

Interaction

Research News

Seattle Children's Research Institute

October 2010 vol.6 no.9

Special Interest

The **Next Five Years**: Strategic Planning Gets Underway at the Research Institute



Research Strategic Planning for 2012-2016 began in September. Four teams consisting of bench and clinical principal investigators, research staff, foundation representatives, and research and hospital leadership met to discuss key topic areas for the advancement of research at Seattle Children's. Each team developed a draft strategy sentence and a list of initiatives for the areas of:

- **Infrastructure:** Chaired by **Dimitri Christakis**, MD, MPH, center director for Child Health, Behavior and Development, and **David Rawlings**, MD, center director for Immunity and Immunotherapies
- **Facilities:** Chaired by **Allison Eddy**, MD, center director for Tissue and Cell Sciences, and **Skip Smith**, PhD, center director for Developmental Therapeutics
- **Discovery & Application:** Chaired by **Bonnie Ramsey**, MD, center director for Clinical and Translational Research
- **People:** Chaired by **Nino Ramirez**, PhD, center director for Integrative Brain Research, and **Arnie Smith**, MD, center director for Childhood Infections and Prematurity Research

These draft strategies and initiatives will be presented to you – the Seattle Children's community - for input at public forums beginning Oct. 8, 2010. **Everyone's input is encouraged** to ensure all viewpoints and perspectives are considered when building the institute's future.

Below is a list of the upcoming public forums. If you cannot attend in person but would like to provide comment, all draft strategies and initiatives will be available on [CHILD](#) for review and comment from October 8 - 22, 2010. Please click on the Research tab and click on Research Strategic Planning for more information and to access the survey to provide your comments.

First Round Strategic Planning Public Forums:

Infrastructure: Oct. 8, 2010, Noon to 1:30 p.m., Building 1, Soundgarden Conference Room

Facilities: Oct. 11, 2010, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Main Campus, Wright Auditorium; *Videoconferenced to Building 1, Soundgarden Conference Room*

Discovery & Application: Oct. 11, 2010, 2:30 to 4 p.m., Main Campus, Wright Auditorium; *Videoconferenced to Building 1, Conference Room 506*

People: Oct. 15, 2010, Noon to 1:30 p.m., Building 1, Conference Room 606

Did You Know?

...that you can find information about the West 8th building, the space, updates, forum dates, and move information on [CHILD](#)? Go to the Research tab and click on the West 8th webpage link to find information to answer your questions. If there is something else you would like to see on the webpage, please send your input to [Victoria Cleator](#) or [Stefanie Morris](#).

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Click on the calendar icon to view upcoming research events.



RESEARCH BITS

RSDC Welcomes New Members

The Research Staff Development Committee (RSDC) is looking forward to another year. With the changing of seasons, come changes to the committee. The RSDC is sad to announce the departure of the following members: **Romeo Balagot, Jenn Chun, Delila Katzka, Melissa Ralston** and **Sam Rodarte**. These individuals made many contributions to the RSDC over the past year and will be missed.

The RSDC would also like to announce the following new members to the committee for Fiscal Year 2011:

- **Laura Elenbaas**, Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development
- **Leticia Holleman**, Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development
- **Rebecca Howsmon**, Center for Immunity and Immunotherapies
- **Brooke Latzke**, Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development
- **Louis Paoella**, Center for Childhood Infections and Prematurity Research
- **William Roden**, Center for Integrative Brain Research
- **Dennis Saffer**, Center for Childhood Infections and Prematurity Research
- **Amber Sexton**, Center for Clinical and Translational Research

The RSDC is thrilled that its membership now includes representation from six of the research centers and Research Support Services. This has been a long term goal for the RSDC so that they can better reach out and meet the needs of research staff at Seattle Children's.

In addition to membership changes, there are leadership changes to announce as well. **Delila Katzka** has stepped down from the RSDC vacating the vice chair position. Delila has been a member of the RSDC since 2007. She will be greatly missed; her contributions and insight to the committee has been substantial. She has enjoyed serving on the committee and leaves with these departing words, "I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to be a part of an engaged team of people who take their role as staff advocates so seriously and who put so much effort into making the research institute a premier place to work." The RSDC is excited to announce the new vice chair –

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RSDC Professional Development Awards

The Research Staff Development Committee (RSDC) supports training and development of staff through the allocation of intramural funds. This year, the RSDC funded 27 research staff to advance their skills via local workshops, classes and webinars as well as through travel awards to present papers or posters at professional conferences, allowing staff to showcase the work and accomplishments happening at Seattle Children's Research Institute. The RSDC also provided onsite computer training in Outlook, Excel, Power Point and an upcoming Office 2007 New Features overview. A summary of funds awarded by center or department is provided below.

Center/Department	# of Awards	Total Awarded
Immunity & Immunotherapies	5	\$7,355
Clinical & Translational Research	9	\$6,558
Research Support Services	7	\$4,349
Developmental Therapeutics	3	\$1,560
Childhood Infections & Prematurity Research	2	\$1,370
Child Health, Behavior & Development	1	\$620
Integrative Brain Research	0	\$0
Tissue & Cell Sciences	0	\$0
Total	27	\$21,812
Onsite Computer Training	-	\$10,830
Grand Total		\$32,642

New Authorized Organizational Official

Did you know that **Cynthia Bellas** has replaced **John Streck** in the role of Authorized Organizational Official for National Institute of Health (NIH) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) applications? The LRP provides funding to individuals to cover student loans incurred during medical school. There are a number of specific programs that enable an applicant to qualify, including some focused on pediatric research. Although the awards are made to individuals, and individuals apply, it is necessary for the application to be certified by an Authorized Organizational Official for the institution with which that individual is affiliated. Typically, NIH will send an announcement regarding the LRP in early Fall.

RESEARCH BITS

RSDC Welcomes New Members

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Claire Wharton. Claire works in the Center for Clinical and Translational Research and has been a member of the RSDC since 2007. She looks forward to continuing to advocate for staff and building a community in which everyone at the institute feels welcome and heard.

Fiscal Year 2011 RSDC Members

Name	Department
Laura Elenbaas	Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development
Kori Flajole	The Project Management Office
Leticia Holleman	Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development
Rebecca Howsmon	Center for Immunity and Immunotherapies
Stephanie Knutzen	Research Operations
Steven Knutzen	Center for Clinical and Translational Research
Brooke Latzke	Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development
Courtney MacNealy	Center for Developmental Therapeutics
Stefanie Morris	Research Facilities
Louis Paoella	Center for Childhood Infections and Prematurity Research
William Roden	Center for Integrative Brain Research
Suzanne Roman	Office of Research Finance
Dennis Saffer	Center for Childhood Infections and Prematurity Research
Amber Sexton	Center for Clinical and Translational Research
Janna Stults	Center for Clinical and Translational Research
Eugenia Thomas	Research Operations
Lisya Van Housen, Chair	Center for Clinical and Translational Research
Claire Wharton, Vice Chair	Center for Clinical and Translational Research

IRB and PCRC Streamline Process

Did you know that as of Sept. 1, 2010, Seattle Children's Institutional Review Board (IRB) is providing all regulatory documents directly to the Pediatric Clinical Research Center (PCRC) for investigators who are utilizing their services? This means that investigators and their staff will no longer need to provide copies of these documents to the PCRC; instead, the IRB will handle this task for them, streamlining the process. Documents issued by the IRB prior to Sept. 1, 2010 are not included and you may receive requests from the PCRC to provide these if you haven't previously submitted them. If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact [Jason Malone](#), Institute of Translational Health Sciences Clinical Compliance Officer, (206) 987-3723.

Resource for Seattle Children's and Beyond

If you are looking for a way to discuss issues surrounding communication and the presentation of a research study, look no further. Two films, along with discussion guides for facilitators, have been created to encourage conversation and awareness of the practical aspects of conducting research with human participants. The films are not intended to represent reality, but are meant to be an entertaining and engaging catalyst for discussion about serious topics relevant to staff who work with families and research participants. You can access the films and discussion guides on the [Seattle Children's Web site](#). Questions? Please contact [Halle Showalter Salas](#).

Town Hall Symposium "Immunology: Looking Forward"

Oct. 27 & 28, 2010
Town Hall, Seattle, WA

Seattle Children's Speaker: David Rawlings, MD, center director for Immunity & Immunotherapies
More info: <http://register.briconferences.org/> (FREE to attend and register)
Sponsored by: Virginia Mason/Benaroya Research Institute

RESEARCH BITS

Seattle Children's Biostatistical Core Enters New Phase

The Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR) is pleased to announce an expanded partnership between Seattle Children's Core for Biomedical Statistics (formerly the Office of Biostatistical Services) and the University of Washington [Center for Biomedical Statistics \(CBS\)](#), a core unit of the [Institute of Translational Health Sciences \(ITHS\)](#). This partnership will provide Children's researchers with access to a broad network of biostatistical expertise and specialties.

To streamline operations, the fee structure for biostatistical collaboration has been standardized across institutions (effective Oct. 1) and a new centralized [Consultation Request Form](#) has been introduced. This online form should now be used to initiate all CBS project requests. Under the new fee structure, Children's investigators who are members of the ITHS qualify for up to two hours of consultation at no

charge as well as reduced hourly fees. To plan adequate resources, please submit all requests at least six weeks in advance. See the [CBS policies webpage](#) for further details.

On the personnel front, the CCTR is in the process of recruiting a full-time faculty member to direct the core. **Nicole Hamblett**, PhD, research associate professor of Pediatrics, is currently serving as the acting director. In early October, biostatistician **Kathryn Whitlock** will join the Children's CBS team, further helping to fill the temporary gap left after the departure of two staff members earlier this year. The core has also arranged to use a local contract research organization as needed to help fill incoming requests, ensuring that the biostatistical needs of Children's investigators continue to be met.

For more information about CBS services, see the CBS Resources page on the [ITHS Web site](#).

Open Enrollment (Oct. 18 to Nov. 5)

Open Enrollment Fair
Tuesday, Oct. 26
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Building 1, Soundgarden
South Conference Room

Open Enrollment is the one time of year that you have to update benefit choices. Be sure and read through the benefit packet that you'll receive at home, and become familiar with any plan changes. Have questions or want more information from our carriers? Stop by the benefit fair and get your questions answered. COSTCO and Salal Credit Union will be with the benefits team to distribute goodies and information.

Financial U

October Topic: **Tax-Favored Retirement Strategies for 2010***

Thursday, Oct. 14
Noon to 1 p.m.
Main Campus, Small Dining Rooms 1 & 2

Retirement shouldn't be so taxing. It's difficult to avoid taxes completely, but there are retirement savings strategies that can help you keep more of your money. In this seminar, we'll teach you some of these techniques as well as tell you about some recent tax law changes to be aware of this year and beyond.

More information: [Financial U on CHILD](#)
Presenter: **Jesse Bond**, Money Management Educators
RSVP to [Benefits](#), (206) 987-4991.

*You may also request personal sessions if unable to attend the workshop.

RESEARCH BITS

PCRC Fee Increases Effective October 1

Clinical researchers take note: Effective Oct. 1, 2010 fees for Pediatric Clinical Research Center (PCRC) visits have increased by an average of approximately 20%. Additionally, rates for the PCRC Lab have increased by approximately 50%, and the fee structure for Psychometry Services has changed from a per-visit rate to an hourly rate of \$67.90 per hour.

Although the PCRC understands that fee increases may be problematic for some current studies, periodic adjustments like these are necessary to keep the PCRC and PCRC Lab operating in a more cost-neutral manner and ensure their ability to continue delivering quality service. Prior to this, the PCRC had not increased rates since 2008.

The PCRC would also like to remind its users that "grandfathering" will end as of Dec. 31, 2010. After that date, all studies using the PCRC will be charged at current rates. Grandfathered studies will also need to begin purchasing their own meal tickets and study-specific supplies and charging them to study budgets at that time.

A more detailed communication about the fee increases is being sent to individual users of the PCRC and PCRC Lab. Please contact the [Clinical Research Budget Analysts](#) for budgeting support and collaborate with your center's Business Office if you believe the increased costs will adversely affect your ability to complete a study being conducted in the PCRC. More information about these and other PCRC updates can be found in the [September issue of CCTR News](#).

Fourth Annual Treuman Katz Lectureship

The Division of Bioethics, Department of Pediatrics and the Treuman Katz Center for Pediatric Bioethics welcome **Thomas Murray**, PhD. Dr. Murray is the president and CEO of The Hastings Center in Garrison, New York. As part of the annual Treuman Katz Lectureship, Dr. Murray will present both at the weekly bioethics seminar on Wednesday, Oct. 13 and at Grand Rounds on Thursday, Oct. 14. Details about both of these great presentations are below.

Treuman Katz Lectureship

Speaker: Thomas H. Murray, PhD, president and CEO, The Hastings Center

Pediatric Bioethics Seminar: "Ethics and Synthetic Biology: Risks and Benefits, Interests and Identities"

Wednesday, Oct. 13

3:30 p.m.

Building 1, Conference Room 506*

*Please enter Building 1 at the lobby to be escorted up to the 5th floor unless you know your badge works in this building. The Green Line Shuttle connects main campus to Building 1. Parking can be validated for non-Seattle Children's employees.

Pediatrics Grand Rounds Lecture: "Why We Play: Ethics, Drugs, and the Future of Sport"

Thursday, Oct. 14

8 a.m.

Main Campus, Wright Auditorium

RESEARCH BITS

University of Washington Science in Medicine Lecture Series



Dr. Richard Gardner

Nuclear Garbology: What sifting through the cellular garbage can tell us about human disease

**Monday, Oct. 18, 2010
Noon - 1 p.m.**

University of Washington, Health Science Building, Turner Auditorium, Room D209*

*This lecture will be videoconferenced to:
Building 1, Pearl Jam Conference Room 806

Speaker: Richard Gardner
Assistant Professor, Pharmacology

One of the most important tasks the cell faces is the disposal of proteins that are damaged or abnormal. Failure to destroy this "cellular

garbage" can lead to its accumulation and aggregation, which we now understand underlies many human neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. It has also been hypothesized that the accumulation of abnormal proteins may underlie the process of aging itself. Research in Dr. Gardner's lab focuses on how the eukaryotic cell disposes of abnormal proteins that arise in the nucleus, the repository for our genetic code. By analyzing the mechanisms of nuclear waste disposal, the Gardner lab hopes to gain insight into why some abnormal proteins are eliminated properly and why others accumulate and lead to neurodegeneration.

Equipment Capitalization Threshold Increases

As of Oct. 1, 2010, Seattle Children's equipment capitalization threshold (the dollar amount at which purchased equipment is considered capital and subject to depreciation) increased from the long standing \$1,000 to \$5,000. This change does not affect capital assets purchased prior to this date. From a grants perspective, items previously treated as capital assets (greater than \$1,000 but less than the new \$5,000 threshold), will now be charged to a grant as minor equipment or supplies and, as such, subject to F&A charges. This change now brings us consistent with Federal Guidelines as to the allowable threshold for capital purchases.

Learning Center Replaces CHEX on Oct. 20

On Oct. 20, Learning Center will replace CHEX as Children's online learning system. Employees should complete any unfinished courses as soon as possible; unfinished courses in CHEX will not roll over into the new system. Employees who need copies of continuing education certificates for CME/CNE/CRCE courses taken before Oct. 19 should print them before Oct. 19 as CHEX and certificates will no longer be available after that date. Learning Center offers a more user-friendly interface and improves efficiency. It also provides reliable reporting to show employee compliance with training requirements. Although Learning Center has a different look and feel, it contains all the same content as CHEX, including both continuing education and regular courses. To learn more, [read the Learning Center FAQs](#).

Monthly Green Tip*:

Own LESS and have MORE. Borrow things from your neighbors.

Borrow things you only need once in a while from people in your building or on your block, in your office, at your school, or in any other network.

Lawn mowers, gardening tools, tables and chairs, and camping equipment are all good examples of items to borrow.

By borrowing seldomly used items, you will save money and make friends. Remember: Borrowing is a two way street. Allow others to borrow from you too.

*If you have a "Green" tip to share, please send your idea to [Deana Rich](#) to be considered for a future issue of Interaction.

MONTHLY FEATURES

Welcome to Research at Seattle Children's

Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development

Amy Bohlander, Fellow
Janet Ceballos, Research Assistant
Rick Cruz, Clinical Research Associate
Jennell Effinger, Clinical Research Associate
Kathrine Ellingson, Clinical Research Associate
Cezanne Hardy, Clinical Research Associate
Marjorie Newman, Clinical Research Associate
Jaclyn Robbin, Clinical Research Associate
Amanda Rosenberg, Clinical Research Associate
Ursala Schwenn, Clinical Research Associate
Kate Silver-Heilman, Clinical Research Associate
Janece Thacker, Psychometrist
Jessie Waiamau-Ariota, Clinical Research Associate
Lisa Wallace-Gloria, Clinical Research Associate
Alana Wilhite, Clinical Research Associate

Center for Clinical and Translational Research

Anne Birkel, Clinical Research Associate
Mina Vafaezadeh, Research Assistant

Center for Developmental Therapeutics

Marcus McMahon, Research Assistant

Center for Immunity and Immunotherapies

Ryan Kuhar, Scientist

Center for Tissue and Cell Sciences

Yueping Zhang, Research Scientist

Research Support Services (Research Facilities)

Maria-Jose Bravo, Lab Assistant

Promotions

Congratulations to those recently promoted at the research institute!

Center for Childhood Infections and Prematurity Research

Rachel Payant, promoted from Student Helper to Research Tech I

Center for Immunity and Immunotherapies

Hannah Kerns, promoted from Research Scientist I to Research Scientist II

Policy Updates

Each month, Interaction keeps readers up to date on research policies that were posted to CHILDR for peer review. There were no policies posted for peer review in the month of September. Please visit the [research policies Web page on CHILDR](#) to view all past peer-reviewed policies, their accompanying responses and final versions.

Editorial Board

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Have an idea for an Interaction article? Send your idea to the [Managing Editor](#) for consideration in a future issue.