

# Interaction

## Research News

Seattle Children's Research Institute

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### Special Interest



#### **Developmental Neurobiologist Hopes to Shed Light on Complex Brain Disorders**

[Page 2](#)

Dr. Eric Turner, new principal investigator in the Center for Integrative Brain Research, is moving basic brain mechanism experiments forward into higher centers of the brain. By studying brain functions in mice, Dr. Turner and collaborators hope to delve further in understanding the human nervous system.



#### **Working With the IACUC - The Who, The What and The Why?**

[Page 4](#)

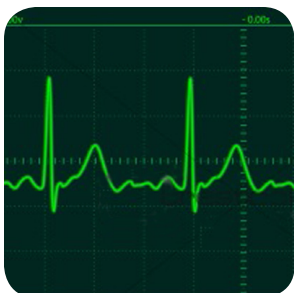
You asked. We answered. With the transition of the new year, changes took hold in the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Frequently asked questions and others are addressed to help investigators and staff navigate through the IACUC approval process.



#### **Commitment to Quality**

[Page 6](#)

The Office of Animal Care (OAC) developed a Vision Statement as part of its FY2010 Impact Plan aimed at defining a commitment to quality. Using the results from the Annual Workplace Survey, the OAC continues to improve the Animal Care Program through creating and successfully completing yearly impact plans.



#### **Psychometry Services in the Pediatric Clinical Research Center**

[Page 7](#)

Since its inception in 2005, the Pediatric Clinical Research Center's Psychometry Service has experienced continual growth as it strives to meet the needs of clinical investigators. However, the role and responsibility of a Psychometrist is still unfamiliar to many. Learn about Psychometry and the various roles of a psychometrist at Seattle Children's.

#### **Did You Know?**

...that the [Research page on CHILd](#) is updated weekly and includes a comprehensive Research Calendar, research announcements and events, and links to the ResearchNews Weekly and Interaction? In addition, a [Research Marketing SharePoint site](#) has been developed and is available to all. The SharePoint is a self-service site with various marketing and communications materials that support research at Seattle Children's.

#### **Also in this issue...**

CCHBD Symposium [Page 3](#)

CPI Arrives at OSR [Page 8](#)

RIT's Infrastructure Team [Page 9](#)

CPI Week [Page 10](#)

Youth Bioethics Summit [Page 10](#)

Styrofoam Recycling Program at Building 1 [Page 11](#)

Click on the calendar icon to view upcoming research events.



## SPECIAL INTEREST - PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR FOCUS

### Developmental Neurobiologist Hopes to Shed Light on Complex Brain Disorders

Ever wonder how brain research in animals translates to research in humans? Dr. **Eric Turner**, new principal investigator in the Center for Integrative Brain Research, uses past experience with basic brain mechanisms to move research on higher brain mechanisms forward, and hopes to eventually close that loop.

A Seattle native, Dr. Turner has pursued a dual career in developmental neurobiology and clinical psychiatry. As a developmental neurobiologist, he has years of experience in basic mechanisms of brain development. He is particularly "interested in how all the different kinds of neurons in the nervous system are generated and that's an unbelievably complicated problem." Dr. Turner explains that the nervous system is so complex, in part because "the number of different kinds of cells and the number of different kinds of genes that are expressed is probably equivalent to those found in the rest of the body put together." The spinal cord and sensory ganglia are examples of relatively simple areas of the nervous system that have provided much of our current understanding of brain development.



**Dr. Eric Turner, principal investigator in the Center for Integrative Brain Research**

Much of Dr. Turner's work has focused on transcription factors which have pivotal roles in sensory and brainstem development. "These factors are required at key points in development, and if you knock them out in mice the neuron develops normally for a couple of days and then it hits a point where it has to make a transition to become a functioning neuron - it goes from being a dividing neuroblast, which is like a pre-neuron, to really starting to do the business of a neuron, to making neurotransmitter systems... and it just has no idea what to do at that point... and it can't make the transition."

Transcription factors are regulatory molecules that switch the activity of other genes on and off. One of the downstream genes Dr. Turner's team identified in sensory neurons is important in the development of facial structures, and mutations in this gene lead to craniofacial birth defects in both humans and mice. To study how this gene links neuronal and craniofacial development, Dr. Turner is collaborating with Drs. **Michael Cunningham** and **Tim Cox** of the Craniofacial Center. "They are going to help us use some cool imaging techniques to follow the development of neurons and facial structures in time and space." When these processes are better understood, Dr. Turner and his team will use techniques like microarrays to work out the molecular mechanisms.

Dr. Turner is interested in another part of the brain that may play a role in the development of autism, schizophrenia and depression. "We have a couple of projects where we're going to move forward into higher centers of the brain, and we just published a paper in the *Journal of Neuroscience* looking at a part of the brain called the habenula (ha-BEN-you-la) which is thought to be involved in some of these higher brain functions," Dr. Turner explained. The habenula connects the forebrain and the midbrain. It "sits on top of the thalamus but participates in different pathways than the rest of the thalamus... It connects the parts of the brain that think with the parts of the brain involved in memory and also to the midbrain, which is involved in regulating basic drives and addictions." Dr. Turner noted the habenula has been, "recognized anatomically as this major superhighway of neurons connecting these brain regions for a century, but its function has been the subject of very crude experiments, like putting a powerful toxin into a rat habenula, and killing all the neurons there. The rat survives without its habenula, a part of the brain that regulates emotion and motivation."

[Continued on Page 3](#)

## SPECIAL INTEREST - PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR FOCUS

### Developmental Neurobiologist Hopes to Shed Light on Complex Brain Disorders [Continued from Page 2](#)

Dr. Turner suggests an experiment, "We'd like to use genetically engineered mice to go into the habenula with a much more refined set of tools so we can say, 'here's a group of neurons in the habenula that... express the neurotransmitter acetylcholine which is thought to be involved in memory, some kinds of motivation, and also nicotine addiction... and wipe out just this population of neurons... in either a developing animal or a mature animal and say what does that do?' There are many hypotheses about what this part of the brain does, including a theory that it's involved in diseases like schizophrenia and autism and normal cognitive processing, but I don't know if that's right or not." Dr. Turner will work out the genetics and neuroanatomy of this system, but he understands the importance of collaborating with other investigators, especially behaviorists, in getting at the higher functions governed by the habenula.

Dr. Turner has been doing collaborative experiments in gene regulation related to mental disorders. He is intrigued by recent work, some of which has been done at Seattle Children's and the University of Washington, showing that chromosome copy number variation contributes significantly to the risk of these disorders, and also that autism and schizophrenia may have many risk genes in common. The genes identified in both disorders indicate there is a similar mechanism

behind the disorders. Both are set off by some kind of "clock" that induces a change in the individual at a particular developmental time point. "I'm very interested in collaborating in the area of epigenetics of gene regulation in psychiatric diseases. We would like to use mouse models to look at some of these chromosomal abnormalities in some of the genes that are involved in mental disorders." Dr. Turner hopes to discover "whether it's really plausible to say that these chromosomal abnormalities are the cause of these disorders, because the other corollary in these studies is that many of us... are walking around with these same chromosomal abnormalities."

Dr. Turner's interest in studying brain functions began here in Seattle where he grew up. He recalls that his entire childhood is recorded on "Penny Drive" calendars. He attended the University of Washington Medical School for his MD and PhD and was inspired to study psychiatry when a high school friend was diagnosed with schizophrenia. After living in San Diego for 20 years, he recently returned to Seattle because of his love of the mountains and a little encouragement from his wife, also a native. He has climbed many of the major peaks in the Cascades and enjoys hunting for mushrooms in the wild. When his research becomes less demanding, he'll spend more time as an avid member of the Mushroom Society. [Irn](#)

### Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development (CCHBD) Symposium

**Date:** Friday, May 21, 2010

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Location:** Seattle Children's Research Institute, Building 1, Soundgarden Conference Room, 11<sup>th</sup> floor

For more information and to view the symposium's agenda, visit the [Research Calendar page on CHILd](#). There is no registration fee, but please RSVP to [Jenn Chun](#) to help with logistical planning.

#### CCHBD's Vision:

We will find new ways to promote health and development so that all children can reach their physical, intellectual and emotional potential. We will promote pediatric health care that is equitable, family-centered, safe and effective. We will work with families, communities, schools, providers and healthcare organizations to translate research findings into actions that improve the quality of children's day-to-day lives. Our center brings together a diverse and talented group of research scientists with different backgrounds, but a singular purpose: to work collaboratively to address major issues that affect the health of children everywhere.

## RESEARCH BITS

### Working With the IACUC - The Who, The What and The Why?

The transition from 2009 to 2010 was a period of change with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). If you are wondering, who do I contact? Or, how do I submit an application? - Read on. Your questions will be answered.

#### Who do I contact at the IACUC?

**Jean Troxel**, Office of Institutional Assurances, is the administrative specialist for the IACUC. Jean manages application submissions and ensures all transactions move through the IACUC review process in a timely and efficient manner. She is in constant contact with the IACUC chair, the consulting veterinarian and has direct access to the policies, rules and regulations that govern the humane care and use of animals in research. As such, Jean is a perfect central point of contact for all IACUC-related queries. Jean can be contacted through the central IACUC e-mail inbox at [IACUC@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:IACUC@seattlechildrens.org). All IACUC application submissions, questions and suggestions should also be directed to the [IACUC e-mail address](#).

#### How do I get access to the Vivarium?

Access to the Vivarium is provided to any individual listed on an IACUC-approved application. The principal investigator first submits a modification to the IACUC requesting the addition of



personnel. A checklist will be provided that lists the steps to be completed after which Vivarium access will be granted. The completed checklist must be returned to [IACUC@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:IACUC@seattlechildrens.org). This checklist ensures that required protocol-specific training and occupational health/risk assessments were conducted before animal work begins. If you are a current user of the facility and are being added as an investigator on a new application, the checklist will serve to ensure that no new training/health assessments are required.

#### When will my application get reviewed?

Due to the nature and volume of submissions over the past year, the IACUC has had to transition to a formalized meeting schedule for the review of new applications and significant modifications to existing applications. IACUC meetings occur on the first Tuesday of every month and every effort is made to accommodate all submissions ready for review at the next meeting. Meeting dates are published on the [IACUC Web site](#). Note that submissions must be received six days prior to the meeting to be placed on the agenda. Applications that meet the criteria for expedited review are reviewed by the IACUC chair or designee, as they are received.

#### How do I answer the Pain Assessment Category on the IACUC application?

This is an assessment the investigator is asked to make on the new application form, and can be difficult to answer. This information is required by regulations as institutions must report the number of each species of animals that are used for different "levels" of research involving pain and distress. The following is a nice example of how to answer this question.

Specify the pain assessment category below :

Category:  1B     1C     1D     E  
(breeders)      (study mice)

Explain why this category applies.

#### **Class B**

Most of the studies are based on the use of genetically engineered lines that will be bred and colonies maintained while the appropriate genotype has been established and the mice are old enough to be placed on a study. These mice are not available to purchase from a vendor.

#### **Class C**

Some groups of mice will receive intraperitoneal or

[Continued on Page 5](#)

## RESEARCH BITS

### Working With the IACUC - The Who, The What and The Why? [Continued from Page 4](#)

intravenous injections. Some groups of mice will be placed in metabolic cages for urine collections for 24 hours or less (with free access to water but not chow); some will have their blood pressure measured by tail cuff; all will undergo terminal euthanasia.

#### **Class D**

Survival surgeries (unilateral ureteral obstruction or unilateral nephrectomy) will be performed in several groups of study mice. These procedures will be performed under general anesthesia by trained personnel, and mice will receive post-operative analgesics (buprenorphine). Survival rate is anticipated to be near 100%; blood loss will be minimal. All mice will be sacrificed by exsanguination under general anesthesia.

**Note:** These categories are descriptive for the animal, not the protocol as a whole. For each protocol there may be different cohorts of animals which fall into different pain assessment categories.

#### **Other important facts to keep in mind**

**Antibody generation.** For antibodies generated by a company at an investigator's request, Seattle Children's Research Institute must ensure that the vendor has an Assurance filed with the Federal Government and that the company has IACUC approval in place for the work.

**Grant review.** Federal policy



requires the research institute to verify, before award, that the IACUC has reviewed and approved those components of grant applications and contract proposals related to the care and use of animals, regardless of when animal work occurs during the funding period. This includes work described in the alternate/pitfall section typically included in a grant proposal, even if it is anticipated this work will not occur. Therefore, when the IACUC receives a grant-funded application, or a modification to add a funding source to an existing IACUC application, the IACUC must also receive and review a copy of that grant to ensure consistency between the grant and the IACUC application.

#### **Resources**

Information about Seattle Children's IACUC, including policies, contact information and meeting dates can be found on the [IACUC Web site](#).

Frequently asked questions and the Public Health Service policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, can be found on the [National Institutes of Health Web site](#). [Irn](#)

### RSDC Spring Social

**Date:** Thursday, May 27, 2010

**Time:** 4 to 7 p.m.

**Location:** The Hard Rock Café\*, 116 Pike Street

The Research Staff Development Committee (RSDC) invites research faculty and staff, plus one guest, to attend their third annual Spring Social.

The Spring Social will be held Thursday, May 27, 2010 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the new Hard Rock Café in downtown Seattle. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Please join the RSDC in attending this fun and exciting event to network and socialize with your fellow coworkers, grow our sense of community at the research institute, and have the chance to win some great prizes in a scavenger hunt.

For more information about the venue, please visit [Hard Rock Café Seattle](#).

All questions may be directed to [Stefanie Morris](#) or [Stephanie Knutzen](#).

\*The Hard Rock Café is an all ages venue.

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

### Commitment to Quality

Each year the Office of Animal Care (OAC) develops an Impact Plan aimed at improving the quality and efficiency of the Animal Care Program. In 2010, the OAC will have completed five successful Impact Plans as well as a number of Continuous Performance Improvement (CPI) initiatives. As you might guess, this is a highly engaged group consistently scoring above the mean on the Annual Workplace Survey, or Gallup Poll. With 100% participation in the survey, the OAC can be sure that the results paint a fair picture of the department's strengths and weaknesses. Each year results are discussed in an open dialog to create an Impact Plan for the following year. As the OAC's scores continue to improve annually, it is clear that these efforts indeed have an "impact".



The OAC's FY2009 Impact Plan focused on Question 11 (In the last six months someone at work has talked to me about my progress) and Question 12 (This last year I have had opportunities at work to learn and grow). With a recent change in leadership, the OAC saw this as an opportunity to remain connected as a group and avoid the uncertainty that often comes with change. As part of the Impact Plan, each staff member has mid-year one-on-one meetings with OAC Supervisor **Craig Bailey** to discuss progress toward professional goals. The OAC also jumped at the chance to learn from Craig's extensive technical experience by participating in weekly training sessions. The OAC is now happy to offer researchers an array of services including injections, blood draws, gavage and necropsy services. They also offer training to research staff in these techniques as well as basic handling skills.

For the FY2010 Impact Plan, the OAC decided to continue the efforts of the previous year with the addition of Question 9 (My associates or fellow employees are committed to doing quality work). "We definitely saw our scores improve, but we feel there is still a lot of room to grow," says one staff member. The consensus among the staff was that the score on Question 9 should be a perfect five out of five. They decided it would be helpful to begin by defining "quality work" and that this could best be accomplished by writing a formal Vision Statement for the OAC.

The OAC invited **Delila Katzka** of Research CPI to lead a brainstorming session. Armed with a dry-erase marker, she first asked the staff to offer up words or short phrases representing their idea of a successful animal care program. Next the staff split up into two teams and created statements out of the ideas written on the white board. An impromptu visit from the Animal Care Program's Consulting Veterinarian Dr. **Bill Morton** during the session helped stir things up as the OAC incorporated his ideas. Lastly, Delila helped find common themes in the work produced by each group. By the end of the session the OAC had several statements that everyone agreed represented a commitment to quality work.



The OAC staff is pleased to introduce their official Vision Statement:

**"We will provide a cost effective, quality animal care program that complies with ethical and regulatory guidelines. We will foster a positive and interactive working environment that supports a hardworking and highly trained team that is responsive and supportive to the needs of the research community." Irn**

## RESEARCH BITS

### Psychometry Services in the Pediatric Clinical Research Center

#### What is Psychometry?

Psychometry is the administration and scoring of psychological and neuropsychological tests by a psychometrist under the supervision of a licensed psychologist or neuropsychologist. The term "psychometrist" is unfamiliar to many, and the role can have different titles depending on the work setting (e.g., private practice, Veterans Administration, hospital or school). Right now there is no formal psychometry-specific training program; however, the University of Florida is developing a Professional Certificate program in psychometry. Currently, most psychometrists have a background in the fields of either psychology or education, and psychometry training most often takes place on the job or in a program such as School Psychology.

At Seattle Children's, psychometry services are offered to clinical investigators through the Pediatric Clinical Research Center (PCRC). Psychometric assessments selected for each study vary depending on the study protocol and can include measures of cognitive functioning, attention and concentration skills, language functioning, verbal and visio-spatial abilities, academic/achievement performance, memory abilities, motor and sensory-motor integration, effort, executive functioning and emotional status. The psychometrist's role includes assisting with the initial Scientific Review Committee application process (which often occurs in tandem with the Institutional Review Board application process),

administration and scoring of the assessments, and generating score summaries and feedback for families and clinicians.

The PCRC's Psychometry Service has experienced continual growth since it started offering services to investigators in 2005. The PCRC initially employed one part-time psychometrist, but has gradually increased staff and now has four per diem psychometrists. This model works well as it provides increased staffing coverage and a pool of experienced psychometrists. Dr. **David Breiger** in the Department of Child Psychiatry provides oversight to the PCRC psychometrists.

Currently the PCRC provides psychometry support for 13 studies - studies whose goals range from evaluating the effects of a cranial deformation on the development of young children to exploring the long-term effects of early growth hormone treatment of girls with Turner's Syndrome. Following are descriptions of two of the studies utilizing PCRC Psychometry Services and the role the psychometrist plays in each one:

- One of the first studies to utilize the PCRC Psychometry Services is a longitudinal study looking at developmental outcomes of more than 500 children with deformational plagiocephaly ("DP" or flat head syndrome). The psychometrist's role in this study is to administer and score the Bayley Scales of Infant Development to children at three different time points: 6 months, 18 months and 36

months of age. (The Bayley measures cognitive, language and motor development.) The Principal Investigator, Dr. **Matthew Speltz**, recently published his initial findings - suggesting that DP is a marker of elevated risk for developmental delays - in the *Journal Pediatrics*.

- The PCRC recently began its first protocol involving overnight sleep study. In Dr. **Maida Chen's** study looking at sleep, temperament and arousal regulation in infants with prenatal alcohol exposure, the psychometrist carries out a procedure called the Still Face Paradigm (SFP) after the enrolled mother and infant have spent the night in the PCRC undergoing physiologic sleep recording. This new pilot study demonstrates the variation that can be found in the potential roles a psychometrist performs. The SFP consists of a psychometrist directing a play period between the mother and baby, followed by an avoidance period (i.e. the "stressor" period where the mother is instructed to avoid all interaction with her baby for two minutes), and then a reunion period. A video recording of the SFP provides behavioral data which is analyzed in detail, while heart rate variability and cortisol levels obtained before, during and after the SFP provide physiological data. In addition, the psychometrist scores several parental questionnaires looking

[Continued on Page 8](#)

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

### Continuous Performance Improvement Workshop Arrives at OSR

What used to take more than 76 days, caused frustration among nearly everyone involved, jeopardized resources, involved a Byzantine paper work process but is about to experience a series of major improvements? If you guessed the Clinical Trial Agreement (CTA) contract intake and execution process, you would be right. In March, the Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) Contracts Group, sponsored by **John Streck**, chief of Research Operations, and led by **Jayme Ribuado**, supervisor of OSR, hosted a Rapid Process Improvement Workshop (RPIW) to improve the CTA process. On May 12, the results of the workshop, which include a shortened, combined form and a streamlined process, will be formally implemented. The following examines OSR's first Continuous Performance Improvement (CPI) endeavor, and offers insight into the process and upcoming changes.

CTAs are important for achieving excellence in research. The agreements bring cutting-edge therapies to patients and generate revenue for investigative teams. The data collected in a 2008-2009 process review showed that turnaround time for CTAs was highly variable, taking anywhere from 60 days to over one year. Additionally, CTAs were processed less efficiently at the research institute than in other organizations. CTA intake and the agreement execution proved to be the most broken and also the most easily fixed pieces of the process.

A broad spectrum of stakeholders, including investigators, center business managers, and OSR representatives participated in a workshop facilitated by **Delila Katzka**, a CPI consultant for the research institute. The team began by breaking down the steps involved in initiating and executing a CTA. The existing CTA process was cumbersome, variable and far from ideal. The team deliberately reconstructed the process and achieved a reduction in total steps, handoffs, queues and check steps by 31% to 50%.

Part of the CTA problem was the result of two forms – the OSR-10 and the Clinical Trial Request Form (CTRF). The CPI workshop team combined the two forms, and dramatically reduced the number of signatures needed on the new form. The new form, OSR-10-F03, or "CIRF" (Contract Initiation Request Form) for short, guides users through the new process using visual cues and

clear handoffs. The new form is designed specifically for industry-sponsored clinical trials.

The outcomes of OSR's first CPI event have been positive and are expected to roll-out on May 12. The external Web page which will house the new standard process is nearing completion. OSR plans to continue tracking CTAs under the improved process, focusing on three critical areas: the time for intake and execution, the number of CTAs that are withdrawn and the percent of CTA requests completed with the initial submission.

The intensity of the week-long workshop, the dedication of the participants, and the expertise of the CPI facilitators are all paying off. When asked about his thoughts on the workshop, Jayme Ribuado noted that, "When you have a broken process, a CPI Rapid Process Improvement Workshop is the way to go." Producing an achievable roadmap to a dramatically improved process is a winning accomplishment. Keep an eye out for communications from the Center Director Advisory Committee and items in the ResearchNews Weekly regarding the May 12 roll-out. [Irn](#)

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### Psychometry Services in the Pediatric Clinical Research Center [Continued from Page 7](#)

at infant behavior, sleep habits and temperament. SFP and parental questionnaire results will be correlated with sleep study findings, looking for an association between the infant's nighttime sleep and daytime function/behavior.

Underscoring Seattle Children's strength in this area, the lead Psychometrist, **Alison Paolozzi**, recently obtained the Certified Specialist in Psychometry designation (CSP). This certification exam is offered once a year by the National Association of Psychometrists and is a verification that a psychometrist has met a standardized level of practice-based knowledge and competence. Alison is one of only five psychometrists in Washington State with the CSP designation.

If you would like to learn more, or have questions about PCRC Psychometry Services, please contact [Alison Paolozzi](#) at (206) 884-7867. [Irn](#)

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

### **Behind the Scenes Series: RIT's Infrastructure Team**

Almost any research endeavor requires collecting and analyzing data. Seattle Children's Research Institute generates a lot of information and needs the ability to process, store and transfer that data. In the final installment of the Research Information Technology's (Research IT) *Behind the Scenes* Series, Research IT finishes with a look at how the infrastructure team provides accessible and reliable data through server and network technology.

Research IT is able to focus on the needs of the research institute because the hospital infrastructure team maintains core services for the entire organization. E-mail servers, Web servers that host [CHILD](#) and [www.seattlechildrens.org](http://www.seattlechildrens.org), SharePoint servers, Lawson and many other services are provided by the hospital. This allows Research IT to focus on two priorities: advocating for research personnel so existing services address their needs, and creating new solutions specific to the research institute.

In the previous *Behind the Scenes* article, the applications team discussed focusing on the solutions they customize for the research institute. In order for those applications to function, the infrastructure team supports the servers and equipment on which those applications run. These responsibilities include maintaining:

- Web servers that host applications like <http://b1conf> and <http://IRBeReview>;
- Database servers for applications like PIRO and EBSS;
- Application servers for running programs like TrackIt!™ (<http://rithelp>) and STATA; and
- Test servers for new applications before they are deployed, like PassagePoint (Visitor Management System) and CORES.

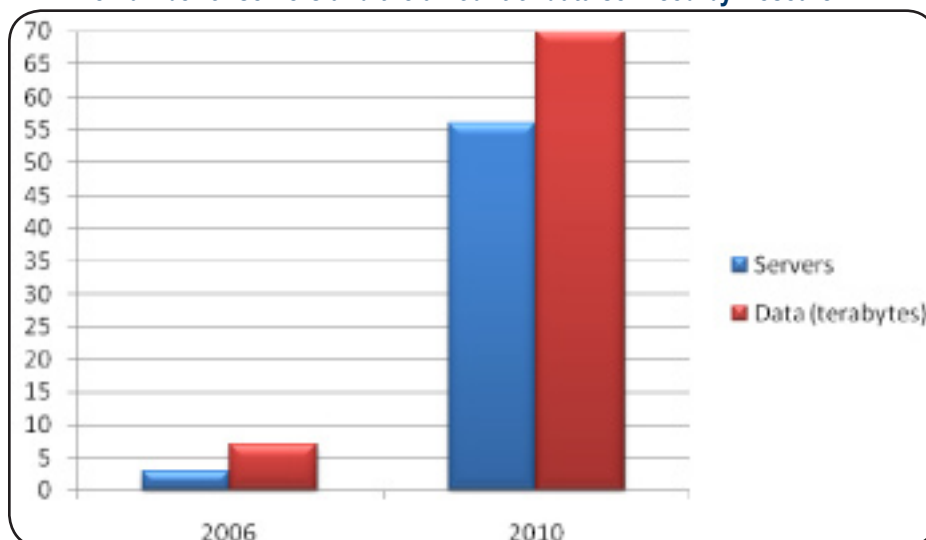
The infrastructure team also maintains data storage for:

- Local network shared drive access, like O drives and center network shares;
- Offsite backup to tape in case servers fail; and
- Local short term backups.

#### **How to recover a previously saved version of a document:**

You can access short term backup for your O drive and most network shares by right clicking on the drive, selecting Properties and viewing the Previous Versions tab.

**The number of servers and the amount of data serviced by Research IT.**



These resources have continually grown along with the research institute. Research IT was formed in 2006 to support a few servers and about seven terabytes of data. Today, Research IT supports 56 servers and 70 terabytes of data, and requirements are continually growing. New research is creating very large datasets and images that individually can take up over two terabytes in storage space. Research IT's storage devices currently don't allow for contiguous storage of data that size. The infrastructure team is developing

[Continued on Page 11](#)

## RESEARCH BITS

### CPI at Work: Everyone, Every Way, Every Day

Continuous Performance Improvement (CPI) Week 2010 - You're invited for games, prizes and fun!

**June 7 - 11, 2010**

CPI Week is a weeklong celebration of Seattle Children's CPI philosophy and this year's theme focuses on **everyone** being involved in improving their daily work. Are you interested in playing CPI Jeopardy or building a Lego car? Sign up for the festivities. Have you made improvements in your area that you want to share? Get the CPI in Daily Work poster template and start drawing.

With the addition of the Research CPI department this past year and improvements underway aimed at improvements in bringing research discoveries forward, this is the first opportunity for the research institute to participate fully in CPI Week. All research faculty and staff are encouraged to get involved.

Here is a preview of events that will be held at the research institute's downtown campus during CPI week:

- CPI in Daily Work Poster contest
- "CPI at Research" Panel
- Lego cars (Reliable Methods) and CPI
- CPI Jeopardy team competition
- Afternoon at the movies including popcorn

Watch for details on these and other opportunities coming soon. If you would like to help out at an event during CPI week or want to know more, contact [Delila Katzka](#), CPI consultant, Research CPI.

### IRB Implements Changes to Modification Form

Recently, the Institutional Review Board made changes to the modification form. They have eliminated the memo to add funding and added a new funding section to the modification form. The revised form is now available on the [external Web site](#).

### Youth Bioethics Summit Proves to be a Success

On Saturday, April 17, 2010 over 80 middle and high school students from across the Puget Sound region gathered at Seattle Children's Research Institute for the first-ever Youth Ethics Summit. The summit was developed through a partnership between the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research, the Institute for Translational Health Sciences and the Treuman Katz Center for Pediatric Bioethics. Students from different schools had the opportunity to learn about ethics, medicine and biomedical research topics that are particularly relevant to young people.

The day began with a panel of clinicians and researchers who discussed personal, educational and professional experiences that led them to the field of bioethics. After the panel presentation, students divided into smaller breakout sessions where bioethicists and others in the field facilitated discussions on various cases and ethical issues relevant to children and adolescents. Case presentations included the Ashley X and Dennis Lindberg cases. Issues discussed included sperm donation for adolescent boys with cancer, parents' choice to withhold a diagnosis from a child, and the ethics of genetic research with adolescents. Breakout sessions provided information and allowed students to discuss their opinions.

The day concluded with a film, *Citizen Scientist*, by Dr. **Maren Grainger-Monson**. The film follows a young patient with a rare disorder who seeks treatment in a clinical trial. A discussion followed, focusing on the ethical issues presented.

Facilitators and students alike thought the Youth Ethics Summit was a success. One student stated: "I actually wish that the seminar had been longer. Everything, from the breaks to the panel, was perfectly timed with the exception of the breakout sessions. If only we had had more time to discuss some of these cases. It was so interesting; I wanted to learn more." Students actively engaged in the topics, and impressed facilitators with the thoughtfulness and intelligence with which they participated.

## RESEARCH BITS

### Styrofoam Recycling Program at Building 1



Styrofoam, specifically expanded polystyrene (EPS), makes up a significant part of the research institute's solid waste. In an effort to increase our environmental stewardship and reduce garbage collection costs, Research Technical Operations/Environmental Health & Safety has initiated an EPS recycling program at Building 1.

- Polystyrene can be identified by

- the recycling number 6 (PS).
- All EPS for recycle must be clean and free of contamination, plastic film, glued-on cardboard, paper contaminants, food, dirt, tape, paint, waste, oils, stickers, excess moisture, ice, malodors and/or other materials.
- Users may also recycle packing peanuts and cold packs. Separate bins are located in the staging area, as indicated below.

All materials for recycle should be brought down to the first floor freight elevator lobby and segregated appropriately.

- Yellow bin - clean styrofoam
- Red bin - packing peanuts
- Blue bin - ice packs

As this is a shared area, please be considerate and do not leave a mess. Contact [Research Lab Services@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:Research_Lab_Services@seattlechildrens.org) or [Tyler Stuart](#) with any questions or comments.

### **Behind the Scenes Series: RIT's Infrastructure Team**

[Continued from Page 9](#)

a solution that can accommodate this, and in doing so allow devices like a genome analyzer to be used at Seattle Children's Research Institute.

As mentioned above, Research IT also advocates for research personnel to ensure they get the support and technological tools needed, while maintaining the policies and procedures set in place by the Seattle Children's organization. Whether it's creating reliable storage space, developing new software, or fixing a problem on your computer, Research IT is here to help. To contact Research IT, go to <http://rithelp>, or for other information, visit [Research IT's page on CHILD](#). **Irrn**

### **Save the Date: Sixth Annual Treuman Katz Center for Pediatric Bioethics Conference**

**Conference Title:** Tiny Babies, Large Questions: Ethical Issues in Prenatal and Neonatal Care  
**Date:** Friday and Saturday, July 23 and 24, 2010  
**Location:** Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle, Washington

For most families, pregnancy and the birth of a child is an exciting and joyous time of hope and celebration. But sometimes, difficult and challenging ethical issues can emerge regarding the application of medical technology, the role of parental decision-making, and the impact of these decisions on tiny and vulnerable human beings.

Come join leaders in the field of pediatric bioethics as they discuss ethical issues surrounding prenatal and neonatal care; add your perspective as ethical questions are explored through oral presentations, panel discussions and abstract presentations.

For more information, please visit the [bioethics Web page](#).

## RESEARCH BITS

### Become the Speaker and Leader You Want To Be

People who communicate effectively get ahead in life. Wouldn't you like to develop this priceless skill? Now you can. Toastmasters will show you how to listen effectively, think on your feet and speak confidently. You will learn valuable leadership skills in a supportive non-intimidating environment. Are you ready to achieve your full potential? Come visit our Toastmasters club and see what we can do for you.

### Spirit of Inquiry (SOI) - A Toastmasters Club Hosted by Seattle Children's Research Institute

**Who:** This public club welcomes everyone.

**When:** Mondays, 12:10 to 12:50 p.m.

**Where:** Alternates each week -

Seattle Children's Research Institute (Building 1)  
1900 Ninth Ave, 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
Hendrix Conference Room

Metropolitan Park West (Met Park West)  
1100 Olive Way, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Conference Room 589

### Calendar with Location

May 2010	June 2010	July 2010
5/3: Building 1	6/7: Met Park West	7/5: No meeting (in observance of Independence Day)
5/10: Met Park West	6/14: Building 1	7/12: Building 1
5/17: Building 1	6/21: Met Park West	7/19: Met Park West
5/24: Met Park West	6/28: Building 1	7/26: Building 1
5/31: No meeting (Memorial Day)		

Interested? Please join the next meeting, contact [Eugeniá Thomas](#) at (206) 884-7300 or visit [SOI's Web site](#) for more information.

### Bioethics' Seminar and Grand Rounds

**Speaker:** Sadath Sayeed, MD, JD, Harvard University

**Guest Seminar:** Why Shouldn't We Build NICUs in Really Poor Countries?

**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010

**Time:** 3:30 to 5 p.m.

**Location:** Seattle Children's Research Institute, Building 1, Pearl Jam Conference Room (#806), 8<sup>th</sup> floor

**Grand Rounds:** When Parents Make Life-and-Death Decisions in the NICU Based on Cultural Views About Disability

**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2010

**Time:** 8 to 9 a.m.

**Location:** Seattle Children's Hospital, Wright Auditorium

## MONTHLY FEATURES

### Policy Updates

Each month, Interaction keeps readers up to date on research policies that were posted to CHILD for peer review. Here is the policy posted for peer review in the month of April. Please visit the [research policies Web page on CHILD](#) to view all past peer-reviewed policies, their accompanying responses and final versions.

[RSS-B1-301 Research Shipping Proposed Policy](#)

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### Promotions

#### Center for Clinical and Translational Research

**Alison Paolozzi**, promoted from Psychometrist to Senior Psychometrist

#### Center for Infections and Prematurity Research

**Louis Paoella**, promoted from a Research Associate I – Bench to a Research Scientist I

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### Welcome to Research at Seattle Children's

#### Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development

**Sara Geiss-Trusz**, Behavioral Health Specialist

**Samantha Pollack**, Student Helper

**Teiona Yoko**, Student Helper

#### Center for Clinical and Translational Research

**Bethany Northquist**, Research Assistant

**Carrie Pettler**, Research Assistant

**Valeria Thompson**, Statistical Research Associate

#### Center for Immunity and Immunotherapies

**Sarah Wagner**, Research Associate - Bench

#### Center for Integrative Brain Research

**Lynne Tempest**, Research Associate - Bench

#### Center for Tissue and Cell Sciences

**Xiu-Rong Dong**, Director of Research Laboratory

**Virginia Hogle**, Scientist

#### Research Institute Administration

**Catherine Lindgren**, Director

#### Research Support Services

**Christopher Brown**, Manager

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