

THE TRIBUNE

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES



ACCELERATING DISCOVERIES TOWARD BETTER HEALTH

MAY 2013

A Shared Vision

Researchers Are Helping Shape Change



Myron Rogers, who is assisting UAMS' efforts to win a second NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award, leads a meeting of researchers.

Near the end of a 4-hour meeting, about 30 researchers from UAMS and ACH were so engrossed in their small-group sessions that it took the meeting's facilitator, Myron Rogers, a few attempts to regain their attention.

Asked to offer instant feedback, Jonathan Dranoff, M.D., a clinician scientist, summarized: "People here are passionate about improving the system."

As UAMS prepares its case for a second five-year Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), the research community is playing a critical role. The CTSA application calls for improving research efficiency, fostering collaborations across disciplines and ultimately improving health and health care. While the RFA doesn't tell UAMS or the 59 other CTSA's how to achieve this, it's clear

that systemic change is expected. It won't be easy, and it won't come by fiat, said Rogers, who since 1990 has led large-scale strategic change efforts in the private and public sectors throughout the world.

"Culture eats strategy," he said. "Eats it for lunch."

Rogers, who is assisting UAMS' efforts to meet the challenges of the RFA, is co-author of the best-selling *A Simpler Way*, and has worked with the U.S. Army, school systems, Fortune 500 companies and health care systems in England and Europe.

"About 90 percent of my work involves the movement from fragmented systems to systems that are integrated across disciplines and focusing on outcomes of those they serve," he said.

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Message from Dr. Lowery



Dear Colleagues,
As UAMS pursues a second five-year Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), it's important to know that it is not a renewal.

This levels the playing field for all competing institutions, those with and without existing CTSA's, and represents a significant challenge for UAMS' research enterprise as we seek to fulfill the RFA's requirements.

The new RFA is reflective of changes on the national health care scene, where economic pressure is forcing the movement from a costly, fragmented system to one that's more integrated and focused on patient outcomes. The same pressure is the catalyst for national efforts to make research more efficient and outcome oriented.

As a CTSA institution, UAMS is positioned to be among the leaders of this change. The Translational Research Institute (TRI) is leading the application effort and is inviting broad participation from the research community.

We're excited that so many of you are joining us to chart our new path and to deliver an application with integrity.

If you would like to be part of this process, please email Sabrina Maham, mahamsabrinaa@uams.edu or call 526-0362.

Sincerely,

Curtis Lowery, M.D.

Director
UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI)



A Shared Vision continued

Retained in March by the Translational Research Institute (TRI), Rogers has met with dozens of UAMS faculty and staff. His qualitative work found that the research system is not designed for integration that focuses on outcomes.

“Collaboration is really not an institutional value,” he said, noting tenure-related disincentives and obstacles to working across boundaries within policies and procedures. “The system is design to promote individual excellence, and yet, serious collaboration goes on. As in every organization, there are some who will do whatever is necessary to work around those institutional barriers.”

Rogers cautioned the group not to judge harshly those who are operating safely within the confines of the existing system.

“Building a shared view is the place to start change,” he said. “By putting people together in the right process and asking the right questions, it gives them the opportunity to create this future together.”

Greer Sullivan, M.D., TRI’s co-director and co-PI for the CTSA, encouraged the researchers to inform their colleagues about the effort, which will continue at least through the summer.

“We want everyone to be involved,” Rogers said. “It’s an open process.”

If you would like to attend future meetings or want to offer ideas for improving the research system, please email Sabrina Maham at mahamsabrina@uams.edu.

Data Warehouse Upgrades i2b2

The Enterprise Data Warehouse’s open-source platform for retrieving de-identified UAMS patient medical records offers several new features for investigators. Version 1.6 of i2b2 can now:

- Perform queries within queries
- Count visits as well as patients
- Count patients based on specific visit criteria
- Query by date range
- Enable analysis breakdown options, such as age, gender and race

Investigators and staff can logon to i2b2 using their UAMS user ID and password at <http://dwi2b2prod.ad.uams.edu/webclient>.

ResearchMatch Tops 1,000 Arkansans

ResearchMatch.org, a free registry of research participant volunteers operated in partnership with UAMS’ Translational Research Institute (TRI), now includes more than 1,000 Arkansans. If you are looking for subjects for a UAMS IRB-approved study or looking for a feasibility study tool, follow these steps:

1. Visit researchmatch.org
2. Go to the page titled “Network”
3. Complete the Researcher Interest Form

The nonprofit ResearchMatch was initiated in November 2009 by a consortium of research institutions to bring together people who are interested in participating in research studies and researchers who are looking for research participants.

For more information, contact Amy Ballard at 526-7984, amballard@uams.edu, or info@researchmatch.org.

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UAMS



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Question of the Month

What is the Office of Grants & Scientific Publications?

The Office of Grants & Scientific Publications (OGSP) works collaboratively with investigators to produce effective and persuasive scientific documents that have a competitive edge in securing extramural funding. Working with OGSP editors is also a mentoring experience that can improve an investigator's skills for using language, formatting and visuals to effectively deliver a message to the target audience.

In most cases, costs for OGSP services are covered through administrative contracts rather than charging individual investigators; this will be discussed when services are requested.

For more information, contact DeAnn Hubberd, dehubberd@uams.edu, 686-6004.

Research Support Center

The Research Support Center provides a range of services to help UAMS researchers more efficiently achieve their research goals, including:

- Protocol development
- Budgets and Medicare coverage assessment
- Regulatory submissions to the FDA (IND, IDE)
- Quality assurance (GLP, GMP)
- Clinical trial monitoring
- Data safety and monitoring (DSMP, DSMB)
- Clinical trials registration
- Contract review, negotiation and approval

More information is available at researchsupport.uams.edu, or call 526-6876.

'Peeling the Onion'

Group Studying Ways to Make Research More Efficient



Continuous Quality Improvement Committee members are: L-R (back) Sabrina Maham, M.A.P., Bradley Martin, Ph.D., Pharm.D., Larry Cornett, Ph.D., Teresa Hudson, Pharm.D., (front) Kelly Bulloch, J.D., Brittany Hudson, Hari Eswaran, Ph.D., and Mick Tilford, Ph.D. Not pictured: Cornelia Beck, Ph.D., R.N., Bill Hogan, M.D., Lisa Jackson, J.D., R.N., Curtis Lowery, M.D., and Greer Sullivan, M.D.



Michael Morris

In a recent discussion about the research process at UAMS, Michael E. Morris, M.P.H., M.P.A., went to his office whiteboard and drew a horizontal line, then marked varying distances between points.

"As researchers, we all gripe about this," he said, pointing to a relatively small space on the line that represented the regulatory process. "But there's a lot more time spent on other parts of the research process, such as participant recruitment for clinical research."

Morris, a professor in the Department of Health Policy & Management in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, is a member of the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee, whose members are studying the research process across UAMS with the goal of making it more efficient.

Chaired by Teresa Hudson, Pharm.D., the committee's mission is spurred by the Translational Research Institute's (TRI) application for a second five-year Clinical and

Translational Science Award. By developing methods for examining each step of a research project and finding and addressing delays and duplication, the committee is fulfilling one of the RFA's key mandates.

Hudson, TRI's evaluation director, said the group's work is aided substantially by having members from all areas of research and representing the colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Nursing.

It's been especially beneficial, she said, having the participation of Larry Cornett, Ph.D., vice chancellor for research, and Tom Wells, M.D., director of the Office of Clinical Trials and the director of the Research Support Center. The group is just beginning its work, but it is clear that there are many intervention points in the overall research process where efficiency could be improved, Morris said.

"Right now we're peeling the onion," Hudson said. "Until you look at exactly what it takes to move from this point to that, you can't know what may be holding up a study."


TRIBUTES

The following UAMS researchers cited the Translational Research Institute (TRI) in publications between Feb. 28 and May 13, 2013, after utilizing TRI resources or receiving TRI funding:

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CITE TRI
Cite TRI's NIH grant numbers
UL1TR000039 and KL2TR000063.

Thank you for remembering to cite TRI in your publications resulting from studies that receive TRI support.