Stimulus Funding Update (ARRA)

As of March 11, 2010, UCDenver has submitted 590 ARRA proposals and received ARRA funding for a total of 137 ARRA awards funded at $55,101,239.

The Institutional Biosafety Committee

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC): [http://www.uchsc.edu/safety/BioSafety/InstBioSafCommittee.htm] provides review and approval of all recombinant DNA research conducted by UCDenver. This includes the use of recombinant DNA materials in tissue culture, animals and plants as well as Human Gene Transfer and DNA vaccine clinical trials. The IBC is also the body charged with the review and approval of all Select Agents Research conducted by UCDenver.

Protocols are reviewed, approved and overseen for compliance with the National Institute of Health (NIH) Guidelines: [http://oba.od.nih.gov/oba/rac/guidelines_02/NIH_Guidelines_Apr_02.htm] and federal Select Agents Regulations.

We are currently recruiting for Co-Chairs and additional members. We particularly need additional MD members to assist with the review and approval of human subjects clinical trials involving recombinant DNA, viral vectors, or DNA vaccines.

If you are interested in this opportunity for University community service, or even a role as an ad hoc consultant to the IBC, please feel free to contact the IBC Office [biosafety.email@ucdenver.edu] or call us for additional information at 303-724-0235.

In order to aid the IBC process, and in an effort to assist customer service, the IBC administrative support will be combined with the IACUC support in a new office (Office for Research Committee Support) under the direction of Mark Douse, PhD (303-724-1057). For questions regarding the IBC application, review and approval process, meeting schedules or of forms, please contact Candy Berryman (303-724-8156).

Occupational Health Office and IACUC

The Occupational Health Office will now be monitoring the occupational health requirements for the Animal Program, previously done via the IACUC office. In doing so, everyone will be required to fill out an Animal Exposure Health Questionnaire this year (2010). This is being done to provide a baseline health status on all those who are working with animals and/or on protocols. Starting next year, 2011, the annual occupational health requirement paperwork will go back to being a one page document. The new Occupational Health Office is here to provide better surveillance and better service to those who work here at UCDenver. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Any questions, please contact Teran Williams, RN (teran.williams@ucdenver.edu).

Core Facilities at UCDenver

I have completed a book of Core Facilities available here at UCDenver. It is in pdf format and can be found on the Research website: http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/ViceChancellors/Research/Pages/Documents/UC%20Denver%20Core%20Book%202012-09%20Final.pdf. (You will need to type in the above addresses into your browser window.) You will find listed every core I could find in our institution, the Director of the Core and contact information, services offered, and a price list. I also asked the Core Directors to indicate how quality control is determined, who signs off on the data produced, approximate time it takes to return data to an investigator, experience working with industry, etc., etc. I intend this book to be a living document in that it will always be in some state of change. Some new cores will appear and old ones may disappear, and I will make every effort to keep this Core book up-to-date. I thought that this Core book would be helpful in at least two ways: 1) it provides a listing and contact information of all Cores for the good of our own investigators, and 2) it provides a resource to be used by industry who always ask about what Core Facilities are available and for what price. Please review this book and let me know if I have missed any cores and if there are typos that I can easily correct. If you have any comments, questions, or ideas concerning this Core book, please contact me at: richard.traystman@ucdenver.edu. I am now working on a "key word" index so that you will be able to type in a few words and be taken to those Core Facilities that match those key words.

Office of Research Development and Education (ORDE)

The National Institutes of Health has released data illustrating funding by specific research areas or diseases between Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 and FY 2011 (FY2010 and 2011 are estimates.) NIH used sophisticated data mining techniques to pull this interesting table of information together in response to Congressional recommendations for more transparency in how federal research dollars are being spent. For example, for FY 2011 NIH is projecting the top research or disease areas in terms of annual support level will be clinical research, genetics, cancer, biotechnology, prevention, neurosciences, women’s health, infectious diseases, brain disorders and behavioral/social science. The full table, listing 218 funding areas by annual support level, is located on the NIH website at http://report.nih.gov/rcdc/categories/Default.aspx. Please contact ORDE staff with questions about availability of other NIH data resources at 303-315-5822.
Natalie J. Serkova is Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Radiology at UC Denver. She received her BS in Physics in 1991 from Joseph Fourier University and her MS in Biophysics in 1992 from the University of Kiev in Grenoble. In 1996, Natalie received her PhD from the University of Bremen in Biochemistry and Radiological Sciences. She then did a Postdoc at UCSF from 1997-1999 and was appointed Assistant Professor at University of Bremen. She came to UC Denver in 2002 and was named Director of the MRS Core in the Cancer Center. Natalie studies changes in cancer biochemistry and microenvironment by applying translational imaging protocols for pre-clinical and clinical treatment protocols with novel signal transduction inhibitors (cytostatic drugs). The main focus of her research is to develop a variety of imaging based techniques in animal rodent models which will allow for reliable anatomic (micro CT and MRI), physiologic (dynamic contrast enhanced MRI for tumor perfusion and diffusion weighted MRI for tumor necrosis) and metabolic (NMR metabolomics, choline MRSI and FDG-Positron Emission Tomography) end points ready to be translated into the clinic. Novel protocols for molecular imaging and imaging probe development is another area of interest for Natalie. She and her team provide technical and scientific assistance in planning, conducting and analyzing animal imaging studies for all interested PIs (the Animal Imaging Core is supported by the Cancer Center, CCTSI and Anesthesiology Department). The imaging future at our campus promises new avenues for exploration of physiological, metabolic, molecular and genetic events in the human body, performed non-invasively and in real time, using multi-modality imaging platforms - from animal models to cancer patients. This is the main focus of our new initiative - the Colorado Translational Research Imaging Center (C-TRIC) - headed by the Radiology Department, with the Small Animal Imaging Core being an essential part of it.

Successful Grant and Proposal Routing:
OGC has noticed an increased number of proposals arriving late and incomplete. This can cause additional work for everyone and potentially late submissions.

When routing a grant proposal be sure to include a complete routing form, final accurate budgets, any required subcontract documentation, budget justifications, completed sponsor-required forms and biosketches. OGC PreAward does not need to review abstracts, project descriptions or proposal narratives. Paper proposals are to be submitted to PreAward no later than 5 business days prior to submission deadline. Electronic proposals are to be submitted to PreAward no later than 12 business days prior to submission deadline.

When routing a contract proposal be sure to include a complete routing form, required routing documents, final accurate budgets, sponsor contact information and send an electronic copy of the proposed agreement to OGC.Contracts@ucdenver.edu. Negotiation of contracts will commence when all contract routing information has been submitted to OGC. More detail regarding grant and contract routing can be found at http://www.uchsc.edu/ogc/pre/route.php

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness Quick Reference Guide
The 2010 UC Denver-Anschutz Medical Campus revised emergency preparedness quick-reference guide is now available. The UC Denver Emergency Preparedness Program will be providing these guides, via campus mail, to each department at AMC. In order to ensure that old guides are replaced, please distribute the guides throughout your department. Please remove all of the old emergency preparedness guides that have revision dates before 1/2010. The guide can be accessed online at the UCD Emergency Preparedness website. For additional guides please contact Essi Ellis, UC Denver Assistant Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, at Essi.Ellis@ucdenver.edu or (303) 724-1031.

New process changes designed to improve efficiency and compliance:
As of March 1, 2010
1. There will be only one Change Form instead of the Amendment Form and the Update Form.
2. There will no longer be a Safety Form instead:
   - Medwatch reports from other sites should either be submitted as Unanticipated Problems within 5 days if it meets the COMIRB definition of a reportable event or at continuing review;
   - Changes to Investigational Brochures or Package Inserts will be submitted with a Change Form;
   - Monitor reports, DSMB reports, Audit reports etc. should be submitted as Unanticipated Problems within 5 days or at continuing review depending on the findings.
As of April 1, 2010
3. There will no longer be a separate HIPAA B Authorization Form instead the HIPAA Authorization language will be incorporated into the consent form document (except at the VA).
If you have questions about these changes or if you would like to understand how to complete the new forms please come to one of the Brown bag sessions on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 12:00 to 1:00 in the COMIRB Conference Room, Building 500, 3rd floor, Room N3214.