Stimulus Funding Update (ARRA)

As of August 1, 2010, UC Denver has submitted 547 ARRA proposals and received ARRA funding for a total of 161 ARRA awards funded at $67,602,886.

Office of Laboratory Animal Resources (OLAR)

Barbara Pfister Replaces Retiring Alice Greenwade

We are happy to announce the arrival of Barbara Pfister to the OLAR staff. Barbara replaced Alice Greenwade, who retired from OLAR on June 30 after 27 years of service. Barbara comes to OLAR from National Jewish where she was the Administrative Assistant in the Biological Resource Center for over 12 years. She has a wealth of experience working with animal vendors, the Granite/Topaz system, IACUC protocols, billing, procurement, and general animal facility administration. OLAR is very excited to have been able to hire someone with such an extensive background. Please feel free to contact Barbara (4-2316 or Barbara.J.Pfister@ucdenver.edu) if you should have any questions regarding your animal orders.

Office of Research Development and Education (ORDE)

You have just downloaded a Request for Applications and the necessary application materials for an upcoming funding opportunity. ORDE has developed a new resource designed to assist in locating and documenting the important information contained in these sometimes overwhelming documents. Covering proposal formatting items, sponsor requirements and typical proposal components, the Sample Proposal Checklist is a starting point when you are contemplating proposal submission. It is provided as a Word document so you can easily incorporate information important to your specific sponsor and funding opportunity. The Sample Proposal Checklist is available from the Resources page of the ORDE website at http://www.ucdenver.edu/ACADEMICS/RESEARCH/ABOUTUS/ORD E/Pages/ORDE-Resources.aspx. (you may need to cut/paste this url into your browser window) This page provides a table of resources made available by ORDE - sortable by file type, document or resource category. Please contact us with questions at 303-315-5822.

Dr. T’s Corner

So, who says participating in Study Sections for NIH doesn’t get you much? I will bet you have never heard a story like this before. Dr. John R. Sladek of UC Denver has recently been informed that he has been afforded a special privilege by NIH that allows him to submit grant applications at any time regardless of due dates. John was informed that on the basis of his substantial service to peer review at NIH, he will have the opportunity to submit certain grant applications at any time. John is eligible for this honor because he participated in peer review at least 6 times within an 18 month period and the opportunity is good for one year; if John continues as a member of a standing Study Section, he will be eligible for the continuous submission throughout his tenure on the committee. It turns out that John has participated in 37 peer review meetings in 12 years. We believe this is the first such honor for our medical campus. Congratulations to John Sladek. A few years ago, I participated in an NIH committee meeting to discuss what additional benefits could be given to scientists who serve as regular members of Study Sections. There are indeed many intellectual and personal benefits of sitting on Study Sections, but many believe it is far too much work, and of course there is the possible issue that your own research may suffer. My idea was that if a person was in the middle of his/her service on a Study Section and he/she had their own grant renewal due, their grant should be extended, with the same budget, until they completed their Study Section membership. This would have meant extending one’s grant for an additional year, or two, with funding. Needless to say, NIH did not care much for that idea.

Office of Grants and Contracts (OGC)

Reminder! Two-Day "Error Correction Window"

NIH, AHRQ, NIOSH and FDA returned to the two business day error correction window policy for electronic and competing paper-based PHS 398 grant applications May 8, 2010. * In practical terms, this means errors on electronic proposal submissions for these sponsors must be made within two business days following the submission deadline. Corrections for paper submissions must be postmarked/e-mail date stamped within two business days of the date that NIH contacts the Program Director/Principal Investigator and UCD Authorized Organization Representative to alert them of an issue.

*Source: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-10-088.htm l (you may need to cut/paste this address into your browser window)
Research Corner

David H. Wagner, PhD received his BS from King College in Tennessee in 1984 in Chemistry/Biology. He received his MS in Biology and PhD in Biomedical Sciences from East Tennessee State University in 1987 and 1994 respectively. He then did a Postdoctoral Fellowship at National Jewish in Immunology and a second Postdoctoral Fellowship at UC Denver in Diabetes/Immunology. He was appointed Instructor, Assistant Professor and Associate Professor at UC Denver in 2000, 2002, and 2008 respectively. David recently received a University of Colorado, Tech Transfer Office, State Bioscience Award.

David has discovered a unique T cell subset that expresses the CD40 biomarker (termed Th40 cells) and determined that these T cells preferentially induce type 1 diabetes in mouse models. These T cells are also present in human T1D subjects occurring at greatly expanded cell number and percentage of effector cell populations. Th40 cells from T1D subjects but not from controls, are highly responsive to diabetes associated antigens. When antigen is exposed, Th40 cells achieve effector function, producing pro-inflammatory cytokines. Given that CD40 occurs as a cell surface signaling molecule, David designed a small peptide generated from the known interaction sequence of CD154, the natural ligand for CD40. They showed that this small peptide binds to Th40 cells and that injecting this peptide into NOD mice that spontaneously develop T1D, prevented diabetes onset; when the peptide administrations were halted, diabetes developed. More importantly this small peptide reverses hyperglycemia in 80% of new onset diabetic mice. In addition, David determined that administration of this small peptide does not impair the overall immune system. The aims of the bioscience award are to perform peptide sequence mutational analysis to determine the best candidate peptide(s) for treatment development and extend the studies for reversal of diabetes onset. The importance of this award is to assist development of new treatments for type 1 diabetes and other autoimmune diseases. By targeting the pathogenic T cell population we hope to ablate the destructive inflammation while preserving overall immune response capabilities.

Environmental Health and Safety

Biosafety Program

We are pleased to announce that Martin Stonehouse, PhD, has joined the Department of Environmental Health and Safety as an Assistant Biosafety Officer, effective July 1, 2010. Martin received his Bachelor of Science from Hillsdale College, Michigan in 1997. He received his Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Colorado Denver in 2004 followed by post-doctoral training at the University of Colorado Denver from 2004-2009. The Biosafety Program is responsible for oversight of all research activities involving recombinant DNA materials, infectious and potentially infectious materials, exposures to human blood and bodily fluids and bloodborne pathogens, and appropriate disposal of all regulated medical wastes, and all related training. Martin will be assisting in all those areas of oversight for AMC and DDC.

Office of Regulatory Compliance

InfoEd 2010 Conflict Of Interest Disclosure Submission Training
The Office of Regulatory Compliance will be holding step-by-step, hands-on training classes for submitting the 2010 COI Disclosure form. The following is the class schedule. Please note that all classes are limited to 20 participants.

LOCATION: ED2North P28 - CTI-2201DE - Computer Lab

DATES & TIMES:
Wednesday, August 18, 2010 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Friday, August 20, 2010 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

RSVP: Send your date preference to Jennifer.a.lahlou@ucdenver.edu.
You will receive a confirmation email.

REMINDER: COI Disclosures are due by September 3, 2010.

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)

In an effort to ease regulatory burden, assist customer service, and aid the IBC and IACUC process, the IBC administrative support has been combined with the IACUC Office into a new office: the "Office for Research Committee Support" under the direction of Mark Douse, PhD (303-724-1057).

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) provides review of all recombinant DNA research conducted at UC Denver. This includes the use of recombinant DNA materials in Human Gene Transfer and DNA vaccine clinical trials. The IBC is also charged with the review of all Select Agents Research conducted by UC Denver. For questions regarding IBC processes, please contact the IBC Coordinator at 303-724-8156.

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is responsible for the oversight and evaluation of UC Denver’s animal care and use program. For questions regarding IACUC processes, please contact the IACUC Coordinator at 303-724-1056.

We are currently recruiting additional members for both committees. We particularly need additional MD members for the IBC 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, please contact Mark Douse at 303-724-1057.

Occupational Health and Safety

RABIES IN THE NEWS

The Tri-County Health Department claims rabies has now become an epidemic along the Front Range. Animals that have tested positive include numerous skunks, foxes, deer, muskrats, and horses. This poses a big concern with our researchers who are involved in field studies. Starting the first of July, the Occupational Health Clinic will offer rabies vaccines for those who are either required or need to be vaccinated. Please, if you are working with animals that are at risk or tissues of animals that are at risk, call to schedule an appointment @ 303-724-0345.