Stimulus Funding Update (ARRA)

As of January 1, 2010, UCD has submitted 574 ARRA proposals and received ARRA funding for a total of 114 ARRA awards funded at $52,132,334.

2009 MAVRC Pilot Fund Awards

The Mucosal and Vaccine Research Colorado (MAVRC) program is proud to announce the awardees of the 2009 MAVRC Pilot Funds for Human Immunobiology Studies. Two collaborative research teams each received $25,000 funding for a year long innovative project exploring mucosal and vaccine biology. "Vitamin D Supplementation and Varicella Zoster Virus Vaccine Responsiveness in Older Nursing Home Residents" will be led by Adit A. Ginde, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Surgery, with the participation of co-investigators Myron J. Levin, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, and Robert S. Schwartz, MD, Professor of Medicine. David Beckham, MD, Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases is the PI for the study "Cytokine Biomarkers in Patients with Central Nervous System Infections" and will be joined by collaborators Kenneth L. Tyler, MD, Professor of Neurology, Infectious Diseases, and Microbiology and Charles A. Dinarello, MD, Professor of Infectious Diseases. The proposals represent new and creative projects investigating human immunobiology, supported by a concrete plan for specific subsequent external funding.

Use and Acquisition of Controlled Substances on the UC Denver Campus

Controlled substances are a subset of pharmaceuticals that are strictly regulated by the Department of Justice. The acquisition, use, and disposal of controlled substances can only be done by a person that has obtained a Controlled Substances Registration from the Drug Enforcement Agency. In addition, anyone who obtains a registration for controlled substances at UC Denver must also register their permit with the University's Reverse Distributor Program and is subject to audits from both DEA and Environmental Health and Safety. For additional information about the application process, types of permits, security and record keeping requirements and more, visit our controlled substances web site at: http://www.uchsc.edu/safety/HazardousWaste/DEA-Controll edSubstances.htm If this link does not work with a click, please cut and paste into your browser address window.

Environmental Health & Safety

Seasonal flu shots available ($15). Call 303-724-0345 to schedule an appointment.

Office of Research Development and Education (ORDE)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) website is a massive yet extremely helpful researcher resource. To de-mystify this resource, ORDE has created a new NIH Website Guide providing descriptions and direct links to NIH pages important to principal investigators. The Guide is available on the ORDE website at http://www.cuansersity.edu/Academics/Research/Documents/NIH%20Website% 20Guide.pdf If the link does not work with a click, please cut and paste into your browser address window. Be certain to explore this Guide further and contact ORDE at 303-315-5822 with questions about where to find specifics on the NIH site.
Nancy Zahniser, Ph.D., is Professor of Pharmacology and Associate Dean for Research Education in the School of Medicine at UC Denver. She received her B.A. in chemistry from the College of Wooster and a Ph.D. (pharmacology) in 1977 from the University of Pittsburgh. Since that time, Dr. Zahniser has been at UC Denver in the Department of Pharmacology. Initially, she studied presynaptic receptors and receptor signaling/regulation. More recently, her research has focused on understanding (i) how the brain neurotransmitters dopamine (DA) and glutamate contribute to individual differences in cocaine-induced brain plasticity and addiction and (ii) how brain DA transporters (DATs) are regulated. Her group has developed an animal model based on their observations that a single exposure to low dose cocaine produces markedly different magnitudes of activation in individual animals, despite similar brain cocaine levels. They now know that this differential activation is related to striatal DAT number and cocaine-induced increases in DA. Their results also showed that lower initial cocaine activation predicts the more "addictive phenotype": low cocaine responders exhibit greater reward and reinforcement to repeated cocaine exposure than high cocaine responders. Further, DATs are rapidly up-regulated in high cocaine responders, and this may be protective. Nancy's work underscores the overall importance of DATs in cocaine addiction. Throughout Nancy's career, many wonderful collaborators have made her work possible; and her research has been continuously funded by NIH, including MERIT and Senior Scientist awards from NIDA. She has mentored many graduate students and fellows and is a member of the Neuroscience, Medical Scientist Training and Biomedical Science Programs. Dr. Zahniser is PI of the Pharmacology Predoctoral Training Grant and co-directs the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program for under-represented students. Three years ago, she joined the Dean's office in a new part-time position that combines her passion and expertise in research and training. Her goals have been to represent basic science in broader initiatives at AMC, such as the Colorado Clinical Translational Science Institute, and to help trainees and junior faculty members obtain skills and grant support that will further their overall training and career transitions.

Planning for a non-competing, new year of funding: The award data indicates that the majority of Federal Grants Award Notices are sent by the Sponsor, on average, 60 days after the Budget Begin Date. What can you do to avoid the issues with not having a speed type at the Budget Begin Date?

Watch your Monthly Financial Status Report to determine which awards are approaching their budget end dates.

Submit a completed Pre-award Request if you have not received a speed type or an award notice by 30 days before the current year’s budget end date.

The training sessions on the new integrated electronic system continue. If you want to learn how to access the new "protocol manager" and track your protocols please attend one of the up-coming sessions detailed on the COMIRB website: http://comirbweb.ucdenver.pvt/portal If this link does not work with a click, please cut and paste into your browser address window.

We are also now training on "How to submit a request for Exemption" using the new electronic meeting at these sessions too. If you attended an earlier session and can already access the system then you only need to attend the second hour of the sessions posted.