

The Research Notebook

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PostDoc Achievement Awards

On May 26th, the PhDA celebrated the individual scientific achievements of postdocs by presenting two Postdoc Achievement Awards. The Awards recognize outstanding Postdoctoral Research Trainees at the UTHSC who demonstrate consistently high achievement in their specific field of postdoctoral research.



Drs. Slominski, Janjetovic, Bavaria, and Johnson

Awardees were selected based on the following:

- *Committed efforts to achieve professional development*
- *Extensive and high impact publication record*
- *Oral and poster presentations at scientific meetings*
- *Grants and other awards*

The Senior Postdoc Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Zorica Janjetovic, who is completing a 5-year project entitled “Novel Biosynthetic Pathways for Sacosteroids in the Skin.” She is mentored by Dr. Andrzej Slominski in the Department of Pathology. The Early Stage Postdoc Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Mitulkumar Bavaria, who began his postdoctoral training a year and a half ago. He is working under the mentorship of Dr. Leonard Johnson in the Department of Physiology on a project entitled, “Mechanisms of Polyamine Action in Cell Migration.”

The PhDA Officers and Steering Committee were also recognized for their leadership in organizing a highly successful series of career development events during the current academic year, which included:

- A Meet and Eat Kickoff with postdocs and mentors to start the 2010-11 academic year
- Postdoc Research Day featuring poster presentations by postdocs and announcement of three Travel Awards to outstanding postdoc presenters.
- “Transitioning from Trainee to Assistant Professor: One Woman’s Perspective,” presented by Dr. Alana L. Welm, University of Utah.
- “Postdoctoral Survival Skills” presentation by Dr. Jeff Rosen, Baylor College of Medicine
- “Fundamentals for Managing the Postdoctoral Experience” and “Leadership Principles for Today’s Professionals,” presented by Dr. Howard Adams, H.G. Adams, Associates
- Distinguished Mentor Awards given to Dr. Anjaparavanda Naren and Dr. Rob Williams

These events and awards were co-sponsored by the PhDA, the Postdoc Office, and the Postdoc Advisory Committee with joint financial support from the Office of Research and the Office of Academic Affairs.

Office of Research Moving

During the summer the office of the Vice Chancellor for Research will move from the Hyman Administration Building to renovated space on the 6th floor of the 910 Madison Building. Also moving as new additions to the research enterprise are the Mentoring Academy, directed by Dr. Joan Chesney, the Biomedical Information Group, directed by Dr. Chanchai McDonald. Both of these units were parts of the former CTSI. The postdoc office, directed by Dr. Dianna Johnson will also be moved from the Office of Academic Affairs to the research office. These moves will consolidate the Office of Research on two floors of the 910 Building. The eighth floor is currently the home of Research Administration, directed by Dr. Deborah Smith, and Research Informatics under the direction of Jeanne Hermann.



The Office of Research Compliance, under Dr. Randall Nelson, is already housed on the sixth floor and brings together the IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee), the IBC (Institutional Biosafety Committee), and the IRB (Institutional Review Board), directed by Dr. Terrence Ackerman. Frequently the staffs supporting these activities and those of the remaining compliance committees interact in order to evaluate and approve proposals. These interactions have been facilitated by proximity, so these additional moves will add to the overall efficiency of the Office the Research. The new space also provides room for expansion, which will be necessary as the Research enterprise enters a new growth phase.

LACU Per Diem Unchanged

The Laboratory Animal Care Unit and the Vice Chancellor for Research are pleased to announce there will be no increase in per diem or service rates for FY12 that begins July 1, 2011. Although the published projected rates for FY12 and FY13 included a 3% increase, the increase for FY12 will not be implemented. Over the past few years, the LACU effected a number of measures to reduce overall operating expenses through changes in staffing and operating procedures that have helped to curtail costs through improvement in efficiency. These changes combined with an influx of investigators using our facilities have allowed us to take advantage of economies of scale in operation of the facilities.



Please be advised, however, that the LACU budget is subject to change from year to year based on many factors such as census, staffing, and cost of supplies such as feed, bedding, and disposable PPE. We will publish projected rates for FY13 and FY14 based on inflation, labor, and other variable costs.

The LACU appreciates the continued concern and support from 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 efficiency of the overall animal care operation, and promote the highest level of animal care.

NIH Sponsored Medical Student Research Fellows

The NIH-Sponsored Medical Student Research Fellowship (MSRF) Program at UTHSC has accepted 20 students in its 32nd year that began May 31st, 2011. The MSRF Program introduces students to biomedical research, careers in academic medicine, and provides an excellent opportunity for professional and academic growth. Students are awarded MSRF after a competitive review of their proposals developed and submitted together with their faculty preceptors. Proposed projects are well-focused and expected to be completed within two to three months. This year's research scholars, their preceptors, and project titles are listed on the following page.

During this academic summer, 20 MSRF are supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded Short-Term Medical Student Research Training Grant #T35-DK-07405. Additional ancillary programmatic support and institutional resources for the 2011 MSRF program has been generously funded through the UTHSC College of Medicine Executive Dean's appropriation.

We consider ourselves privileged to be continuously funded by the NIH/NIDDK for 5 more years (2010-2015) during the last competitive review cycle, making this an unprecedented 35 years of MARATHON tradition amongst the Medical Schools in the US. Dr. Solomon S. Solomon, Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology) and Pharmacology, and Chief, Endocrinology and Metabolism, VAMC Memphis, has been the Principal Investigator on this grant since its beginning in 1980. Our Short-Term Medical Student's Research Training Grant is one of the first five funded by the NIH.



2011 Student Research Fellows and MSRF Administrators

First Row: Dr. Solomon S. Solomon, M.D., Principal Investigator, MSRF; Dr. David M. Stern, M.D., Executive Dean, College of Medicine; Cody M. Scarbrough; Dr. Linda K. Myers, M.D., Associate Director, MSRF; Laura Grese; Dr. Charles W. Leffler, Ph.D., Associate Director, MSRF; Jordan Halsey; Keka G. Bhattacharya, Research Technician, Cardiology; Eva Bryant, Administrative Assistant, MSRF.

Second Row: Jermaine Conley; John Schmidt; Michael Yin; Andrew Boucher; Cory Vaughn; Dr. Syamal K. Bhattacharya, Ph.D., Executive Director, MSRF; Allison Watson; Christie Brough; Cody Richardson; Andrew Hall.

Back Row: Donald Pierce; Michael Traylor; Andrew Lichliter; Jesse Davidson; Chris Atwell; David Wheeler; Ellis Easterling; Vanda A. Botta; Dr. Ivan C. Gerling, Ph.D., Associate Director; MSRF.

***Not Pictured:** Thomas Hamilton

NIH Medical Student Research Fellowship cntd.

Student	Mentor	Proposal
Atwell, Christopher	Long, Amanda, M.D., Solomon, Solomon S., M.D.	Metformin increases risk of B12 deficiency: Does concomitant proton pump inhibitor use contribute to differences in this risk?
Botta, Vandanna	Leffler, Charles W., Ph.D.	Role of hydrogen sulfide in microvascular control of neonatal cerebral circulation
Boucher, Andrew B.	Dagogo-Jack, Samuel E., M.D.	Relationship of self-reported lifestyle behavior to objective measures of cardiometabolic risk in a biracial cohort
Brough, Christie	Jablonski, Monica M., Ph.D.	Phenotyping of optic nerves of BXD mice to determine genetic susceptibility to glaucoma
Davidson, Jesse T.	Davidoff, Andrew M., M.D.	Normalizing tumor vasculature with local interferon therapy to improve drug delivery in malignant glioma
Easterling, Ellis	Myers, Linda K., M.D.	<i>In vivo</i> effects of LAIR-1 stimulation in murine collagen induced arthritis
Grese, Laura	Slominski, Andrzej T., M.D., Ph.D.	Novel vitamin D derivatives can inhibit NF-kB activity in melanoma cells
Hall, Andrew	Black, Dennis D., M.D.	Regulatory role of hepatocyte nuclear factor-4 α splice variants in newborn swine small intestinal epithelial cells
Halsey, Jordan	Ferry, Robert J., Jr., M.D. Steinle, Jena J., Ph.D.	Action of IGFBP-3 on the PKC-d-p38 MAPK pathway in retinal endothelial cells
Hamilton, Thomas	Bahouth, Suleiman W., Ph.D.	Effect of the structure of the PDZ domain in the carboxy-terminus of the human beta-1-adrenergic receptor on trafficking
Lichliter, Andrew	Seagroves, Tiffany N., Ph.D.	Hypoxia-dependent regulation of miR-31 may contribute to breast cancer metastasis
Pierce, Donald	Reiter, Lawrence T., Ph.D.	An investigation into the regulation of a5ATPase by the ubiquitin ligase Dube3a in <i>Drosophila</i> larval axons and adult brain
Richardson, Cody	Rex, Tonia S., Ph.D.	Determination of therapeutic range of neuroprotection by erythropoietin in the retinal degeneration slow mouse
Schmidt, John	Jagggar, Jonathan H., Ph.D.	Effect of thrombospondin- and phosphodiesterase- α 2 δ -1 binding on calcium channel expression and arterial contractility
Scarborough, M. Cody	Weber, Karl T., M.D., Sun, Yao, M.D., Ph.D., Ahokas, Robert A., Ph.D., Bhattacharya, Syamal K., Ph.D.	Mitochondria-targeted strategies in isoproterenol-induced acute cardiac injury: Cardioprotection by nebivolol
Traylor, Michael	LeDoux, Mark S., M.D., Ph.D.	Large-scale targeted resequencing of dystonia-candidate genes derived from a genome-wide association study (GWAS)
Vaughn, Cory A.	Bhattacharya, Syamal K., Ph.D. Ahokas, Robert A., Ph.D., Sun, Yao, M.D., Ph.D., Weber, Karl T., M.D.	Mitochondriocentric pathway to cardiomyocyte necrosis in isoproterenol-induced cardiac injury
Watts, Allison	Gerling, Ivan C., Ph.D.	Beta cell damage in aldosterone treated rats
Wheeler, David	Kitabchi, Abbas E., Ph.D., M.D., Stentz, Frankie B., Ph.D.	Comparison of high protein and high carbohydrate diets on metabolic factors
Yin, Michael	Levin, Michael C., M.D.	The contribution of heterogeneous nuclear ribonuclear protein A1 (hnRNP A1) to neurodegeneration in immune-mediated neurological disease

UTCOCM 29th Annual Research Awards

The UTCOCM and Erlanger Health Systems presented this year's Research Week, April 11 - April 15th. This event, which dates back to 1983, was the vision of Robert Coddington, MD, Chair of the Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery, and the first Associate Dean for the Chattanooga Campus. Research posters were on display in the Erlanger Medical Mall Atrium all week, and included thirteen case study posters, five research posters, and five oral presentations (which were also displayed as posters in the atrium). The Scientific Review Committee served as the abstract selection committee for this year's presentations. Poster rounds and selected oral presentations were held on Friday, and the week culminated with the presentation of awards at dinner at the Walden Club on Friday evening.



Drs. Huang, Buchheit, Hennings,
Andrews, Witten, and Malandra

Awards were presented by the UTCOCM Dean, David C. Seaberg, MD. The top research award was presented to Alicia Andrews, DO (PGY 3, Pediatrics) by Robert C. Coddington, MD. Dr. Andrews' research was titled, *The impact of the rotavirus vaccines on a pediatric academic tertiary referral hospital*. Dr. Andrews will be presenting a talk at the Nuts and Bolts Research Symposium on August 26, 2011, to the UTCOCM residents, describing her methodology and process for completing a successful research project.

Judges for the event were Stephanie Stegall, MD (practicing pediatrician and former UTCOCM resident), James Neutens, PhD (Dean and Professor, UT Graduate School of Medicine, Knoxville), and Mel W. Twiest, MD (Clinical Associate Professor, UTCOCM Dept. of Surgery, past EHS Chief Medical Officer).

Congratulations to all who participated in this notable College of Medicine event.

Author(s)	Award	Title	Department
Alicia Andrews, DO	Coddington Award Best Research Presentation	The impact of the rotavirus vaccines on a pediatric academic tertiary referral hospital	Pediatrics
Ron Buchheit, MD	2nd Place Research Presentation	Nuclear stress testing in the Emergency department chest pain patient with suspected acute coronary syndrome: whom should we stress?	Emergency Medicine
Laleisha Knapple, MD, MPH Eliza Whitten-Hoskins, MD Selena Dozier, MD Sara Harbin, MD	3rd Place Research Presentation	The effects of an educational program regarding pertussis on the administration rates of the pertussis (Tdap) booster	Pediatrics and Family Medicine
Sean Huang, MD, MS	4th Place Research Presentation	Influenza vaccine related adverse events: H1N1 vs seasonal influenza	Internal Medicine
Michael Malandra, MD	1st Place Case Study	Chronic pancreatic insufficiency as a sequela of Kawasaki Disease: a unique presentation	Pediatrics
Jacob Hennings, MD	2nd Place Case Study	A new electrocardiographic criteria for emergent reperfusion therapy	Emergency Medicine
Daniel Sutphin, MD	3rd Place Case Study	Surgical management of Gorlin's Syndrome: a four decade experience using local excision technique	Plastic Surgery

Office of Research Administration

Just In Time Procedure

There has been some recent confusion about submitting Just-in-Time (JIT) information for NIH grants. Per the NIH web site (http://era.nih.gov/services_for_applicants/application_tracking_and_award/just_in_time.cfm): *The Just-in-Time (JIT) feature of the eRA Commons is available for applications that meet established business criteria and fall within a certain percentile or priority scoring range. The JIT feature allows a Signing Official to electronically submit additional grant application information that qualifies for submission and is requested by the grantor agency. The additional information is requested after a peer review of a grant application has been completed and prior to funding. Requests may come in the form of eRA-system generated e-mails or contact made directly from the awarding agency via e-mail and/or phone. **Applicants should not submit any JIT information until it is requested by the grantor agency.***

Faculty who have received a request from their program officer to upload JIT should go to eRA Commons and upload the information and then let the Office of Research Administration (egrants@uthsc.edu) know so that we can review it and submit it. Only the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)—Debbie Smith—can complete the submission in Commons.

ClinicalTrials.gov Requirements

ClinicalTrials.gov is a web site that provides patients, family members, health care professionals, and other members of the public easy access to information on clinical studies on a wide range of diseases and conditions. Information is provided and updated by the sponsor or principal investigator of the clinical study and the web site is maintained by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The ClinicalTrials.gov information resource was initiated as a result of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997 (FDAMA). The law requires the Department of Health and Human Services, through the NIH, to establish a registry of clinical trials for both federally and privately funded trials "of experimental treatments for serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions."

ClinicalTrials.gov was expanded in 2007 after Congress passed the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act (FDAAA). This law requires more types of trials to be registered (e.g., certain medical device trials); additional trial registration information (e.g., primary outcome measure); and the reporting of summary results, including adverse events, for certain trials. The law also established penalties for non-compliance. (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/clintrial.html>)

Clinicaltrials.gov includes research trials conducted in the United States and around the world to test the effect of experimental drugs, devices, and procedures for many diseases and conditions. Each registered study includes a summary of the trial protocol, including the purpose, recruitment status, and criteria for subject participation. In addition, the registration includes contact information to facilitate increased recruitment.

For UTHSC studies, the Office of Research Administration/Clinical Trials Unit has the responsibility for setting up and maintaining the clinicaltrials.gov accounts. Each investigator is responsible for entering and maintaining the information about his or her study; all updates are then approved electronically by the ORA/CTU. Once a clinical trial has been registered and the record published, it must be reviewed and verified every six months for accuracy by the primary investigator or his/her designee. In addition to the initial registration, the reporting of adverse events is required and once the study is completed, the study results. In addition, all contact information for study personnel must be kept current. This is especially important for clinical trials in which the investigators may be students who have upcoming graduations. Once an investigator leaves UT, his/her account is disabled.

Please take note of the following informational websites: For the actual registration of information, please use <http://prsinfo.clinicaltrials.gov/definitions.html> and <http://prsinfo.clinicaltrials.gov/ElaborationsOnDefinitions.pdf>; as of September 28, 2009, reports of adverse events are now required and information is available once you have registered your trial; finally, for the reporting of results, use http://prsinfo.clinicaltrials.gov/results_definitions.html to assist you. If your study meets the requirements for reporting of your clinical trial, please contact Melanie Luchs at mluchs@uthsc.edu for a username and any other questions you may have involving clinicaltrials.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions

Did You Know?

Research Administration

Q: Should I upload my JIT information as soon as my grant application shows up in eRA Commons and has “JIT” beside it?

A: No. You should not upload the JIT information until your program officer requests it. Then, you should upload the information in eRA Commons and notify ORA (egrants@uthsc.edu) that the information is there and that it was requested by the agency; ORA will review and complete the submission.



Q: Is it okay to send a preliminary copy of my electronic application to ORA by the 5-day-advance deadline and still make changes to the science?

A: No. Electronic packages should be complete and final when submitted to ORA. Packages that are “preliminary” will not be reviewed.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Protocol approval period vs. funding duration

As reported in the previous newsletter, a mechanism is now in place to examine the congruence between grant applications and approved animal protocols. One potential source of discrepancies is the difference between the 3-year protocol approval cycle and the longer funding duration of common grant mechanisms. This has been addressed in the following FAQ adapted from the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) website (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm>). The bottom line is that all studies must be described and approved in advance, even though actual use of animals in later years will require subsequent protocol resubmission and reapproval.

Q. Does the IACUC have to review proposed animal research activities prior to grant award if the animal research activities will not be conducted until year 4 or 5 of a grant?

A. Yes, with rare exception.

Information about use of research animal subjects is required by PHS in the Vertebrate Animal Section (VAS) of the Research Plan of grant applications and in contract proposals.

The IACUC must approve the proposed use of animals described in the grant application or contract proposal. This is required to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals as stated in [Section V.B.](#):

*PHS awarding units may not make an award for an activity involving animals unless the prospective awardee institution and all other participating institutions have approved Assurances on file with OLAW, and the awardee institution has provided **verification of approval by the IACUC of those components of the application or proposal related to the care and use of animals...** No award shall be made until all required Assurances have been submitted by the institution(s), been approved by OLAW, and the institution(s) have provided **verification of approval by the IACUC of those components of the application or proposal related to the care and use of animals.** [emphasis added]*

The IACUC review must be performed prior to the conduct of any PHS-supported animal activity. Approval is valid for a maximum of three years. Because the scientific enterprise is not static, the need for changes to animal protocols is anticipated and can occur at any time during the life of the protocol. If the changes are significant, PHS Policy, [Section IV.B.7.](#) requires prior IACUC approval of the proposed change(s). OLAW provides examples of the kinds of changes it considers to be significant in [FAQ 9](#) of Protocol Review.

In rare cases, IACUC review of animal activities is conducted later in the life cycle of a grant or contract. This occurs if a delayed onset of animal activities is a component of the experimental research design described in the VAS of the grant application or contract proposal (e.g., the initial development of a drug or device with subsequent animal testing projected into the future). In these circumstances, the funding component will issue a Notice of Award with a special term and condition indicating that no funds may be drawn from the grant or contract for animal activities until a valid IACUC approval date has been provided

Frequently Asked Questions

Did You Know?



Institutional Review Board

Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance Activities

Q: Do I need IRB approval to conduct a quality improvement project?

A: Not all quality improvement activities are research that is subject to the regulations for the protection of human subjects at 45 CFR 46 and require IRB review. However, in some cases quality improvement activities are designed to accomplish both a research purpose as well as a non-research purpose, such as improving the quality of care. Under these circumstances, IRB review will be required.

To determine whether IRB review is required for a quality improvement activity, consider the following questions in order:

(1) Does the activity involve *research* ["...a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge..."] ([45 CFR 46.102\(d\)](#));

(2) Does the research activity involve *human subjects* ["a living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information....Private information must be individually identifiable (i.e., the identity of the subject is or may readily be ascertained by the investigator or associated with the information) in order for obtaining the information to constitute research involving human subjects."] ([45 CFR 46.102\(f\)](#));

(3) Does the human subjects research qualify for an exemption [under local policy, the UTHSC IRB, not the investigator, determines whether a project qualifies for an exemption] ([45 CFR 46.101\(b\)](#)); and

(4) Is the non-exempt human subjects research conducted or supported by HHS or otherwise covered by an applicable FWA approved by OHRP.

Lastly, if you are unsure whether your project requires IRB review and approval, just contact the UTHSC IRB office at (901) 448-4824 or at irb@uthsc.edu.

Office of Research Compliance

Q. When do activities involving human subjects need Institutional Review Board (IRB) review?

A. Any activity that MAY POSSIBLY involve "research" and "human subjects" or the Food and Drug Administration's definition of "clinical investigation" requires review and approval by the University of Tennessee Health Science Center IRB.

Q. My research involves tissue/specimens. Do I need IRB review?

A. This activity may possibly involve "research" and "human subjects", the IRB must review your proposal.

Q. My research involves retrospective chart reviews and I plan to publish my results. Do I need IRB review?

A. This activity may possibly involve "research" and "human subjects", the IRB must review your proposal.



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