

THE TRIBUNE

UAMS
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES



ACCELERATING DISCOVERIES TOWARD BETTER HEALTH

JULY 2013

Growing Our Own

TRI Seeks to Help Recruit, Educate and Retain Researchers



TRI Director Curtis Lowery, M.D. (center), authorized key aid to an effort by Philip Mayeux, Ph.D. (left), and Nancy Rusch, Ph.D., to earn a prestigious training grant.

Stiff competition nationally for T32 training grants didn't stop Philip Mayeux, Ph.D., two years ago from persuading the UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI) to help the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology earn one of the prestigious awards, which support predoctoral fellows.

The effort paid off. The College of Medicine department recently learned that it will receive \$665,000 over the next five years from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) T32 Training Grant, putting the department in the company of schools like Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Duke and Vanderbilt.

Obtaining the T32 was made possible by the department's sterling academic reputation and its ability to demonstrate that it had a training program in place, which TRI enabled by providing financial support to the department's Systems Pharmacology and Toxicology

(SPaT) Fellowship program.

"TRI allowed us to fund our first SPaT fellow (Neil Detweiler), and because we had the program up and running the NIGMS was willing to fund it," said Mayeux, who also directs TRI's Translational Technologies Support Center.

Research education has been a priority for TRI, which may be best known for its KL2 Scholar Awards that support junior faculty investigators. TRI also was instrumental in the creation of a novel Regulatory Sciences program in partnership with the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR) and the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health.

As TRI prepares to submit a competitive application for a second five-year Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), it is making

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Message from Dr. Lowery



Dear Colleagues,

As many of you are aware, the Translational Research Institute (TRI) leadership and staff from across UAMS and

Arkansas Children's Hospital have been working hard on an application for a second five-year NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). We have embarked on this effort without the guidance of a request for application (RFA), which is undergoing revision by the NIH.

Despite the uncertainty, we recently received some welcome reassurance about the CTSA program, the biggest single program in the NIH's budget. An independent review of the program by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) found that the CTSA program is contributing significantly to advancing clinical and translational science and has improved research collaboration between academic institutions.

At UAMS, we are encouraged by how well the IOM's recommendations aligned with our own goals and strengths as a CTSA. Those include advancing innovation in education and training programs, ensuring community engagement in all phases of research, and strengthening clinical and translational research relevant to child health.

As we put forth our plans for the next five years, we are excited by the opportunity in front of us.

Sincerely,

Curtis Lowery, M.D.

Director
UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI)



Growing Our Own continued.....

plans to elevate its role in the recruitment, education and retention of the next generation of researchers, said Greer Sullivan, M.D., M.S.P.H., co-principal investigator for the UAMS CTSA.

“We don’t have much depth within our research community at UAMS, and it’s a challenge to recruit researchers from out of state,” Sullivan said. “As the designated catalyst for our research enterprise, we see it as our responsibility at TRI to do everything possible to increase the number and diversity of investigators in Arkansas.”

TRI has taken inventory of UAMS’ many pipeline education programs, some

reaching back into middle school. A training and education advisory group also has been established to build upon the foundation of the KL2 Scholars program with enhanced training for translational researchers, research mentors and research staff.

“Our aim is to improve training for translational researchers by facilitating collaboration across our research education pipeline programs, by making our training programs more inclusive and by developing training specifically to enhance translational competencies and provide career guidance,” Sullivan said.

Posters Draw Interest



Posters presented at a national CTSA workshop by TRI’s Amy Jo Jenkins (left) and Shawna Stratton Owens highlight innovative efforts.

Two Translational Research Institute (TRI)-supported research initiatives received some national attention for their innovation and collaboration at the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Clinical Research Management Workshop in Washington, D.C.

The poster presented by TRI’s Amy Jo Jenkins, M.S., C.C.R.P., C.C.R.C., C.C.R.A., highlights UAMS’ development of a Certificate of Regulatory Sciences program in partnership with the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR) in Jefferson, Ark. The Regulatory Sciences program fills an unmet demand for regulatory professionals, and Jenkins said a steady stream of people stopped to talk about the program, with many interested in enrolling.

The poster presented by TRI’s Shawna Stratton Owens, C.R.A., C.C.R.P., C.R.S.,

shows that telemedicine has been by far the most effective way to recruit research participants for a phase 1 HPV vaccine clinical trial led by UAMS’ Mayumi Nakagawa, M.D., Ph.D.

Owens and Nakagawa partnered with a telemedicine program that links UAMS to local County Health Units of the Arkansas Department of Health. UAMS physicians and advanced practice nurses oversee local practitioners who conduct colposcopy-guided biopsies. Chuck Hitt, M.D., chief of the UAMS Division of General Obstetrics and Gynecology, leads the program and is studying telemedicine’s value in the early diagnosis of cervical cancer.

You can learn more about these research initiatives at tri.uams.edu in the newsroom section.

NIH Toughens Public Access Policy

For non-competing continuation grant awards with a start date of July 1, 2013, or beyond NIH will delay processing of an award if publications arising from it are not in compliance with the NIH public access policy. NIH leaders are encouraging principal investigators to start thinking about public access compliance when papers are planned. Discuss with your co-authors how the paper will be submitted to PubMed Central, and who will do so.



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Question of the Month

How can TRI help advance my research education?

The Translational Research Institute (TRI) is working to ensure that educational opportunities and appropriate research mentorship and guidance are available for students, trainees, staff, faculty, and community partners. TRI's Research Education, Training and Career Development program, as well as other UAMS programs, are working together to ultimately improve the quality and scientific rigor of research.

For more information visit **TRI.uams.edu**, Education & Career Development section or uams.edu/ice/.

Contact: Regina Dennis at 526-0363 or rgdennis@uams.edu.

'TRI' an ACTS Membership

Complimentary individual memberships to the Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) are available through the Translational Research Institute (TRI). Membership benefits include discounted registration for the annual Translational Science conference; email updates of timely, relevant information in translational research; and access to ACTS Connection, a monthly electronic newsletter with updates, grant announcements, industry news, as well as practical information for your research initiatives. You will also receive a discounted online subscription to the journal *Clinical and Translational Science*.

Learn more and join online at actscience.org.

Shaping the Future

NIH Program Has Changed State's Research Landscape



Lindsey Dayer, Pharm.D., (center) said the research outreach program led by Larry Cornett, Ph.D., and Helen Benes, Ph.D., significantly influenced her career path.

Lindsey Dayer still recalls the thrill of injecting cells with a needle during a 2003 summer research fellowship at UAMS. Having just completed her sophomore year at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, it was her first time conducting lab research, and the experience helped shape her future.

"It definitely played a role in what I'm doing now," said Dayer, a first-generation college graduate who earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, joined the UAMS College of Pharmacy faculty in 2010, and is conducting cancer-related clinical research.

Dayer's career path counts as one of many homeruns for UAMS' National Institutes of Health (NIH) Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program called the Arkansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), whose summer fellowship targets students from Arkansas or those attending an Arkansas undergraduate college. Most of the fellows have gone on to pursue either research or medical-related careers.

"Their stories are what INBRE is all about," said Lawrence Cornett, Ph.D., the principal investigator and director of Arkansas INBRE and UAMS vice

chancellor for research at UAMS.

The INBRE program's success will be highlighted in UAMS' application for a second five-year Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), said Lisa Jackson, J.D., R.N., executive director of the UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI).

"We are actively looking for ways to build on the exemplary work of UAMS' INBRE program to recruit, educate and retain the next generation of researchers," Jackson said. "It is a priority for our CTSA."

UAMS INBRE's primary partners are the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Much of the \$3 million annual INBRE funding goes to colleges throughout the state, supporting research equipment purchases and research time by faculty at the primarily undergraduate institutions.

"We have changed the research landscape in Arkansas," Cornett said. "Colleges that didn't have any biomedical research activity a few years ago now have faculty and students conducting research with the potential to improve human health in labs supported with INBRE funding."



TRIBUTES

The following UAMS researchers cited the Translational Research Institute (TRI) in publications between May 1 and June 30, 2013, after utilizing TRI resources or funding.

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McCarty HM, Tang X, Swearingen CJ, Collins RT 2nd, Comparison of electrocardiographic QTc duration in patients with supra-avalvular aortic stenosis with versus without Williams syndrome, *Am J Cardiol.* 2013 May 15;111(10):1501-4. doi: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2013.01.308.

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