INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC)

We are currently recruiting additional members for the IBC. The IBC provides review of all recombinant DNA research and Select Agents Research conducted at UCDenver. We particularly need additional technical members such as Post-docs, PRAs or similar. Experience with rDNA research is preferred but not necessary. The time commitment is approximately 3-4 hours per month. Please check with your PI/mentor, as the IBC meets the 4th Monday of the month from 9-11am. If you are interested in this opportunity for University community service, please contact Mark Douse at 303-724-1057.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

ATTENTION: Conflict of Interest Disclosures are due by October 31, 2011

If you are required to submit a Conflict of Interest Disclosure in 2011 and have not done so, please complete it today at https://era.cu.edu.

Individuals who have not completed their COI Disclosure form by this date will not be permitted to:
1. Charge salaries to sponsored research funding;
2. Submit grant applications - this includes all no-cost extensions, new, competing, and non-competing applications;
3. Remain on active protocols; and/or
4. Submit research protocols.

Submission training labs will be held on at the Downtown Campus on October 20, 2011 from Noon to 2 p.m. in the Auraria Library - ELC-B and on the Anschutz Medical Campus on October 20, 2011 from 3 to 5 p.m. in ED2 North P28-CTL 2201AB. DROP IN ANY TIME DURING THOSE HOURS TO COMPLETE YOUR COI DISCLOSURE. If you need assistance, please contact the COI Manager at (303) 724-0034 or coi@ucdenver.edu. Thank you!

Dr. T's CORNER

Dr. Ally Kempe (the lead for the Children's Outcomes Research Program) was recently informed that her proposal was funded at over $4 million to develop the Center for Research in Implementation Science and Prevention (CRISP) which addresses the programmatic area "implementing clinical preventive services in primary care practice." The Center will bring together a group of investigators with extensive expertise in the area of implementation of preventive services, an extensive network of well-established practice-based research networks (PBRNs) to serve as laboratories for better understanding implementation and national authorities in the area of innovative health information technology (HIT) to facilitate implementation in primary care settings. The organizational infrastructure of CRISP will consist of an Administrative Core and an Investigator Leadership Core (ILC) which will include the Center Director, a Collaborative Scientific Lead, the leaders of three CRISP research projects and additional experts in implementation of preventive services. An External Scientific Advisory Committee, consisting of national experts in implementation science, and a Community Advisory Committee, consisting of community members from the communities being studied in the research projects, will advise the ILC in an ongoing manner. In addition, leaders in the areas of training and education; dissemination of methods, research findings and toolkits; and evaluation of the Center itself will direct efforts in these areas. Activities of the Center will include regular meetings of the three committees and a Seminar Series to discuss ongoing research activities as well as to serve training and educational missions. Dissemination activities will include the creation of toolkits, national research presentations and the production of white papers and manuscripts addressing methodological and community engagement issues, as well as implementation science. Collaboration activities, directed by the Collaborative Scientific Lead, will encompass development of local and national collaborative research, dissemination and education efforts in concert with the other Centers, AHRQ, other government agencies and Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) in Colorado and in 49 states.

Three CRISP research projects are proposed that together encompass the lifespan and address three of the most important priorities of the USPTF and ACIP. The projects are synergistic and unified by a thematic focus on collaboration between public health systems and private practices and methodological innovations in HIT and research conducted in PBRN settings. Project #1 is a comparative effectiveness trial comparing the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of an innovative public health/private practice collaborative model of reminder/recall enhanced by HIT with practice-based reminder/recall in trying to bring young children up-to-date for immunizations before preschool. Project #2 is a statewide cardiovascular screening and navigation program facilitated by community health workers that studies the effects of a text messaging intervention on participant engagement in the program, and changes in heart healthy behavior and cardiovascular risks. Project #3 is an obesity prevention effort between families, public health clinics, and community agencies, mediated through community health workers using HIT tools to support clinicians and families in efforts to change risks and behaviors related to obesity in children and their parents. The Projects will provide the initial laboratories in which implementation science will grow and lead to multiple other research initiatives.

Thank you!
Dr. Ulrich Bayer is Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at UC Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus. He received his BS/MS in 1992 from Hamburg University and PhD in 1996 also from Hamburg University. He completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2002 from the Department of Neurobiology at Stanford. In 2003, Ulrich was appointed Assistant Professor at UC Denver | Anschutz and Associate Professor in 2010. Ulli was recently awarded a Proof-of-Concept (POC) grant funded through the Technology office. Ulli has generated a cell-penetrating CaMK11 (Ca++/CaM) dependent protein kinase11 inhibitor that is neuroprotective even when administered after stroke model insult (glutamate excitotoxicity insult) in culture or arterial occlusion in vivo. In addition to blocking Ca++/CaM-stimulated activation of CaMK11, the Bayer inhibitor (tatCN21) also blocks autophosphorylation of he Threonine 286 residue of CaMK11, preventing Ca++ independent autonomous activity of the kinase. Ulli has shown that blockade of CaMK11 autonomous activity is the key drug target for promoting post-insult neuroprotection. This discovery opens a clinically relevant window of therapeutic opportunity for stroke, and also implies clinically relevant effects of other conditions of acute neuronal damage, including traumatic brain injury. Neuroprotective effects are also expected in chronic neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. Ulli’s project aims at modifying the compound to further improve efficacy, followed by in vivo preclinical experiments in mice.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDIT STATISTICS

The Environmental Compliance program here at UCD performs annual audit inspections of all research laboratory areas at the Anschutz Campus, the Downtown Denver Campus, and offsite facilities. As a means of alerting our research and lab staff of the common violations that we see, we have put together some metrics to detail which areas labs need to improve upon to maintain compliance to applicable regulations from our funding and regulatory agencies. The most common violation we continue to see are in regards to staff being overdue for required training courses. Please remember, it is up to staff to maintain compliance with regular training completions, and that courses should be brought up to date prior to scheduled inspections. For any questions, or to request an inspection of your lab, please contact Environmental Health & Safety at (303) 724-2271.

OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL RESEARCH (OLAR)

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to alert you to a situation that we are actively working on regarding unidentified insects that we have found on some special diet bags of feed. The bugs are brown pigmented insects that are believed to be grain mites. Grain mites DO NOT infest mice. In addition, we have definitively determined that the insects are not parasites that do infest mice (Mycoptes musculitis, Myobi musculi, Radfordia affinis, Tropical Rat mite- Ornithonyssus bacoti).

Further details of this incident include:

On Wednesday September 28 bugs were found on the external surface of several diet bags containing Special Diet on our loading dock. We immediately decontaminated all of the feed bags that are located on the dock (not just those that were infested) and proceeded to decontaminate the entire dock area as well. We then set out to determine the source and extent of the problem. During our investigation, we received another shipment of feed on Thursday September 29. All bags were thoroughly inspected prior to unloading from the truck. During the inspection, we again found bugs on the special diet bags. These bags were rejected prior to being unloaded.

Through our investigation we have determined that the source is the special diet production plant, not the plant where our Standard Diets are manufactured. In addition, only those bags that arrive in a certain type of packaging appear to be infested. Even with those bags that appear to be infested, once the outer packaging is removed, the inner plastic lining is intact and there are no bugs found to be on the food. Therefore, it is our determination that the actual food itself, especially the standard diets, are not affected by this infestation.

Again, I want to stress that we do not believe that these bugs have infested any of the diet itself and we are positive that they are not a parasite that infests any of the species that we have in our facility. Please feel free to contact Jori if you have any further questions. Jori Leszczynski, DVM, DACLAM (jori.leszczynski@ucdenver.edu).

Operation of the NIH during A Continuing Resolution

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) including the NIH now operates under a Continuing Resolution (CR) that was enacted on October 4, 2011. The CR continues government operations through November 18, 2011 at the FY 2011 level minus 1.5 percent.

Until FY 2012 appropriations are enacted, NIH will issue non-competing research grant awards at a level below that indicated on the most recent Notice of Award (generally up to 90% of the previously committed level). This is consistent with the NIH’s practice during the CRs of FY 2006 - 2011. Upward adjustments to awarded levels will be considered after the NIH’s FY 2012 appropriations are enacted but NIH expects institutions to monitor their expenditures carefully during this period. So, please monitor carefully your expenditures.