

Research Tips

University of Colorado Denver

Vice Chancellor for Research: RJ Traystman

01/01/2010

Volume 2 Issue 1

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.

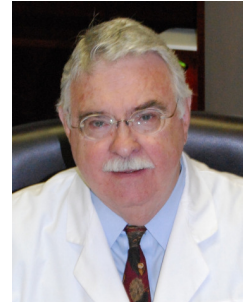
"Vitamin D Supplementation and Varicella Zoster Virus Vaccine Responsiveness in Older Nursing Home Residents" will be led by Adit A. Ginde, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Surgery, with the participation of co-investigators Myron J. Levin, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, and Robert S. Schwartz, MD, Professor 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-ControlledSubstances.htm> If this link does not work with a click, please cut and paste into your browser address window.

Dr. T's Corner

Ronald J. Sokol, MD Awarded \$4.3 million ChiLDREN grant from NIH



Ronald J. Sokol, MD, Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics, and Director of the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, and co-workers have been awarded a \$4.3 million five year NIH grant from NIDDK for investigations of 8 important childhood cholestatic liver diseases. Dr. Sokol is the PI for the UC Denver site and Administrative Core of the Childhood Liver Disease Research and Education Network (ChiLDREN). Cholestatic liver diseases occur in 1 in 2500 infants and children, have few available, effective therapies, and therefore account for over 70% of liver transplants performed during childhood. The rare liver diseases to be studied include biliary atresia, idiopathic neonatal hepatitis, alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency, Alagille syndrome, progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis, bile acid synthesis defects, mitochondrial hepatopathies, and cystic fibrosis liver disease (CFLD). Investigation of these disorders will advance scientific knowledge about liver development, etiology, genetics and pathogenesis of each disease, as well as the discovery of biomarkers of disease and development and testing of improved diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. Research at UC Denver is focusing on biliary atresia, alpha one antitrypsin deficiency and CFLD. UC Denver has been designated the Administrative Core of this network of 16 clinical centers plus a data coordinating center. Six clinical and translational research studies and clinical trials are ongoing. The Network has created a specimen, tissue and DNA repository, funds fellowship training and provides pilot project funding. ChiLDREN works closely with NIH and with seven patient advocacy groups/foundations that provide input from affected families and patients into the research being performed. Dr. Sokol and his group believe that this type of collaborative network is the only mechanism by which to make significant research progress in rare disorders.

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.cudenver.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.

Research Corner

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.



Nancy Zahniser, PhD

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.

Office of Grants and Contracts

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.

IACUC: REQUESTS FOR ANIMAL TRANSFER

The Request for Transfer of Cage Cards Form is to be used when cages of animals must be transferred to a different protocol, investigator, cost center, or account. Transfer requests must be reviewed by the IACUC to ensure that both PIs have authorized the transfer, to ensure that the species and strains for transfer are appropriately covered on valid protocols, and to ensure that the reason for the transfer is within animal research regulations (procedures must be covered on an IACUC approved protocol).

Transfer requests must be reviewed by the Veterinarian to ensure that no pathogen transmission can occur as animals transfer from one housing room to another. Transfer requests must be reviewed by the Facility Manager to ensure that appropriate space is available to allow the transfer. Transfer requests must be reviewed by the OLAR Business Office to ensure that the animal usage counts are correctly adjusted for both protocols, and to ensure that cost centers, account numbers and billing information is adjusted for both protocols.

Tips for Completing the Form:

- Please provide all cage card numbers and the strains/lines (the table can be expanded if needed) - this allows the new cage cards to be printed.
- Please indicate the total number of animals to be transferred - this allows number of animals to be correctly adjusted for both donor and recipient protocols.
- Please indicate the reason for the transfer and if any procedures have already taken place under the donor protocol; movement of animals between protocols must have a rationale; animals should not have procedures conducted on multiple protocols; all procedures should be covered under the one approved protocol; an amendment should be submitted to request permission to conduct a new procedure on an approved protocol rather than transfer animals.
- Billing investigators and account number and cost center information must be supplied so that per diems can be appropriately charged to the correct speedtypes.
- The housing room numbers (from and to) must be provided so that the veterinarians can judge health status issues around movement between "clean" and "dirty" areas.
- The housing room numbers (from and to) must be provided so that the facility manager can allocate space appropriately.
- Since the PIs are ultimately responsible for actions on their protocols only the PI can authorize transfers but a separate contact can be listed for card pick up etc.

COMIRB

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.