Data Driven
Enterprise Data Warehouse Becomes Flagship Service for Biomedical Informatics

"We’re making it much more efficient, and we can derive insight from our enterprise data on a scale that wasn’t possible before," Hogan said.

The Enterprise Data Warehouse currently has data on about 800,000 patients and will add about 200,000 this year when it includes the UAMS Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) Family Medical Centers located around the state.

Establishing the Enterprise Data Warehouse was a priority for TRI because it provides an essential link between basic and clinical research. “To do translational research you need the electronic medical record (EMR) data,” said Hogan, who is chief of the Division of Biomedical Informatics in the College of Medicine. “You have to provision the EMR data for research and you have to do that in a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)-compliant way.”

While the Enterprise Data Warehouse is a cornerstone of CIRC, Hogan notes that TRI’s biomedical informatics services are extensive. “We’re all about tools for doing research, anything from surveys and instruments to electronic case report forms to trials management to FDA Part II compliance,” he said.

Honest Broker, i2b2
Two key services of the data warehouse are the Informatics for Integrating Biology and the Bedside

continued on page 2
Data Driven continued

(i2b2), an open-source platform for retrieving de-identified data, and the Honest Broker System.

i2b2 can be used to perform data queries for cohort discovery and hypothesis testing. Investigators and research staff can logon to i2b2 using their UAMS user ID and password at dwi2b2prod.ad.uams.edu/webclient. The Honest Broker System this year will streamline the process of requesting and retrieving HIPAA-compliant data. An honest broker is an IRB-certified person with no ties to the clinical or research team requesting the data.

“The Honest Broker System should make it easier for researchers to meet HIPAA requirements without having to know all the details,” Hogan said. “The net effect is that the system establishes trust that facilitates and accelerates research.”

Sharing Strategies

UAMS, UNC and Vanderbilt ‘Engaged’ at Conference

More than 70 UAMS researchers, academic staff and community representatives recently participated in sometimes lively exchanges with teams from Vanderbilt University and the University of North Carolina who shared strategies for engaging communities in research.

In part because scientists historically have lacked sufficient minority participation, institutions like UAMS are emphasizing community-engaged research, which involves establishing long-term partnerships between academic institutions and communities.

The UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI), whose Community Engagement Component hosted the June 1 conference, is helping build and sustain those relationships for researchers.

The Bridge is produced for UAMS-affiliated investigators by the UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI).

TRI Main Number
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UAMS Library
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To request assistance or find out more, please email to RCSS@uams.edu or call 501-686-6736.
Leeanne Lefler, Ph.D., A.P.N., a College of Nursing researcher, received a three-year, $434,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study a new approach for increasing physical activity in older, sedentary women. Lefler’s project was originally not funded by the NIH though it received favorable comments from an NIH review panel. She received the award after resubmitting the proposal with a TRI letter of support and a commitment of $30,000.

Greer Sullivan, M.D., received a two-year, $640,000 award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to study the mental health needs of rural African-Americans. “This pilot award would not have been possible without the Translational Research Institute,” said Sullivan, a Department of Psychiatry professor and director of TRI’s Community Engagement Component. “The community partnerships established through TRI were critical to this proposal.”

Joshua Cisler, Ph.D., a Department of Psychiatry researcher, received a two-year, $405,000 award from the NIH’s National Institute of Mental Health to study neural functional connectivity patterns associated with response to Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy among female adolescent assault victims. “Much of the credit for our receipt of this grant goes to TRI, which awarded us nearly $20,000 to collect the pilot data we needed to demonstrate feasibility,” Cisler said.

The NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program was established in 2006 to establish academic homes for clinical and translational research. UAMS received a five-year, $19.9 million CTSA in 2009.

By establishing and enhancing critical research infrastructure, supporting promising translational research, and creating new, long-term community partnerships, the NIH’s 60 CTSA programs are working to increase the efficiency and speed of clinical and translational research across the country.

The CTSA programs, funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), are linked for broad collaboration and a systemic transformation of the research and training environment. Through its CTSA programs, NIH aims to energize the discipline of clinical and translational science and ultimately improve human health.

The Translational Research Institute’s (TRI) website has been rebuilt and is ready for use. The site was designed with UAMS researchers in mind; its navigation is straightforward and functional, and it should be a valuable resource for anyone in need of research services and information about TRI. Check it out at TRI.uams.edu.
The following UAMS researchers cited TRI in publications between May 1 and June 26 after utilizing TRI resources or receiving TRI funding:


Stewart KE, Wright PB, Sims D, Tyner KR, Montgomery BE. The “translators”: engaging former drug users as key research staff to design and implement a risk reduction program for rural cocaine users. Subst Use Misuse. 2012 Apr; 47(5): 547-54.


TRI Has New Award Numbers

Thank you for remembering to cite TRI in your publications resulting from studies that receive TRI support. Please note TRI’s new award numbers: UL1TR000039 and KL2TR000063.