



Center for Clinical and Translational Science e-NEWSLETTER

Center News

2010 CCTS Clinical Scholars Graduates Teresa Evering and Manish Ponda Awarded K08 Grants

By Jennifer Spada

Drs. Teresa Evering and Manish Ponda, both recent graduates of Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science Master's degree in Clinical and Translational Science, have been selected to receive Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Awards (K08). The K08 award provides support and "protected time" to individuals with a clinical doctoral degree for an intensive, supervised research career development experience in the fields of biomedical and behavioral research, including translational research. The award is intended to support an intensive, supervised research career development experience in biomedical research by providing 5 years of salary support as well as funds for supplies.

Dr. Evering was awarded a K08 for her project titled, 'The Role of HIV-1 Evolution in Neuroadaptation.' This five-year project is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health,

and will officially start on July 1, 2010. Dr. Evering's mentors are Dr. David Ho and Dr. Martin Markowitz at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center.

Dr. Evering's work focuses primarily on the central nervous system (CNS), which is an important sanctuary site for the human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1). "The importance of the central nervous system as a sanctuary site for the human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) is well documented in the literature. Penetration of the CNS by HIV-1 occurs early in infection, and can result in a wide range of pathological and clinical manifestations – all of which can contribute significantly to morbidity and mortality." The widespread use of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has led to a clear reduction in the incidence of HIV-associated dementia (HAD),



Teresa Evering, M.D.



Manish Ponda, M.D.

one of the most severe manifestations of HIV-1 CNS infection. Despite this decrease, the prevalence of minor HIV-1 associated cognitive impairment appears to be on the rise. Although more subtle, these impairments can be disabling and have been suggested to be independently associated with an increased risk for mortality in those with HIV-1. It is therefore important to develop an improved understanding of the adaptive behavior of HIV-1 in the CNS. When asked about the overall

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National Lab Day: Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science Hosts Science Outreach for Bronx High School

By Bernice B. Rumala and Ted Scovell

On May 7, 2010, the Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) hosted 36 students from the Renaissance High School of Musical Theater and Technology in the Bronx, as part of National Lab Day (NLD), a nation-wide effort to provide ongoing science outreach to the students of high need and under-resourced schools (<http://www.nationallabday.org>) and foster ongoing collaborations. Through a national matching website, schools indicate their unmet needs and are

matched to scientists and institutions offering resources for enrichment. Led by Ms. Bernice B. Rumala, Community Engagement Specialist for the Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science in collaboration with Mr. Ted Scovell, Director of Science Outreach for the Rockefeller University, a program was developed to meet the needs articulated by Ms. Linda Ewool, chemistry teacher at Renaissance High School. Ms. Ewool indicated that most of her students are from minority

backgrounds underrepresented in the sciences, and do not have access to extracurricular science opportunities, nor are they exposed to scientists, particularly racially, ethnically and gender diverse scientists. Working together, Ms. Rumala, Ms. Ewool and Mr. Scovell tailored a program for a day at Rockefeller University to meet the specific needs of the students.

The students' half-day program began with lectures covering a range of topics

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2010 CCTS Clinical Scholars Graduates Teresa Evering and Manish Ponda Awarded K08 Grants (continued from page 1)

aim of the study Dr. Evering stated, “The overriding goal of my proposed research is to use HIV-1 variants sequenced from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), to elucidate HIV-1 CNS evolutionary pathways and explore genetic determinants of neurotropism, neuroinvasiveness and neurovirulence through an in-depth, integrated, phylogenetic and functional approach. Understanding adaptive measures undertaken by HIV-1 to persist in viral reservoirs and sanctuary sites are of paramount importance in defining strategies to improve viral suppression and promote the development of targeted therapies against HIV-1.”

Dr. Manish Ponda was selected to receive a K08 award from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). In collaboration with investigators at NYU, Dr. Ponda utilized an animal model to examine how kidney disease may affect the regression of atherosclerosis. “Conventional therapy directed at atherosclerosis

is ineffective in individuals that are already on dialysis. There is a great need for a new therapy to treat these individuals.” So far they have made the novel finding that kidney disease inhibits the regression of atherosclerosis. His current effort is focused on defining the molecular mechanisms behind the phenomenon. This work formed the basis of Dr. Ponda’s K08 proposal.

“The primary mentor for my award is Dr. Jan L. Breslow, who has also been my mentor for the past 3 years during my time as a Clinical Scholar. During the K08 award period starting in July, I will continue working in Dr. Breslow’s lab researching the role of kidney disease in atherosclerosis. The majority of patients with kidney disease die from accelerated cardiovascular disease. It is still unclear, though, precisely how kidney disease contributes to this excess risk.”

The importance of this research is magnified by the statistics about heart

disease in patients with kidney failure. “There are a half million people in the United States who are on dialysis and over 10 million with significant kidney disease who are not on dialysis. The majority of these patients will die of cardiovascular disease at rates 10-20 times higher than the general population.”

When asked, Dr. Ponda stated that he looks forward to the opportunity to continue his research at the Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science. “The unique structure and facilities of the Rockefeller CTSA, such as the Rockefeller University Hospital and the Clinical Research Coordinators Office, makes it possible to move between bench and bedside. My five-year plan is to focus on the molecular mechanisms of atherosclerosis in the context of kidney disease, but also to continue to conduct clinical and translational science based on our findings to this point.”

National Lab Day: Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science Hosts Science Outreach for Bronx High School (continued from page 1)

including an introduction by Ms. Rumala on the roles mentors can play, a research presentation by Dr. Ray Schuch, Research Assistant Professor, and science demonstrations by Mr. Scovell. Next, a diverse panel of eight PhD and MD/PhD students each discussed his/her science career path and responded to students’ questions. One panel member, CCTS Medical Student Research Scholar, Nakesha King, explained how translational research creates a bridge between laboratory research and clinical research. Students took tours of the panelists’ labs, the Caspary museum and other sites of interest on campus. The day concluded with an informal mentoring session during which students had the opportunity to speak one-to-one with scientists, physicians, nurses, nutritionists, research volunteer recruiters and other members of the translational research community who attended the session.

The following week, Ms. Ewool, who has served as a teacher in the New York City Public School system for more than 20 years, wrote: “As I walked into the school building today, I met two of the students who were in attendance on Friday. The first thing that they said to me was that the trip was ‘awesome’ and they continued talking about it as we walked up the stairs. Thank you so much I have never encountered such an experience with my students in my teaching career!”

One student participant wrote: “I always felt as if I was different from other people, until I came to Rockefeller. At Rockefeller, I felt comfortable because I was surrounded by people with interests similar to me.” Based on a description of the Rockefeller University Summer Neuroscience Program presented by one of the panelists, Mr. Rudy Bellani, seven of the 36 student immediately applied to the program.

The Rockefeller CCTS National Laboratory Day program is one of the CCTS Science Outreach programs for under-resourced schools serving predominantly underrepresented minority and/or disadvantaged populations. Science Outreach to raise science literacy, foster a diverse pipeline of trainees, and enhance public trust, is part of a portfolio of the activities of the Community Engagement key function of the CCTS (CTSA). For more information on Science Outreach, National Lab Day, and other Community Engagement initiatives, please contact, Bernice B. Rumala at brumala@rockefeller.edu and Ted Scovell at escovell@rockefeller.edu, or visit www.rockefeller.edu.

This event was sponsored by The Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science funded in part by the NIH Center for Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) (UL1RR024143) and The Rockefeller University Graduate School.



Clinical Scholars Celebrate New Graduates

On June 8, 2010 the Clinical Scholars Program celebrated the second class of Scholars graduating with a Master's degree in Clinical and Translational Science. The Scholars gathered for an intimate dinner and ceremony at the Abby Dining Room, along with their families, program mentors, and Center staff.

Front row, left to right: Dr. Sarah Schlesinger (Educational Program Co-Director), Dr. Kristine (Tinky) Nograles, Dr. Teresa Evering

Back row, left to right: Dr. Neil Renwick (outgoing Chief Clinical Scholar), Dr. Swaroop Pendyala, Dr. Manish Ponda, Dr. Barry Collier (Educational Program Co-Director and CTSA Principal Investigator)

Center for Clinical and Translational Science Awards 25 Pilot Projects

By Angela Slattery

The Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) awarded 25 pilot projects this year, ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. These pilot project awards will continue to support clinical and translational studies being conducted at the Rockefeller University.

Clinical Scholars

- 1) Andreas Mauer, MD, "Using a Comprehensive Bleeding History Phenotyping System to Assess Individuals with Type 1 VWD or Factor XI Deficiency"
- 2) Batya Davidovici, MD, "Psoriasis and Systemic Inflammation"
- 3) Dana Orange, MD, "Using FK506 Treated Dendritic Cells to Decipher a Molecular Switch Between Activation and Tolerance"
- 4) Hien Tran, MD, PhD, "Understanding the Molecular Pathogenesis of Metastasis in Melanoma"
- 5) Jan Davidson Moncada, MD, PhD, "MicroRNA-155-mediated Regulation of CSK1 γ 2, an Inhibitor of TGF- β Signaling, in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia: its Pathogenetic Role and Cell-Cycle Dependence"
- 6) Manish Ponda, MD, "The Effect of Vitamin D Repletion on Small Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL) Particle Number"
- 7) Mina Pastagia, MD, "Eradication of Staphylococcus aureus from Skin Lesions Through the Use of a Newly Developed Lytic Enzyme Called ClyS"

- 8) Neil Renwick, MD, PhD, "A Barcoded Deep-Sequencing Method to Evaluate FMRP and miRNA Target Sequence Variation in the NF1 Gene in Persons With and Without Autism"
- 9) Niroshana Anandasabapathy, MD, PhD, "Preclinical Use of Flt3L as an HIV Vaccine Adjuvant to Expand Target Dendritic Cell Subsets"

- 10) Patricia Maningat, MD, "Quality of Life and Metabolic Features of Patients with Statin-Associated Myopathy"

- 11) Rohit Chandwani, MD, "Epigenetic Control of Hepatic Inflammation: Development of a Novel Therapeutic"

- 12) Shen Ying Zhang, MD, PhD, "Cellular Dissection of Herpes Simplex Encephalitis in Human Neural Cells"

- 13) Teresa Evering, MD, "Assessing the Prevalence of HIV-1 Associated Neurocognitive Impairment"

Rockefeller University Community

- 14) Alexander Ploss, PhD, "Humanized Mice for the Study of Infectious Diseases: Creation of Transgenic Mice with Complex Genetic Traits"

- 15) Benjamin Houghtaling, PhD, "Chemical Probes for MicroRNA-based Mechanisms of Breast Cancer Metastasis Suppression"

- 16) Bertrand Boisson, PhD, "High-Throughput Sequencing to Reveal Novel Inborn Errors of Immunity"

- 17) Christina Sobin, PhD, "Translational Studies of Chronic Low-Level Lead Exposure"

- 18) Deena Oren, PhD, "Structure-Based Drug Design of Amyloid- β and Fibrinogen for Novel Therapeutics Against Alzheimer's Disease"

- 19) Dennis Spencer, Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program Student, "Understanding Pharyngitis: Studies to Determine Why Streptococcus pyogenes Targets the Tonsil"

- 20) Eduardo Butelman, PhD, "Translational Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Imaging of μ -opioid Receptor Populations Inside and Outside the Blood-Brain Barrier"

- 21) Elizabeth Waters PhD, "Menopause and Hippocampal Plasticity"

- 22) Emma Guttman, MD, "A Study Evaluating the Immunomodulatory Effects of Narrowband Ultraviolet (NB-UVB) Radiation in Patients with Atopic Dermatitis"

- 23) Giovanni Ceccarini, MD, "Imaging of Leptin Biodistribution in Human Subjects Using Positron Emission Tomography (PET): a New Tool to Investigate Leptin Physiology and Pathophysiology"

- 24) Raymond Schuch, PhD, "Bacteriophage Therapy for Treatment of Acinetobacter baumannii Infected Wounds"

- 25) Saurabh Mehandru, MD, "Preclinical Studies of a Dendritic Cell Targeted Approach to Induce HIV-Specific Gastrointestinal Immunity"

Meet the Scholar: Andreas Mauer, M.D.

By Jennifer Spada



Andreas Mauer, M.D.

Dr. Andreas Mauer began as a Clinical Scholar at Rockefeller University in 2008, with the objective of developing and validating a Web-based bleeding history phenotyping system in Dr. Barry Collier's laboratory. Prior to becoming a clinical scholar he obtained his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. He received his MD from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and went on for additional training in Internal Medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell Medical College (NYPH - WCMC). During this time he performed research on localization of idiopathic ventricular tachycardia via comparison of surface electrocardiograms and electroanatomic mapping in Dr. Bruce Lerman's lab at NYPH - Weill Cornell Medical College. In addition, he spent

time working with Dr. Ken Stein, also from the Division of Cardiology at NYPH - WCMC. The research focused on T-wave alternans, a noninvasive method for identifying individuals at high risk of sudden cardiac death. This exposure to medical research generated Dr. Mauer's interest in conducting more focused research.

While at NYPH - Weill Cornell Medical College, Dr. Mauer began to explore his options in continuing his training in translational research in cardiology. In addition, he hoped to gain further training in bioinformatics. "Bioinformatics is going to be a huge component of translational research in the future. The methods I am currently working on will be transferable and portable to my work in the long-term." He was introduced to Dr. Barry Collier and Rockefeller University Clinical Scholars Program and was delighted to find a fit.

In 2008, Dr. Mauer was awarded a Pilot Project award for his study titled, "Assessment of bleeding symptoms in normal individuals using a comprehensive history phenotyping instrument." In collaboration with Dr. Collier as his mentor, he was able to develop improved methods for standardizing, curating, and disseminating complex data about human disease phenotypes for the

purpose of making improved phenotype/genotype correlations. "My goal is to develop improved tools for investigators to collect and aggregate patient data across different centers and studies."

When asked to describe his experience in the Clinical Scholars program he stated, "The program offers a great opportunity for young investigators to get the protected time to do their research, as well as to obtain mentored training in the fundamentals of translational investigation. Each scholar provides a weekly tutorial for the entire group, with Dr. Collier acting as the moderator, which covers many interesting topics. In addition, we are offered training in specific topics such as scientific techniques, bioinformatics, and biostatistics. In terms of more general study support, we receive grant writing, study monitoring, and IRB support. And you can't forget good housing and excellent day care!"

Dr. Mauer recently was accepted as a fellow in cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital, starting July 2011. He hopes of applying the bioinformatics training that he has received at Rockefeller University toward phenotype-genotype correlations in cardiovascular disease. In addition, he has been selected to serve as Chief Clinical Scholar for the 2010 – 2011 academic year.

CCTS Initiates New Data Security Program with Customized Secure USB Drives

By Marty Leidner and Jennifer Spada



A USB flash drive is often as small as a pack of gum, and just as easily lost. They are often used to store vast amounts of sensitive data and while its small size is one of its benefits, it introduces the grave risk of unintentional disclosure of confidential information. With the trend toward smaller devices, the information that we are obligated to protect is frequently put in jeopardy.

Investigators and staff in the Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) possess sensitive data that must be kept secure. To preempt a potentially serious breach of data security, the leadership of the CCTS and the University's Information Technology Department have worked together to provide investigators and staff with a state-of-the-art secure USB flash drive called IronKey. When used properly, the Ironkey USB drive device mitigates almost all the risks of common USB flash drives. In particular, Ironkey allows individuals to safely transport

their files and easily gain one-click secure access back into the Rockefeller University network as if they were on campus.

Physically, IronKey is a solidly built, waterproof, tamperproof, and crushproof device. The Ironkey utilizes "two factor" authentication; like an ATM bank card, a user needs both the physical card and the password to gain access to the files. A lost Ironkey without a password or a compromised password without the Ironkey itself is useless. This contrasts with regular USB flashdrives,

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~ Rockefeller University Hospital Centennial Celebration ~

Discoveries Advancing Medicine

Florence Sabin: Hematopoietic Stem Cells and Unraveling the Immune Response to Tuberculosis

By Elizabeth Hanson, PhD

When *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infects tissue such as the lungs, tubercles typically form—lumps made up of layers of immune system cells as they surround and attempt to destroy the bacteria. Since the 1890s, researchers had known that even dead *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* could stimulate this response. In the 1920s, Florence Sabin (1871-1953) set out to identify the chemical components of the bacterium that provoke the activity of different immune system cells. In addition, during the course of this work, Sabin discovered how monocytes evolve into the multinucleated “giant cells” found in tubercular lesions. These studies, carried out between 1925 and 1938, made important contributions toward understanding the immune response to TB infection.

Sabin’s interest in immune system cells, also known as white blood cells, stemmed from her pioneering work on the origin of blood cells in developing embryos. Studying chick embryos with the new tissue culture methods of the day, she observed both red and white blood cells emerging from the endothelium of the blood vessels. Sabin also perfected cell staining techniques with which to differentiate the living blood cells. In addition, her investigations of the

embryological origins of the lymphatic system established that its structures develop from the embryo’s veins. These areas of research, as well as her widely used textbook, *Atlas of the Medulla and Midbrain* (1901), garnered Sabin a national reputation as an anatomist.

Florence R. Sabin received the BS from Smith College (1893) and the MD from The Johns Hopkins University Medical School (1900). After an internship at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, she joined the medical school faculty, advancing to professor of histology in 1917. She was the first woman to become a full professor at The Johns Hopkins Medical School. In 1924 she became the first female president of the American Association of Anatomists. The next year she moved to the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, where she was the first woman to be appointed member (full professor) of the Institute. She retired from Rockefeller in 1938, and in 1944 she embarked on a new career in her home state, Colorado, investigating health services and campaigning for public health legislation in a series of government posts. For this work she received a Lasker Award for Public Service (1951). In addition to 15 honorary degrees, Sabin’s scientific



Courtesy of Rockefeller Archive Center

Florence Sabin, MD

achievements were recognized with election to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (1925), of which she was the first female member, and the Trudeau Medal of the National Tuberculosis Association. She also published a biography of her Johns Hopkins mentor: Franklin Paine Mall: *The Story of a Mind* (1934). Arguably the best known woman scientist of her generation, Sabin was named one of America’s twelve most eminent living women in a *Good Housekeeping* magazine poll (1931). A statue of Sabin stands in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol.

Selected Publications

Cunningham RS, Doan CA, and Sabin FR. The development of leucocytes, lymphocytes, and monocytes from a specific stem-cell in adult tissues. *Carnegie Inst Contrib Embryol*, 1925, 16: 227

Cunningham RS, Sugiyama S, Kindwall JA, and Sabin FR. The role of the monocyte in tuberculosis. *Johns Hopkins Hosp Bull*, 1925, 37: 231

Doan, CA and Sabin FR. The effect of tubercle bacilli and the chemical

fractions obtained from analysis on the cells of the connective tissues in rabbits. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*, 1927, 13: 552

Doan CA and Sabin FR. The biological reactions in rabbits to the protein and phosphatide fractions from the chemical analysis of human tubercle bacilli. *J Exp Med*, 1927, 46: 645 <http://jem.rupress.org/cgi/reprint/46/4/645>

Doan CA, Forkner CE, and Sabin FR. Biological reactions to the chemical fractions from human tubercle bacilli.

II. The identification of a specific maturation factor for monocytes and epithelioid cells, and an analysis of the role of the monocyte in the resistance to tuberculosis. *Tr Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Nat Tuberc Assn*, 1928, p. 253

Doan CA, and Forkner CE, and Sabin FR. The reactions of the tissues to the lipid fractions of the tubercle bacillus, strain H-37. *Am Rev Tuberc*, 1930, 21: 290

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CCTS Initiates New Data Security Program with Customized Secure USB Drives

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which have files that can be accessed by any computer.

In addition to functioning as a safe file storage USB flash for files, the IronKey has many important additional features, including secure, portable, virtual desktop platform. Simply put, it can run special applications called 'portable applications' directly from the device itself without the need to install anything on the computer that the IronKey is plugged into. This feature provides a trusted platform on which to run safe

programs. It can also run in 'read-only' mode which further protects the IronKey from getting infected, as is unfortunately quite common with other USB flash drives, which can be infected by being plugged into an infected computer.

The IronKey comes preinstalled with several onboard secure software applications such as an anti-malware checker and an application called Identity Manager, which provides single click secure access to multiple websites. Thus, one can preset one's iRIS password

and then gain access to iRIS with just one click. A few of the other functions of the Ironkey include Hardware Encryption, onboard safer web browser, and automatically updated on board active anti-malware. It is supported on Mac, Linux, and Windows. If you would like an IronKey, please contact Ed Barbour at ebarbour@rockefeller.edu. Participation in a 30 minute training session is required to activate the IronKey. Two sessions have been scheduled for Wednesday, August 11 and Wednesday, August 18, 2010 in Nurses Residence 110B.

Florence Sabin: Hematopoietic Stem Cells and Unraveling the Immune Response to Tuberculosis (continued from page 5)

Miller FR, Doan CA, Wiseman BK, and Sabin FR. The biological reactions of the carbohydrates of the tubercle bacillus. Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Nat Tuberc Assn, 1930, p. 184

Sabin FR, Doan CA, and Forkner CE. Studies on tuberculosis: Chapter I. Reaction of the connective tissues of the normal rabbit to lipoids from the tubercle bacillus, strain H-37. *J Exp Med*, 1930, 52(6)Suppl 3: 3-72 http://jem.rupress.org/cgi/reprint/52/6_suppl_3/3

Doan CA, Sabin FR, and Forkner CE. Studies on tuberculosis: Chapter II. Reaction of the connective tissues of the normal rabbit to a water-soluble protein and a polysaccharide from the tubercle bacillus, strain H-37: Spontaneous pseudo-tuberculosis aspergillina as a complication in fraction testing. *J Exp Med*, 1930, 52(6)Suppl 3: 73-88 http://jem.rupress.org/cgi/reprint/52/6_suppl_3/3

Doan CA, Sabin FR, and Forkner CE. Studies on tuberculosis: Chapter III. The derivation of giant cells with especial reference to those of tuberculosis. *J Exp Med*, 1930, 52(6)Suppl 3: 89-112 http://jem.rupress.org/cgi/reprint/52/6_suppl_3/89

Doan CA and Sabin FR. Studies on tuberculosis: Chapter IV. The relation of the tubercle and the monocyte lymphocyte ratio to resistance and



Courtesy of Rockefeller Archive Center

susceptibility in tuberculosis. *J Exp Med*, 1930, 52(6)Suppl 3: 113-152 http://jem.rupress.org/cgi/reprint/52/6_suppl_3/113

Sabin FR. Cellular reactions to a dye-protein with a concept of the mechanism of antibody formation. *J Exp Med*, 1939, 70: 67-82 <http://jem.rupress.org/cgi/reprint/70/1/67>

Casey AE, Rosahn PD, and Pearce L. The association of blood cell factors with the transplantability of the Brown-Pearce tumor. *Cancer Res*, 1942, 2: 284-289

Further Reading

McMaster PD and Heidelberger M. Florence Rena Sabin, 1871-1953: A biographical memoir. Washington, DC: National Academy of Sciences, 1960, 34: 1-57 http://www.nasonline.org/site/PageServer?pagename=MEMOIRS_S

Links

National Library of Medicine Profiles in Science: Florence R. Sabin <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/RR/>

Integrated Research Information System (iRIS) Update

By Donna Brassil

The Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) utilizes the electronic Integrated Research Information System (iRIS), which offers many components that are advantageous to the investigators, coordinators, other research staff, Institutional Review Board (IRB) members, and the members of Advisory Committee for Clinical and Translational Science (ACCTS). This issue will highlight important components of the Continuing Review and Amendment Submission Forms in IRIS.

For all studies currently approved in iRIS, you receive a 30 day, 60 day, and 90 day notice via email that your study is due for continuing review along with the due date that the study needs to be submitted to the IRB. You need to renew your study at least annually with the IRB. As you log into the study

specific submission iRIS, you chose the Continuing Review Submission Form screen. The title of the study, PI name and IRB approval number are prepopulated. You will be prompted to indicate if your submission is a standard annual review or a standard annual review with changes. Changes refers to amendments and this denotes any change to your study, no matter how small. It may be an administrative change such as a new telephone number or a major amendment to the protocol and consent such as gained knowledge of potential study drug effects. The next text box is for providing details of the changes which is imperative to a speedier acknowledgment by the IRB and replaces a cover letter. If your continuing review has no changes, you will be prompted to review every component currently in iRIS. If there are no revisions, there will be no need to upload a new application



or consent. A Delegation of Authority Log will need to be updated and signed by designated Key Study personnel (KSP), and a progress report will have to be uploaded from the Progress Report Form listed on our RUH IRB website. If you are amending your study, you will be prompted to update amended documents. You do not need to upload "marked" and unmarked" documents noting any changes. ACCTS and IRB reviewers can use a comparator feature to compare your previous document with your new one. It is imperative to "save and continue" in each section of iRIS. As you complete the application, you will be prompted to check-off a list of KSP who need to review and approve the submission. Everyone listed as a KSP should be completing this task.

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New Staff Member Biographies

By Jennifer Spada

We would like to welcome the following new staff members at the Center for Clinical and Translational Science:

Mr. Cameron Coffran – Web Programmer

Ms. Kathleen Dowd, BSN, RN, CCRC – Clinical Research Coordinator

Ms. Andrea Ronning, RD, MA, CD/N – Director of Bionutrition

Mr. Al Shpuntoff, MS – Scientific Educator

Mr. Cameron Coffran joined the Biomedical Informatics Core in the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) on October 12, 2009. Mr. Coffran earned a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Fordham University with a concentration in Bioinformatics. Currently he is dually enrolled in the Computer Science Masters program and the Biomedical Informatics certificate program at Fordham University. From 2003 through 2009, he worked for the Web Programming division of Rockefeller University's Information Technology

Department. Contributions to projects included some of the most popular Rockefeller University web applications, such as, Inside Rockefeller, μ -Stat, Workshops, Benchmarks, and the CCTS e-Newsletter. In addition, he has co-authored published research papers in the fields of microarray analysis and biomedical database design through his work with Dr. Knut Wittkowski, a Rockefeller University CCTS biostatistician. Within the Biomedical Informatics Core, Mr. Coffran is responsible for the development and management of subject records in the Integrated Research Information System (iRIS), the Pharmacy system, and other digital systems at the Hospital. His contact information is: Cameron@rockefeller.edu; 212-327-7465.

Ms. Kathleen Dowd joined the Clinical and Translational Research Facilitation office in the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) on June 29, 2009. She received her nursing diploma from Holy Name Hospital School of Nursing and went on to receive a bachelor's in Nursing at St. Peter's

College, Jersey City, NJ. Ms. Dowd began her clinical research experience as nursing supervisor for the Clinical and Translational Research Facilitation Electrophysiology lab at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center for subjects undergoing left ventricular assist device (LVAD) insertion and permanent pacemaker (PPM) placement. During this time she obtained certification as a Certified Clinical Research Coordinator. Ms. Dowd continued her work in clinical research at Mount Sinai Medical Center as the Regulatory Affairs Advisor where she coordinated infectious disease trials. During her time at Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) Ms. Dowd coordinated all cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery studies, as well as mentored and trained new staff. Her role there included being a voting member of HUMC Institutional Review Board (IRB) and a Performance Improvement Advisor. Before coming to Rockefeller University, she held the position of Systems Manager and Coordinator at the newly created St. Barnabas Health Care System Research

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Integrated Research Information System (iRIS) Update (continued from page 7)

If you need to amend your study, as you enter the study specific submission screen in iRIS, and chose “Amendment Form,” the title of the study, name of the PI and IRB approval number are prepopulated. You will then be prompted to define the type of IRB review requested, namely exempt, expedited, or full board. If you are uncertain about the type to designate, please call the IRB staff for guidance. The next mandatory field to complete is the description of the proposed change that is a checkbox format of a variety of components, i.e. protocol, consent, key study personnel, advertisement, etc. If your specific component is not listed, there is a text box in which you will need to specify your component. The importance of selecting all of the components that

will have changes is that iRIS will prompt you to upload all of the updated documents into the iRIS system to send to the IRB. You can always change this form before the final submission. The next text box is for providing details of the amendment which is imperative to a speedier acknowledgement by the IRB. This field has replaced the “cover letter” that was used in our old Protocol Submission System. So, for example, if you are amending KSP, include the name of the person you are adding or deleting from the study; if you are amending the consent, refer to the section of the consent and the specific change. If you are amending the protocol, refer to the title of the application section and not the number of the section since the sections may change numbers as you branch

through iRIS. Another advantage to providing details about the amendment in this text box is that staff who are working on your study can always access iRIS to the amendment component and read this box. Many times, studies will have numerous amendments and it is difficult to remember each one and exactly what was amended. This is a wonderful reference tool in iRIS. As you complete the application, you will be prompted to check-off a list of KSP who need to review and approve the amendment. Everyone listed as a KSP should be completing this task.

If you have any questions or need assistance navigating iRIS, feel free to contact Ross Gillman (212) 327-8930; Cameron Coffran at (212) 327-7465; or Donna Brassil at (212) 327-7886.

New Staff Member Biographies (continued from page 7)

Institute. While there she instituted policy and procedure to all clinical research staff throughout their health care system; provided staff training and education in clinical research; and collaborated in the formation of and construction of policy and procedure for their new system-wide IRB. In her role as Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator at Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science, Ms. Dowd assists principle investigators in writing their protocols and facilitates the regulatory process. In addition, she coordinates studies to ensure Good Clinical Practice compliance. Her contact information is: kdowd@rockefeller.edu; 212-327-7438.

Ms. Andrea Ronning, RD, MA, CD/N joined the Department of Bionutrition as the Director of Bionutrition on December 14, 2009. Ms. Ronning earned her BA in Food and Nutrition from the City University of New York at Queens College; her internship was at Vanderbilt University and her MA was obtained in Applied Physiology from Columbia University Teachers College. She has extensive experience in clinical nutrition management from previously working at NewYork - Presbyterian / Weill-Cornell and The Allen Hospital in the Department of Food and Nutrition. Prior to that, she worked as a clinical dietitian on

the pediatric and gastroenterology surgery services at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Working in the Department of Bionutrition, Ms. Ronning’s responsibilities include planning, directing and coordinating all of the food service and research diet activities of the Department, as well as financial, personnel and resource management. She will participate in the development and the on-going support of research protocols. Ms. Ronning will continue to work with institutions that provide nutrition education programs in order to create an educational milieu for nutrition students requiring field experience. Her contact information is aronning@rockefeller.edu; 212-327-8323.

Mr. Albert “Al” Shpuntoff joined the Biomedical Informatics Core in the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) in October 2009. He is a graduate of Bronx High School of Science, during which time he attended the Columbia Science program on Saturdays and the Rockefeller Institute Christmas lecture in 1966! He received his undergraduate degree from University of Chicago, majoring in mathematics and “information sciences,” a precursor to today’s computer science program. Mr. Shpuntoff completed his graduate training in mathematics at the University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign. His

undergraduate teaching experience in computer science and mathematics includes: Oberlin College, University of Akron, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Morningside College. In addition to teaching and curriculum development, he specified and purchased initial “modern” computers for several of these institutions. Mr. Shpuntoff worked as part of supercomputing start-ups Ardent Computer, Stardent Computers, and MasPar. He spent ten years as an independent consultant, supporting bioinformatics integrations, high performance computing implementations of bioinformatics algorithms, and use of probabilistic models in bioinformatics. During this time he developed and implemented a number of applications that are still actively in use. He spent several years developing and teaching bioinformatics courses for the extension programs (designed for adults, typically engineers with previous degrees, re-training into bioinformatics) at University of California campuses at Berkeley and Santa Cruz. As a Scientific Educator at Rockefeller University, Mr. Shpuntoff has the extremely challenging job of developing and delivering bioinformatics training to the members of the Clinical Scholars Master’s degree program. His contact information is ashpuntoff@rockefeller.edu; 212-327-7385.