



# Research Tips

## University of Colorado Denver

Vice Chancellor for Research: RJ Traystman

02/15/2010

Volume 2 Issue 4

### Stimulus Funding Update (ARRA)

As of January 29, 2010, UC Denver has submitted 587 ARRA proposals and received ARRA funding for a total of 126 ARRA awards funded at \$53,338,133

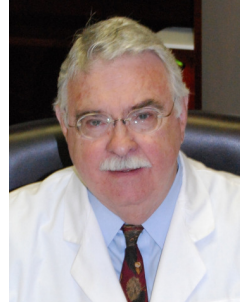
### IACUC

#### Revised Policy Concerning: Animals and Expired Protocols

The most important changes to the policy are:

1. If the PI does not have a replacement protocol on file in the IACUC Office, access to animals currently housed will be denied and the animals will be transferred to Animal Holding protocol. A \$10 fee per cage will be charged for all of the transfer paperwork. In addition, technician time will be charged to move the animals and separate any breeding pairs.
2. Investigators will be charged a surcharge equal to double the current daily per diem rate while the animals are on the Animal Holding Protocol.
3. The investigator will be given 60 days past the expiration date to actively pursue a replacement protocol approval. If there is no action by day 60, the IACUC will be notified by the Director of the IACUC and deliberation will occur at a convened meeting regarding the decision to continue the animals on the holding protocol. If the decision is to not continue with animals on the holding protocol, the University Veterinarian, in conjunction with the IACUC, will determine the disposition of any animal remaining on the holding protocol. These changes are effective immediately. The revised policies are posted on our website at [http://www.uchsc.edu/animal/acup\\_programpolicies.shtm](http://www.uchsc.edu/animal/acup_programpolicies.shtm). If you have questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Mark A. Douse (Director, IACUC Office - 303-724-1057).

### Dr. T's Corner



I am happy to inform you that we have received the R2 Sentinel Health Monitoring results for mice for the most recent quarter. All results in the R2 facility were NEGATIVE for all adventitial rodent pathogens and parasites.

I would also like to follow up with you on past positive rooms. In the last month we were able to clear two of the three rooms that were under quarantine. One of the rooms had a potential mite infestation that was treated with two rounds of Moxidectin. The room was then tested at 100% for three consecutive months with no evidence of mites noted. The second room was completely depopulated, decontaminated and brought back on line as a clean room. Our third room is close to being able to be shut down, decontaminated and brought back on line, so that we anticipate no rooms under quarantine as of the middle of February. Thanks to all of the Research and OLAR staff for being diligent in your practices in order to keep us clean.

Finally, several researchers have recently asked about possible bed bug infestations. I want to assure everyone that we have no evidence of bed bugs in any of our facilities at this time. Our regulations and assurance require us to have a comprehensive pest control policy and take precautions to prevent the introduction of vermin, as well as aggressively treat any possible outbreaks. In addition, the vivarium environment is not very conducive to the survival of many pests. This is because vivariums are designed to keep vermin from being able to find places to hide and breed in an effort to keep animals in as clean of an environment as possible. I want to assure everyone that we constantly monitor our facility for pests and will inform you if there are any indications of problems so that you can take the proper precautions for your staff and animals. If you have any questions, please contact Jori at 303-724-3987; [Jori.Leszczynski@UCDenver.edu](mailto:Jori.Leszczynski@UCDenver.edu)).

### Office of Laboratory and Animal Resources (OLAR)

#### Access Requirements

Please keep in mind that all research staff who will be working in R2 or will be resuming work in RC1 once the decontamination has been completed, will need to complete a 3-step access process:

1. A 2 hour didactic session that is held twice per month.
2. Facility Orientation
3. Hands-on Training.

Please note, Research Staff only need to attend the Didactic and Hands-on training one time. Research staff that have gone through all of the requirements to access R2 will only need to complete the RC1 Facility Orientation to access the facility once it reopens after decontamination. Those Research Staff members who have chosen to suspend their research during the decontamination will need to perform all 3 steps above. For questions regarding the access process, what requirements you still need to complete, or to register for one of the following scheduled sessions, please email [Lorraine.Bell@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Lorraine.Bell@ucdenver.edu)

|            |             |             |         |
|------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| February 2 | 10am - Noon | February 18 | 2 - 4pm |
| March 2    | 10am - Noon | March 18    | 2 - 4pm |

Seating for the didactic is limited to 60 attendees.

Please remember that RC1 will close on March 31 for Decontamination

## Research Corner

J. Mark Petrash, Ph.D., is Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Ophthalmology at UC Denver. Dr. Petrash is relatively new to Colorado, having moved in 2008 from Washington University where he was Professor and Director of Vision Sciences Research in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and Director of the Washington University Vision Core Center. His laboratory



**J. Mark Petrash, PhD**

studies the biochemical basis for major blinding diseases, including diabetic retinopathy and cataracts. Diabetic eye diseases are on the rise due to a dramatic increase in the incidence of diabetes. Using transgenic and gene-targeted mouse models, his laboratory has shown that the aldo-keto reductase genes likely play key roles in driving the pathogenesis of diabetic eye disease. Ongoing work is aimed at developing new strategies to block vision loss associated with diabetes. Mark also studies the molecular basis of cataracts, which are caused by aggregation of proteins in the eye lens. Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness throughout the world and affect about one in six Americans over the age of 40 years. Mark is the PI of a \$990,000 NIH Challenge Grant to develop therapeutic strategies for prevention of protein aggregation diseases in the eye. This work is being carried out in collaboration with his co-investigator Prof. Uday Kompella from the School of Pharmacy. In addition to his work to further vision research at UC Denver, Petrash has been named President-Elect of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), the world's largest organization in support of eye and vision research. Mark and his wife, Kelly, have a daughter in high school, a son at Elon University, and a son at CU Boulder. Mark and his family enjoy the Colorado outdoors.

## Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board (COMIRB)

UCDenver offers the option for Principal Investigators to utilize Western Institutional Review Board (WIRB) for their industry sponsored clinical trials. January 15 until March 1 will be the time for researchers to consider whether or not they want to utilize this option for all their industry sponsored clinical trials.

**WIRB Opt-In:** If you are not currently using WIRB but would like to have all future full board industry sponsored clinical trials reviewed by WIRB, please send an e-mail to Marie.Wade@ucdenver.edu requesting WIRB Opt-In. More information on the policies and procedures for using WIRB are available on the COMIRB website: <http://comirbweb.ucdenver.edu/portal/>

**WIRB Opt-Out:** Also, if you are currently using WIRB but now want to have all future new full board industry sponsored protocols reviewed by COMIRB, please send an e-mail to Marie.Wade@ucdenver.edu requesting WIRB Opt-Out.

As a reminder, in order to be listed on any protocol, all investigators and research coordinators must have completed the CITI Basic or CITI Refresher Course within the last 3 years, as well as the HIPAA Research Course. COMIRB certification must be current.

## Tax-Free Ethanol Users

### **Researchers using tax free ethanol:**

Tax Free Ethanol is ONLY available through Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S). Researchers CAN NOT purchase tax free ethanol for use in labs through suppliers UNLESS the researcher holds an industrial alcohol user permit issued by The Department of the Treasury Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB). A permit issued from the TTB is REQUIRED to obtain ethanol free of tax for use in research labs. If a researcher would like to obtain an individual permit for tax free ethanol, please contact Carissa Gipe in EH&S at X40127 or Carissa.Gipe@uchsc.edu.

EH&S has been conducting random spot checks of security for the tax free ethanol. As a reminder, all tax free ethanol (including dilutions if it is still pure ethanol and water) MUST be kept locked when not in use. If someone from EH&S discovers your ethanol is not kept locked (sitting on a counter, in an unlocked cabinet, etc.) it will be removed and you will see a notice from EH&S where the ethanol was removed. You will then need to contact Carissa Gipe to discuss the tax free ethanol program before your ethanol is removed. Laboratories with multiple violations might have their tax free ethanol privileges revoked. Please keep in mind that if TTB does an inspection and finds violations we are at risk of losing the permit for the entire campus.

If you have any questions about the tax free ethanol inventory, pricing or distribution, please contact Carissa Gipe at X40127.

## Biosafety

### **Annual Certification of Biological Safety Cabinets. Is your equipment overdue?**

NIH Grants Policy recognizes the Principal Investigator as the responsible party for all safety compliance within a laboratory to include insuring the integrity of physical containment, such as biological safety cabinets. NIH, CDC, and our office recommend a minimum annual certification of any BSC in use in these studies. A list of local vendors providing such services is maintained by the Biosafety Office. Please contact us if you need assistance. [Biosafety.Program@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Biosafety.Program@ucdenver.edu)

## Colorado Clinical & Translational Science Institute

### **Mark Your Calendar Now!**

**Who:** All Interested in state-of-the-art translational science clinical research and trials

**What:** CCTSI Grand Rounds Kickoff; **Keynote speaker:** Barbara Alving, MD, Dir. of NIH National Center for Research

**Local speakers:** Lynn Barbour, MD and Spero Manson, MD

**When:** Tuesday, March 2, 2010, 10 am - 12pm

**Where:** UCDenver, Ed2 South Bldg., L28-1102, AMC

**Why:** Gain understanding of current NIH landscape and CTSA National Program