



Research Tips

University of Colorado Denver

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Stimulus Funding Update (ARRA)

As of September 14, 2009, UCDenver submitted 571 grant proposals to NIH. Thus far 61 have been funded for a total of \$21,913,905.

COMIRB InfoEd Training

COMIRB will begin training sessions on our new electronic system. The new system will enable you to access information on the status of your protocols in a manner similar to the old protocol manager. Training will also provide information on electronic submission of protocols. COMIRB hopes to begin the process of accepting documents electronically in November and will start with the Request for Exemption form.

Training sessions will begin October 6 and will be held twice a week until the end of the year in Ed2 North (AMC) room 2201AB. This room holds 30 on a first come first served basis. These will all be held in the same computer lab training room in Education 2 North, 2201AB

Oct. 6, 1pm - 3pm	Oct. 20, 1pm - 3pm
Oct. 8, 9am - 11am	Oct. 22, 9am - 11am
Oct. 13, 2pm - 4pm	Oct. 27, 1pm - 3pm
Oct. 15, 10am - 12pm	Oct. 29, 10am - 12pm

Dr. T's Corner

We are striving to move clinical research protocols through the Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board (COMIRB) in a timely manner and agree that the timelines need to improve. Frankly, our system is "not efficient", but you should not think that this situation applies only for UCDenver. Other institutions across the country are experiencing similar problems. Our standard operating procedures are excellent, and our COMIRB director (Alison Lakin) is terrific, yet the time for IRB approval of protocols is too long. Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the regulatory burden for all of our committees. The additional regulatory burdens required for accreditation and conscientious COMIRB committees trying to keep us (UCDenver) out of trouble have invariably lengthened the time required for protocol reviews. While we are grateful to those faculty who serve on COMIRB, it is always difficult to attract additional members to our committees. There is a clear shortage of individuals willing to serve. So, what strategies will we implement this coming year to help the situation? First we will continue our efforts to bring new, experienced individuals to serve on our committees. Second, we will try to form another review committee for pediatrics. Third, we will attempt to have protocols "pre-reviewed" before they ever get to the full committee for review. Fourth, we will increase our expedited reviews, particularly for social and behavioral protocols. And fifth, we are heading towards an all electronic submission system (InfoEd). Hopefully, the implementation of these strategies will help our review system. If you would be interested in serving on COMIRB, please let me know (richard.traystman@ucdenver.edu).



Human Subject Research Committee (HSRC)

The 5 best ways to contact HSRC for The Downtown Denver Faculty and students:

1. Contact Cindy Kaufman for general questions - 303-315-2732 or e-mail; cindy.kaufman@ucdenver.edu
2. For questions regarding education or training requirements - contact Monica Devine at 303-724-1011
3. If you have a complicated study or specific problem to discuss, you can visit Cindy Kaufman at the HSRC Office, 3rd floor Suite 300, Room 307 of the Lawrence Street Building.
4. Alison Lakin, HSRC Director, is also available to conduct faculty and student training. Please contact her at 303-724-1058 or Alison.lakin@ucdenver.edu
5. Remember the HSRC website at <http://comirbweb.uchsc.edu/hsrc/> is a good resource for information and forms.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education

The Downtown Denver campus is continuing to make significant contributions to STEM education in Colorado in a number of ways. At present we hold five NSF grants which support STEM-related education in K through graduate school. On October 16 and 17th, the faculty and staff of Center for Applied Science and Mathematics for Innovation and Competitiveness (CASMIC) are presenting the second annual STEMalooza event (http://thunder1.cudenver.edu/casmic/stemalooza/index.php?section_id=events&event=1) in the Colorado Convention Center. Besides continuous math, science and engineering activities during those two days, Astronaut Colonel Fred Gregory and Lieutenant Governor Barbara O'Brien will be featured speakers at the Friday luncheon.

Richard J. Allen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at UC Denver at the Downtown Campus. His major research investigates the relationship between glutamate function and cocaine addiction. Rich's laboratory has been testing the role of N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) function in the escalation of cocaine consumption in rats using a preclinical animal model called the drug-self-administration procedure. With this procedure, rats with indwelling intravenous catheters deliver intravenous infusions of cocaine to themselves by pressing a lever located inside an operant chamber. To study escalation of cocaine self-administration, rats are permitted extended daily access to cocaine. Under these conditions, daily consumption of cocaine increases over time. Blocking NMDA receptor activity during a chronic drug regimen prevents development of tolerance or sensitization to the direct effects of a drug. Dr. Allen has shown that continuous blockade of NMDA receptors facilitates, rather than prevents, escalation of cocaine self-administration, and increases motivation to respond for cocaine. His data suggest that escalation of cocaine self-administration is mediated by hypo-glutamatergic states in the central nervous system. These are surprising findings that challenge our ideas about the ubiquitous role of NMDA receptor activation as a mechanism underlying all forms of drug-induced neural plasticity and behavior change. His data also have important implications for treatment of human cocaine dependence, as some glutamatergic drugs are under investigation as treatments for this disorder.

Tips for IACUC Protocols

All new faculty, students and staff involved in research with animal subjects must attend an Animal Program Orientation (First Tuesday of each month - morning or Third Thursday of each month - afternoon). Remember protocol submissions are done online so allow adequate time for administrative set up (PI authorization, user ID & password) and familiarization with online system. Funding agencies are more frequently requesting verification that grant documents match approved protocol details. Please ensure that your protocol details and grant application information correspond - including matching your funding speedtype to the grant referenced in your protocol. Researchers can check the number of authorized animals available on protocols when they have access to the online system. You can check to see if your animal numbers are low and you need to submit an amendment to request an increase in numbers. Transportation of animals must be in compliance with IACUC policy; please check details at http://www.uchsc.edu/animal/documents/policy/Animal_Transportation.doc

Important Reminder! The PI is required to sign all grant and contract proposal routings. The PI's signature is a certification that all university policies, regulations and laws will be upheld in the conduct of the proposed research. New Principal Investigators will need to take the OGC Research Administration for Faculty Course. This is an online course and can be accessed through the OGC website: <http://www.uchsc.edu/Jogc/edu.php>. New PIs should also take the online Electronic Personnel Effort Reporting Course and the Direct Charging to Sponsored Projects Course, also accessible through the OGC website.

Research administrators new to sponsored project management: We encourage all research administrators to take advantage of OGC monthly brown bag sessions. These sessions provide a forum for informal discussion on all aspects of managing sponsored projects. Watch for OGC announcements for the brown bag sessions and related topics. These announcements are delivered to UC Denver via the OGC list-serve. Subscribe to the list-serve at this link - <http://www.uchsc.edu/ogc/listserve.php>. Sponsored projects that involve subcontracts and are funded by the federal government require monitoring by the PI. This monitoring is also referred to as subrecipient monitoring. An excellent guide for subrecipient monitoring is OGC Policy 4-17 - <http://administration.ucdenver.edu/admin/policies/G&C/fp4-17.pdf>. Be sure to utilize this policy to assist with subcontract oversight.

Biosafety

The NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (NIH Guidelines), administered by the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities, apply to all research projects that involve recombinant DNA which are conducted at, or sponsored by an organization, which receives NIH support for recombinant DNA research. The NIH Guidelines apply to both basic and clinical research studies. As defined by NIH Guidelines, recombinant DNA molecules are either: 1) molecules that are constructed outside of living cells by joining natural or synthetic DNA segments to DNA molecules that can replicate in a living cell, or 2) molecules that result from the replication of those described in 1). For appropriate registration, review and approval of studies involving recombinant DNA please contact the UC Denver Institutional Biosafety Committee or the Biosafety Office for additional information and the appropriate forms (303-724-0235; biosafety.program@ucdenver.edu).

Animal Transfer Process Made Easier

The IACUC in conjunction with OLAR has developed a new Transfer Form and Procedure in order to provide a more streamlined/user friendly procedure. In the past, we have used multiple forms that were difficult to track. The new form and procedure allows investigators to have only one form that can be tracked through the process. In addition, an e-mail sent from a PI's e-mail account will be accepted in lieu of a signature. From this point forward, only this form will be accepted. Please go to the IACUC website under the forms section to find the Transfer Form and a separate instructional sheet. http://www.uchsc.edu/animal/iacuc_forms.shtm