. For information about the availability of training, please contact the UTHSC Institutional Biosafety Officer, Ms. Francine Rogers by phone (901) 448-6114 or email (frogers1@uthsc.edu).

Save the Date for Grant Consultant Dr. Israel Goldberg

Dr. Israel Goldberg, President of Health Research Associates, will visit the UTHSC Memphis campus August 21 and 22, 2014. Dr. Goldberg is under contract with the UTHSC Office of Research and has provided consultation that has proven invaluable for the successful awarding of a number of NIH grants to UTHSC faculty. Dr. Goldberg is available to assist faculty with individual grants, as well as training grants and other programmatic funding.

Faculty members may request one-on-one or small group consultation meetings with Dr. Goldberg during his visit. Long distance consultation can also be arranged. Please contact Lisa Bronte (lbronte@uthsc.edu) for scheduling.

COMC 32nd Annual Research Week Winners

On Friday, April 25, residents gathered in the Probasco Auditorium to discuss their research. Jerald Ainsworth, PhD, Manoo Bhakta, MD, and Mel Twiest, MD made up the panel judging the presentations. That evening, awards and cash prizes were presented during a dinner at the Walden Club. We are pleased to announce the winners of this year's awards.

Case Report

1st Place – Dr. Derek Patterson, Emergency Medicine
Acute Anterior Pseudoinfarction in a Patient with Diabetic Ketoacidosis

2nd Place – Dr. Devan Griner, Plastic Surgery
Surgical Management of Gorlin Syndrome: A Four Decade Experience Using Local Excision Technique

Case Series

1st Place – Dr. Devan Griner, Plastic Surgery
Thirty Year Single-Surgeon Experience of Total Vault Remodeling in Correction of Sagittal Craniosynostosis: Description of a Refined Technique and Review of the Last Fifty Cases

2nd Place – Dr. Elizabeth Dale, Plastic Surgery
Palate Fracture Repair With Light-Cured Resin Splint: A Novel Technique

Research

1st Place – Dr. Case Sanders, Orthopaedic Surgery
The Reamer Irrigator Aspirator (RIA) as a Device for Harvesting Bone Graft Compared With Iliac Crest Bone Graft (ICBG): Union Rates and Complications

2nd Place – Dr. Jeff Clinkscales, Emergency Medicine
The Effect of Implementing an Emergency Medicine Residency Program on RVU Generation and Mid-Level Provider Staffing

3rd Place – Dr. Megan Scott, Transitional Year
Effectiveness and Characterization of Diabetic Eye Exam Referrals in Primary Care

4th Place – Dr. Anna Royer, Surgery
Hypercalcemia in the Emergency Department: A Missed Opportunity



Left to right: Dr. Griner, Dr. Sanders, Dr. Patterson, Mr. Kevin Spiegel (CEO of Erlanger), Dr. David Seaberg (Dean of UTCOMC), Dr. Dale, and Dr. Clinkscales



Judges left to right: Dr. Bhakta, Dr. Twiest, and Dr. Ainsworth

COMC Nuts and Bolts Research Methods Symposium

Save the date! The 15th Annual Nuts and Bolts Research Methods Symposium will be held on Friday, August 15, 2014. Eric Heidel, PhD, will present a specialized curriculum focused on the following:

- Formulating a valid research question
- Hypothesis generation
- Choosing the correct research design
- Precision and accuracy in measurement
- Conducting an *a priori* power analysis
- Population and sampling reasoning
- Database management and structuring
- Choosing the correct statistic

Dr. Heidel is an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Surgery at the UT Graduate School of Medicine in Knoxville. Information will be posted on www.utcomchatt.org/nutsandbolts as it becomes available.

Office of Research Administration

Update on MTAs: New MTA Procedures in ORA

As we indicated in the last *Research Notebook*, the Office of Research Administration (ORA) has made good progress in improving turn-around time on material transfer agreements. The median turn-around time on MTAs executed over the last two fiscal years was 42 days.

To speed up the processing of MTAs, a new position was added in ORA. Ms. Margaret Everett was hired to devote full-time to negotiating and following up on these agreements. In addition, ORA procedures have been reviewed; and weekly meetings are held to get status updates on these and other contractual agreements. ORA staff are also working to keep PIs better informed about the status of their agreements.



Another change is the elimination of the “hold” pending biosafety and export review for MTAs from Addgene and ATCC. We will continue to send MTAs to biosafety and export for review, and the PIs will be responsible for working with the IBC, biosafety office, and export office, as necessary, to obtain the proper approvals and/or add the materials to your protocols. MTAs from these two vendors will be signed so the procurement process can begin in parallel with the IBC, Biosafety, and Export Control reviews.

We know these procedures will not resolve all issues with obtaining necessary scientific materials, but we believe they are a step in the right direction and look forward to continuing to work with faculty to improve the process.

Foreign agreements likely will continue to be a problem, primarily due to conflicting legal issues; and industry agreements are often challenging due to intellectual property and other terms that may conflict with funding agreements. Just one example of this is that UT cannot allow the provider of the material to *own* results and inventions arising from federally funded projects, nor can it allow the provider to *approve* publications arising from federally funded projects. The same is true for many other funding sources.

As faculty need to obtain materials from multiple sources to use in the same or overlapping projects, the review and negotiation of MTAs has become even more challenging. We will continue to work with the faculty and with other areas of the UT system in efforts to eliminate bottlenecks and speed up the processing of these documents.

We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining and updating your compliance protocols as necessary to incorporate information about new materials coming in, and we ask you to keep us informed if problems arise in obtaining materials.

Student IDs in NIH Commons

Starting in October, 2014, NIH Commons User IDs will be required for undergraduate and graduate students who participate for at least one person-month of full-time work in NIH-supported projects. NIH will not accept RPPRs or PHS 2590s that do not have this information.

For more information on Commons User IDs for students, read the [August 2, 2013, Guide Notice](#) and the [Extramural Nexus](#) article. As Dr. Sally Rockey has stated, it will be critical for all students to create their personal profile in Commons as this information will “reduce burden in the long run by pre-populating some reporting fields and forms.” For more information on the Personal Profile, you can watch the [Personal Profile Overview](#) video.

Also, students are urged to choose their Commons user IDs carefully since these IDs will follow them for the life of their career. Names that seem “cute” now may not seem so thirty years from now. Commons user IDs should be appropriate and professional since they may be with you for life.

Office of Research Administration

NIH Administrative Supplements Available for Research on Sex/Gender Differences

In case you missed the announcement earlier, ORA would like to remind you that the NIH has an FOA for administrative supplements to existing research projects for research on sex/gender differences. The supplements are available for both human and animal research.

See: PA-13-018 <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-13-018.html>



Increased Volume of NIH Applications

The Office of Research Administration saw an increase in the number of proposals submitted for the June deadlines, presumably due in part to the change of NIH policy on new submissions. For the period around the June 5th and June 16th deadlines, ORA submitted 53 grant proposals and 13 letters of intent for subawards. A few of these proposals were for special announcements or agencies other than NIH, but most were for the standard NIH submission dates. Keep up the good work, and we will hope for a commensurate increase in funding!

Caution Advised on Attachments for Grant Proposals

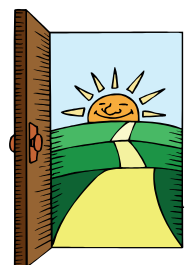
Please be sure that you scan all SF424 attachments so that they are .pdf files (not .gif) and that if you receive attachments from others via e-mail that you re-scan them in .pdf. We have been getting a number of errors when grants are submitted due to non-compliant attachments. Since the attachments appear to be PDFs when viewing the package, ORA staff are not able to catch the problem until after we get a submission error message from grants.gov. Best bet: re-scan all documents to .pdf.

NIH AREA Grant Eligibility

All UTHSC colleges except the UTHSC College of Medicine (the COM units in Chattanooga and Knoxville are also excluded) are eligible for NIH AREA (R15) grants. AREA (Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) grants are intended to support meritorious research, expose students to research, and strengthen the research environment for institutions that meet the eligibility criteria. To be eligible for an AREA grant, an institution may not receive more than \$6 million per year in NIH support in each of 4 of the last 7 years. The next deadline for AREA grants is October 27th; due dates for next year will be posted on the ORA web site, along with the other deadlines for the year. Additional information on AREA grants is here: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/area.htm>

Follow the FOA

When responding to a special funding opportunity announcement (FOA), be sure to **READ THE INSTRUCTIONS** and follow them carefully. Often, the FOA contains special instructions regarding budget, attachments, page limitations, etc. that are different from the parent grant announcements. Also, be sure to get the grants in five (5) working days in advance to give ORA time to review the instructions and compare them to the proposal to be sure the grant meets the special requirements. This advance deadline protects you by allowing time for corrections and resubmission if needed.



UTRF Changes Invention Disclosure Signature Requirements

Effective immediately, it is no longer necessary to obtain a witness's signature on the invention disclosure form (Section 6). UTRF will release a new form shortly, but in the meantime inventors may use the current form, available on UTRF's website (<http://utrf.tennessee.edu/techtransfer/forms.shtml>) and simply fill out the remaining sections. As a reminder, all invention disclosures do still need to be physically signed by the inventor(s), their Chair(s), and their Dean(s), and then submitted electronically via PAMS to Research Administration. For any questions on how to submit an invention disclosure please contact UTRF Administrative Coordinator Tinieka Thrailkill (tttriple2@uthsc.edu or x8-7827).

Developing an Awe-Inspiring LOI for Private Funders

Grant seekers are frequently tempted to rush through a Letter of Intent (LOI) or concept paper hoping that such limited efforts will lead to an invitation to submit a full proposal. Some common mistakes include: (1) heavily editing or paring down a previously prepared document of much greater length, (2) hastily penning an insufficiently considered summary that barely meets the specified requirements, (3) resubmitting a previous LOI with only minor revisions, (4) procrastinating so long that the ultimate product lacks creativity, and (5) failing to read the sponsor's guidelines. The result of these errors is often a concept paper that does not align with the funder's mission or a concept paper that is not well suited for the stated grant review criteria, so that no invitation is extended to submit a full proposal.



What can be done to ensure that the LOI has the best chance for a favorable outcome? First, start as early as possible and read everything offered on the website, including the full proposal guidelines, if they are provided. While this may seem unnecessary at this stage, that information will give you a deeper insight into the culture and mission of the private foundation or corporate funder. Every corporate and foundation funder is different, and its corporate culture and mission often are discernable by reviewing its web pages and grant guidelines. Stop and analyze what is said and identify key words to incorporate into your LOI to strengthen your chances of receiving an invitation to submit a full proposal.

Next, understand that the LOI or concept paper is not a mini-proposal but, rather, an opportunity to highlight the ways in which your proposal meets the funder's mission and goals. The LOI should also contain the essence of your research or community project such that it will entice the reviewers to seek additional information about it. The key words already identified from the funder's mission statement or criteria can be woven into your document. Make sure your project title is short and to the point and conveys a single purpose. Provide all the requested information exactly as specified in the guidelines, using the right format and positive language. You want the grantmaker to "buy into" your project. You want to tell a story. Remember your document will be one of hundreds that are read.

The first few sentences are the most critical and they should be your "elevator speech." You must be able to pique the reviewers' interest quickly so that they will want to know more about this project. Reviewers' impressions often are set by the time they finish reading the first few sentences. A good 50% of your time should be spent on the opening parts of the LOI. The opening paragraph should have facts and relevant figures portrayed with action-packed sentences and persuasive verbs, but should still be limited to a reasonable scope. Do not take on the world's problems of your research area or community outreach issue.

In the end, there is only one test that the LOI must pass, and it is to get the full proposal invitation. That should be your only focus. For additional advice, you are welcome to contact Denise Rivers, UTHSC Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at drivers3@uthsc.edu. The CFR Office works with faculty and staff on all types of LOIs or concept papers. Check us out!

SEM Available through Dentistry Bioscience Research Lab

The Bioscience Research Lab in the College of Dentistry would like to invite researchers to employ the lab's scanning electron microscope (SEM) in their projects. The Carl Zeiss Evo HD LS15 SEM, in the Life science SEM line, is equipped with Peltier cooling stage (wet imaging), variable pressure, back scatter, EDS by Oxford, and Deben low range Transmission Electron Microscope (STEM) detectors. Investigators can analyze life sciences and material samples at different temperatures, pressures, and humidity. Imaging can be done with relatively wet samples.

Applications include:

- Image morphology
- Image compositional & bonding differences
- Image molecular probes: metals and fluorescent
- Micro & nano lithography
- Heat or cool samples while viewing
- Wet & dry samples while viewing
- View frozen material
- Generate X-rays from samples for microanalysis

Contact Dr. Franklin Garcia-Godoy at godoy@uthsc.edu or 448-6333 for further information.

Welcome Sujatha Diddi

The Office of Biomedical Informatics is happy to welcome Sujatha Diddi to the team. Ms. Diddi is an experienced computer scientist with a Master's degree in Computer Applications. She joins the BMI from FedEx where she worked as a programmer analyst. Her experience in application design and programming as well as data management and database design is a great asset to our group.

Stata Added to BMI Cloud-based Statistical Analyses Programs

The Office of Biomedical Informatics is happy to announce an expansion of its cloud-based statistical computing services. In addition to running SAS in the cloud, we have recently acquired a license for Stata analysis software (Stata MP13) designed to run on one of our 8 core servers. The software package is optimized to run on all 8 cores concurrently (if needed) and preliminary testing shows it to be much faster than standard desktop versions. This software is now available for all BMI users and UTHSC faculty needing a secure cloud-based analysis package. Access is limited to six concurrent users and will be offered on a first-come first-served basis. Under current conditions the largest file that can be analyzed is approximately 300GB. Accommodations will be made where possible for larger files.



Office of Research Compliance Provides Research Liaison Service

The Office of Research Compliance (ORC) welcomes Gene A. Hines, PhD, who is assuming the newly created position of Research Liaison. In this capacity, Gene will visit laboratories to understand current research being conducted therein. He will conduct pre-reviews, upon request, of animal care and use protocols and check the congruence between protocols and PHS grant proposals before the institution accepts funding. Gene will also review export control issues pertaining to grants, MTAs, contracts and letters of intent, as well as review foreign travel requests and visa attestations for export compliance.



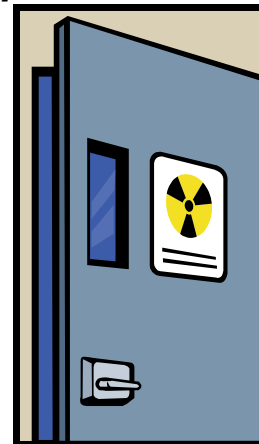
Dr. Gene Hines

Gene received his BA in Zoology from the University of New Hampshire, and an MS and a PhD, both in Biology, from the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB). Previously, Gene was the IACUC Director at UAB (1999-2010) and at Yale University (2010-2013). He has teaching experience in Zoology, Psychology, Neuroscience and Biology. He has also spoken extensively on topics pertaining to research compliance.

Requests for Gene's assistance should be directed to him by calling 901-448-1869 or contacting him at ghines2@uthsc.edu.

TDEC Broad Scope Radioactive Materials License Inspection

Between Friday June 13, 2014 and Monday June 16, 2014 the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation: Division of Radiological Health conducted an unannounced inspection of the UTHSC Broad Scope Radioactive Materials license and associated operations. A few items of noncompliance with State of TN and UTHSC requirements were noted in the sampling of research laboratories visited by the inspector. In one case, stock vials of radioactive material were unsecured in an unlocked and unattended research laboratory in violation of TN regulations and UTHSC policy. Eating and drinking were directly observed in a second radiation laboratory – which is not permitted. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all personnel working with radiation sources of the importance of complying with all applicable regulatory and policy requirements at all times. Further information can be found as follows: TN Regulations can be found at <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/rules/0400/0400-20/0400-20.htm>, UT General Policy for Radiation Safety http://policy.tennessee.edu/safety_policy/sa0300/ and Safe Use of Radioactive Materials https://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_compliance/docs/radioactive-materials.pdf



Transition in Radiation Dosimetry Vendor

UTHSC has awarded the contract for radiation dosimeters to Landauer Inc., which is a change in provider for this service. Many personnel who have been receiving radiation badges are being transitioned to the new service (starting in July 2014). We are in the process of reviewing the list and locations of personnel currently receiving dosimeters. Some personnel who have been receiving radiation badges, but who have not been active in the use of radiation sources and/or for whom badging is not appropriate, will be dropped during the transition. If you feel that you have had your monitoring suspended in error, please contact Radiation Safety (radsafety@uthsc.edu) to arrange a review of the situation. If you believe that you require radiation monitoring through this service, please contact the Radiation Safety Officer at blemieux@uthsc.edu to discuss.

News from American Heart Association

The AHA recently approved new Open Science policies that will impact research funded by the AHA. These policies will go into effect beginning with applications due in July 2014 and new awards beginning January 2015.

AHA's public access policy

The AHA requires that all journal articles resulting from AHA funding should be made freely available in PubMed Central within 12 months of publication.

AHA's open data policy

The AHA requires grant applicants to include a data sharing plan as part of the application process. Any data that is needed for independent verification of research results must be made freely and publically available within 12 months of the end of the funding period (and any no-cost extension). Specific early career awards are currently exempt from this requirement (Undergraduate Fellowships, Medical Student Research Fellowships, Predoctoral Fellowships, Mentor/AHA Mentee Awards, Postdoctoral Fellowships, and Mentored Clinical & Population Research Awards).

View more information about [AHA Open Science policies](http://my.americanheart.org/professional/Research/FundingOpportunities/Open-Science-Policy-Statements-for-AHA-Funded-Research) and answers to Frequently Asked Questions on their website <http://my.americanheart.org/professional/Research/FundingOpportunities/Open-Science-Policy-Statements-for-AHA-Funded-Research> UCM 461225 Article.jsp.

Proposal Development Funding

Funding has been established for small pilot project expenses (up to \$5,000). Funds can be requested via e-mail to Jane Poulos jpoulos@uthsc.edu and should include specific needs of the project, the name of the proposed grant that this funding will support, and the date the proposed grant is to be submitted. Fund requests are reviewed and approved by the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research.

Copy editing services are also provided by the Office of Research, and can be requested via e-mail to Jane Poulos (jpoulos@uthsc.edu). Requests are reviewed by the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research.

For more details, please see:

http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/editing_services.php



Grant Incentive Funding

Grant Incentive Funding is available in the amount of \$25,000 to UTHSC faculty who have recently submitted a new R01, R15, R21, or equivalent grant, were not funded, but received a percentile score of 30 or less. A Principal Investigator who meets the Grant Incentive Fund criteria should submit an application to the Office of Research. An internal review committee will evaluate applications and make recommendations to Dr. Larry Pfeffer, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research.

The deadline for applications is **August 30, 2014**. For more details, visit: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/docs/Grant_Incentive_Program_Guidelines.pdf



Bridge Funding

The Office of Research encourages faculty to apply for Bridge Funding. Funding is currently available to individual applicants in \$75,000 increments or less. Any full-time faculty member, tenured or tenure-track, who is a principal investigator on a grant funded for at least three consecutive years by a national funding agency (e.g., NIH, NSF, American Heart Association) and whose application for continued support from that or another national funding agency has not been funded, shall be eligible for Bridge Funding. This funding is intended to provide University of Tennessee Health Science Center faculty members with temporary, reduced support in order to retain key personnel and continue laboratory or research operations while full support is being sought from outside agencies.



Deadline for applications is **August 15, 2014**. For details regarding eligibility and the application process, go to: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/bridge_funding/

NIH Medical Student Summer Research Fellows

The NIH-sponsored Medical Research Student Fellowship Program (MRSF) at UTHSC has accepted 26 students in its 35th year. Sixteen students are funded by the MRSF grant, four by the American Heart Association, three through the Department of Pathology, two through the Dean of Medicine, and one funded by his mentor. The MRSF Program introduces students to biomedical research, careers in academic medicine, and provides an excellent opportunity for professional and academic growth. Students are awarded MRSFs following a competitive review of their proposals which are developed with their faculty preceptors input. Successful projects are well-focused and expected to be completed within two to three months.

David Bulger, one of UTHSC's M-2 Medical students who participated in the MRSF program last year, was mentored by Dr. Solomon. Mr. Bulger has entered a three-year NIH-sponsored doctoral program at Cambridge, UK. His selection for the PhD program represents a significant accomplishment as the competition for the position was drawn from all US Medical Schools.



Front row from L to R: Tara Bea (Program Coordinator), Dr. Syamal Bhattacharya (Executive Director), Tyler Woodard, Joshua Clapp, Reubyn Chong, Samantha Howard, Dr. Sol Solomon (Director/Principal Investigator), Samantha Polly, Katherine DiGiovanni, Keka Bhattacharya (Assistant to Executive Director)

Middle row from L to R: Dr. Ivan Gerling (Senior Associate Director), Robert Skinner III, Lauren Braden, Charles Xie, Kathryn Garber, Natalie Thoni, Stephanie Dresner, Elizabeth Lee

Back row from L to R: Ryan Lee, Joseph Cook, Rahul Kumar, Michael Bright, Andrew Dudas, Dimeji Lanade

Not pictured: Jacob Basham, Raj Budati, Surosree Ganguli, Jessie Gu, Amanda Kull, Douglas Layman, Christine Son

Student	Mentor	Proposal
Basham, Jacob	Lorraine Albritton, PhD	The role of melanocortin 1 receptor in the epithelial-mesenchymal transition of metastatic melanoma
Braden, Lauren	Kathleen Helton, MD	Effect of Hydroxyurea on improvement of neurocognitive performance in children with sickle cell anemia
Bright, Michael	Jim Dale, MD	Potential efficacy of group A streptococcal combination vaccines containing M peptides and M-related proteins
Chong, William	Sol Solomon, MD	Does metformin improve outcomes in patients diagnosed with prostate, colon, or lung cancers

(continued on page 11)

2014 NIH Medical Student Summer Research Fellows (continued from page 10)

Student	Mentor	Proposal
Clapp, Joshua	Ivan Gerling, PhD	Transcriptomic study of islet of Langerhans from the pancreas of human donors
Cook, Joseph	KU Malik, PhD and SK Bhattacharya, PhD	Critical role of cytosolic phospholipase A2 in the development of deoxycorticosterone-salt-induced hypertension and associated cardiovascular pathogenesis
DiGiovanni, Katherine	Charles Leffler, MD	Permissive role of nitric oxide in cerebral vasodilation to H2S in newborn pigs
Dresner, Stephanie	Michael Levin, MD	Molecular Mimicry in Immune Mediated Neurologic Disease
Ganguli, Surosree	Monica Jablonski, PhD	Systematics genetics approach to studying gene loci associated with glaucoma
Garber, Kathryne	Frankie Stentz, PhD	The role of high protein compared to high carbohydrate diet in reduction of oxidative stress and cardiovascular risk factors in obese, pre-diabetic individuals
Gu, Jessie	Michael Dyer, PhD	Preclinical chemotherapeutic trials on pediatric solid tumors
Howard, Samantha	Guy Reed, MD	Defining the role of alpha 2-antiplasmin in the formation of venous thrombosis and post-thrombotic syndrome
Kumar, Rahul	Asim F. Choudhri, MD	Characterization of neurodevelopmental alterations related to composition and route of nutritional supplementation in a pre-term pig model
Lanade, Dimeji	Michael Whitt, PhD	Determine the Sensitivity of Uveal Melanoma Cell Lines to the Growth Effects of Cisplatin
Layman, Douglas	Tiffany Seagroves, PhD	Cyclocreatine as a novel targeted therapy for metastatic breast cancer
Lee, Elizabeth	Andrezj Slominski, MD, PhD	Melatonin metabolites ameliorate UVB-induced DNA damage in human melanocytes
Lee, Ryan	Vanessa Marie Morales-Tirado, PhD	Generation of Luc2 Uveal Melanoma Cell Lines for Pre-Clinical Studies of Kinetics of Detectable Liver Metastases
Polly, Samantha	Charles Mansbach, MD	Pharmacological inhibition of PKC to explore its role in the formation of pre-chylomicron transport vesicles and dietary lipid absorption
Skinner III, Robert	William Mihalko, MD, PhD	Anatomical and Ultrastructural Aspects of Well-functioning Retrieved Total Knee Arthroplasty Specimens
Son, Christine	Yi Lu, PhD	A novel tumor-specific targeting strategy for malignant and chemotherapy-resistant breast cancer cells
Thoni, Natalie	Ajay Talati, MD	Comparison of outcomes of VLBW infants with the use of acidified liquid human milk fortifier versus powdered HMF used for fortification of human milk
Woodard, Tyler	John V. Cox, Ph.D	Inducing Gene Expression in Chlamydia
Xie, Charles	William Milhalko, MD	The Role of Gelsolin in Orthopaedic Implant Wear Debris Mediated Inflammation

Not listed - Andrew Dudas, Amanda Kull, and Raj Budati

FY15 Laboratory Animal Care Unit Rate Changes

The Laboratory Animal Care Unit per diem and service rate schedules for FY15 have been approved effective July 1, 2014. The FY15 per diem rate is an implementation of the projected rates as published in July 2013. Although a rate increase was projected for the previous 3 years, it was not implemented and the FY12 rates were extended through FY14. The new rate schedule represents a 3% increase in rodent per diem rates, no increase in service rates, and a change in the animal order surcharge.

Historically, the surcharge applied to animal orders was 15% of the animal costs for internal accounts and 30% for external customers. Effective July 1, 2014, the animal order surcharge for commercial vendor source rodents will be based on the number of animals ordered. The surcharge for non-rodents will remain at 15% of the animal costs. As the price for unique strains of rodents from approved vendors such as The Jackson Lab, Charles River, and Harlan has increased dramatically in recent years, we find the costs for individual animals often exceeding \$200. Investigators who order these very expensive animals pay a disproportionate surcharge compared to the surcharge applied to orders for standard stocks and strains of animals with costs ranging from \$5-\$25 each.

The animal order surcharge applied to all orders effective July 1, 2014 is detailed in the LACU FY 2015 rate schedule: http://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/LACU/docs/RateSchedule2015.pdf

We appreciate the continued support from campus administration and faculty for the animal resource program as we move forward to accommodate the increased complexity of research at UTHSC while maintaining full compliance with Federal regulations and accrediting agency standards. These resulting changes increase demand for qualified personnel and resources as well as challenge our efforts to maintain an AAALAC accredited program. We will continue to implement procedural changes to protect the health of valuable animal subjects, improve the effectiveness of the overall operations, and promote the highest level of animal care. If questions, please contact Dr. Timothy Mandrell or the LACU administrative office at 448-5656 or email lacu@uthsc.edu.

LACU Statement and Cage Card Information

LACU billing statements are now available online. To view charges for animal orders, charge tickets, and daily per diem, login to ACAP and select *View Finalized Statements* from the menu under *PI Information* (lower left side of page). Detailed instructions on how to view your statements can be found at https://www.uthsc.edu/research/research_resources/LACU/docs/LACU-Statements.pdf. You may also view the current months charges as they accrue by selecting *View Charges*.

A critically important change to keep in mind with the new animal inventory program is the management of cage cards. Billing for cages automatically initiates when new cage cards are generated. These daily charges accrue until the card has been deactivated. Cage cards deposited in the cage card drop box are collected daily and deactivated. If a cage card is removed from the animal room, rather than being placed in the cage card drop box, that card will continue to generate daily charges as an *unscanned but active* card.

Investigators can monitor their protocols for *unscanned but active* cards by using the *View Inventory* link also located under the *PI Information* section of ACAP. Current inventory for each protocol can be viewed along with the number of days since cages were last scanned. The page can be sorted and printed using the heading arrows. Scanning occurs every 6 - 8 days. Investigators who have *unscanned but active* cage cards must notify their building supervisor to have those cage cards deactivated to avoid additional charges. It is imperative that all PIs, students, technicians, and post docs understand the importance of proper disposition of each cage card to avoid unnecessary charges.

As we continue to improve upon this animal inventory system, we will provide updates of all enhancements. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Timothy Mandrell with your comments or concerns. For assistance with ACAP, animal inventory management procedures, census, or billing please contact the LACU administrative office at 448-5656 or email lacu@uthsc.edu.

New Policy on Federal Lobbying Activities

Faculty are encouraged to read the new policy on Federal Lobbying Activities that went into effect July 1, 2014, and which was transmitted over Dr. DiPietro's signature on June 30th. (link: http://policy.tennessee.edu/hr_policy/hr0527/?utm_source=president&utm_medium=email&utm_content=text&utm_campaign=063014advocacylobbying)

Of special interest to faculty will be paragraphs 5 (which clarifies that many contacts with agency officials, etc. are not covered by the policy), 6 and 7 (which define "covered officials"), and 13 (which provides instructions on what to do if you are in doubt about a contact with a government official).

For your convenience, we are including excerpts from those paragraphs below:

5. Many contacts with federal executive branch and legislative branch employees will not trigger the coordination and reporting requirements of this policy because this policy only applies to contacts with "covered executive branch officials" and "covered legislative branch officials." Covered executive and legislative branch officials generally include high-level officials like political appointees (but not program managers or grant administrators), members of Congress, and congressional staff. Paragraph 13 of this policy provides guidance for situations in which a University employee is in doubt whether a federal employee is a covered executive branch official or covered legislative branch official.
6. **"Covered executive branch official"** means any and all of the following persons:
 - a. the President and the Vice President of the United States;
 - b. any officer or employee, or any other individual functioning in the capacity of such an officer or employee, in the Executive Office of the President of the United States;
 - c. any officer or employee serving in a position in level I, II, III, IV, or V of the Executive Schedule, as designated by statute or Executive Order;
 - d. any officer or employee serving in a position of a confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character described in 5 U.S.C. § 7511(b)(2)(B) ("Schedule C" employees); and
 - e. any member of the uniformed services whose pay grade is at or above O-7 under 37 U.S.C. § 201.
7. **"Covered legislative branch official"** means any and all of the following persons:
 - a. a Member of Congress;
 - b. an elected officer of either House of Congress;
 - c. any employee of, or any individual functioning in the capacity of an employee of, a Member of Congress, a committee of either House of Congress, the leadership staff of the House of Representatives or the Senate, a joint committee of Congress, and a working group or caucus organized to provide legislative services or other assistance to Members of Congress; and any other legislative branch employee serving in a position described under section 109(13) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. Appendix 4).
13. If a University employee is in doubt whether a federal employee is a covered executive branch official or a covered legislative branch official, the University employee should consult with the Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy or ask the federal employee whether he/she is a covered executive branch official or covered legislative branch official. The Lobbying Disclosure Act, 2 U.S.C. § 1609(c), requires that, upon request by a person making a contact, a federal employee shall indicate whether he/she is a covered executive branch official or covered legislative branch official.

It is not anticipated that the new policy will greatly change interactions between faculty and agency officials, but we want to bring it to your attention so that you will know whom to contact with questions; that e-mail address is lobbyingdisclosure@tennessee.edu .



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