

**Message From the Vice President for Health Sciences Research, LUHS/Senior Associate Dean of Research, SSOM
Richard H. Kennedy, PhD**



Center for Research and Education:

I thought everyone would like a brief update regarding the progress being made on the design and funding of the new research and education building that is being planned in collaboration with the Edward J. Hines Jr. VA Hospital. Dr. Whelton and I have worked with Dr. Dale Gerding, Associate Chief of Staff for Research, and Mr. Nathan Geraths, Medical Center Director of the Hines VA Hospital, to identify the facilities needs that are to be accommodated by the new building. In addition, Mr. Charles Reiter, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary for LUHS, has worked closely with the VA to insure that the agreement allowing us to build the facility on VA land is in place. Dr. Whelton, Mr. Reiter and Ms. Karen Alexander, Senior Vice President for Development and External Affairs, have begun the process of raising financial support for the building from state, federal and private sources.

At this time, we anticipate that the new Center for Research and Education will be built on the northeast corner of the Hines VA property across Fifth Avenue from Building 54 and the EMS Building. The current concept is a building of approximately 188,000 net accessible sq. ft. with 118,000 sq. ft. of wet laboratory space including appropriate faculty office space and common equipment space; 45,000 sq. ft. of dry lab space for population, health services and cooperative studies research; 15,000 sq. ft. for Loyola and Hines research administrative offices; and 10,000 sq. ft. for classroom, conference room and video-conferencing facilities. It will offer exciting advantages for Loyola, the Hines VA and our investigators. In addition to the obvious efficiencies that result from sharing the costs of maintaining a research facility with its multiple needs in terms of support personnel, shared core facilities and administrative overhead, the facility will create a stimulating environment where scientists from the VA and Loyola work side by side to address research and health care issues of common interest, thereby creating a synergy not achievable with our current facilities. In addition, the nursing research and academy housed within the facility will focus on nursing care issues particularly important to VA patients. All Hines VA investigators currently housed in Building 1 will be relocated to the new building; Loyola programs and faculty members will be selected primarily based on the goal of developing productive collaborative research synergies.

The timeframe for the design, construction and occupancy of the new building will depend in large part on our ability to raise financial support from state, federal and private sources. However, this is a top priority for Dr. Whelton and our campus leadership, and numerous requests have been made. I will keep everyone informed regarding our progress.

In This Issue

Message from Dr. Kennedy	1
Message from Dr. Brubaker	2
Message from Dr. Mestril	3
Message from the ORS office	4
Graduate student Highlight	6
Department and Institute Highlight	7
Research Activity at LUMC	8

**Message From the Assistant Dean of Clinical and Translational Research
Linda Brubaker, MD, MS.**



Clinical Researcher Alert: The AAHRPP Accreditation Process

AAHRPP stands for the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (<http://www.aahrpp.org>). AAHRPP (pronounced A-HARP), is an association that offers formal accreditation to organizations such as ours to document that we provide comprehensive protections to human research participants. The Association was established in 2001 and has accredited 159 research organizations. Nearly 40% of clinical-research intensive universities and approximately 30% of medical schools are AAHRPP accredited. While accreditation is voluntary, there is growing sentiment that AAHRPP accreditation is the way of the future, as accreditation is likely to be associated with competitive advantages in securing and conducting high-quality human research.

The Loyola Office of Research Services will seek AAHRPP Accreditation for our institution. The process has already been initiated with an on-going self-evaluation, during which time we are reviewing existing policies, procedures and staffing. Following any necessary modifications to our research programs, we will then prepare and submit our formal application. Once the application undergoes a preliminary review by a team of experts at AAHRPP, a site evaluation will be scheduled. We anticipate that this site visit will occur in the Fall of this year. The AAHRPP Council on Accreditation reviews the application and site visit report to determine whether Loyola meets criteria for accreditation. On-going evaluation occurs every three years following initial accreditation.

You will hear more about the improvements to our human research protection programs as we continue in the process of preparing our application. Improvements are likely to include further streamlining research systems, clarifications and availability of research related policies and procedures and updating of IRB materials. We appreciate the involvement and constructive suggestions of clinical researchers throughout the Health Sciences Campus.

Although you will not need to be familiar with every specific detail of the AAHRPP application, a broad overview of the accreditation domains may be helpful. There are five domains: I - Organization, II – Research Review Unit, Including IRB, III – Investigator, IV – Sponsored Research and V – Participant Outreach. Within these five domains, there are additional subsections called standards which are then further divided into elements. Our institution must document that we meet accreditation requirements in all of these areas by carefully describing our programs for human research protection. Supplemental materials such as research policies and procedures, including IRB policies are used as evidence of our institutional protections.

To advance communication amongst clinical researchers and to further facilitate communication about the AAHRPP process, the Office of Research Services will be initiating a PI Council. Any clinical investigator who is functioning in the role of a principal investigator (PI) is encouraged to participate and contribute. Suggestions for improvements in clinical research processes can be forwarded at any time to Linda Brubaker, MD, MS, Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research at LBrubaker@lumc.edu.

**Message From the Assistant Dean for Basic Research and Postdoctoral Affairs
Ruben Mestrl, PhD.**



As recommended by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs was organized in 2008. As recommended by the RAC one of the first missions of the Office is to disseminate among the post-doctoral population at Loyola University Medical Center basic principles of Responsible Conduct in Research. In order to achieve this objective a monthly, one hour noon Brown – Bag meeting was started in September 2008. Besides covering topics concerning Responsible Conduct of Research, these meetings also cover topics dealing with career development and the diverse funding opportunities for post-doctoral fellows. Some of the topics already covered up to date are:

- Sept. 19, 2008 – What constitutes a real job in biomedical science?
- Oct. 10, 2008 – How to obtain extramural funds for my research.
- Nov. 21, 2008 – Obtaining a Faculty Position.
- Dec. 12, 2008 – What constitutes Research Misconduct?
- Jan. 12, 2009 – Publish or Perish?
- Feb. 2, 2009 – Mentor/Trainee Responsibilities.
- Mar. 2, 2009 – Scientific Project Management.

Some future topics that are planned for the next few months are:

Peer Review, Collaborative Science, Communications and Difficult Conversations, Time Management, Mentoring and Being Mentored, Understanding Technology Transfer, Teaching and Course Design, Animal use in Research, Human Subjects Research, Conflict of interest and Commitment, Grant writing, How to give a job talk, How to write a CV, etc.

External and internal speakers will be invited to cover some of these upcoming topics. The meeting also offers an open forum for post-doctoral fellows to voice their concerns and needs that are directly relayed to Stritch School of Medicine administration for possible resolution.

The support of our faculty is greatly appreciated in this important activity to enrich the career development of our post-doctoral fellows.

An important reminder for all of us, St. Albert's Day will be celebrated this year on November 13, 2009.



Jamie Caldwell,
Director of the Office of Research Services (ORS)

During the past several months, the Research Community has seen a number of Funding Agencies change their practices with regards to how proposals are submitted, making the process somewhat tenuous. For example in December (2008) the American Heart Association launched their new electronic application with little input if any from the research community. When institutions attempted to submit proposals during the original deadline period there were many problems or delays. As a result AHA was forced to extend their deadlines by one week to allow for system maintenance.

Similarly, Grants.gov the federal agency for submitting grants to NIH, DOD, and HRSA just to name a few, during the February 5th deadline suffered a severe system malfunction due to the launch of the Adobe platform which replaced Pure Edge. Grants.gov was unable to handle the more than 10,000 applications that were submitted from Colleges and Universities from all over the country. We all anguished in frustration in Grants.gov's inability to fix the problem in a timelier manner. After the servers were completely shutdown for a System Re-build on Friday, February 6th we were finally able to submit our proposals on Monday, February 9th.

National Science Foundation transitioning to Research.gov

Research.gov a partnership of federal research-oriented grant making agencies with a shared vision of increasing customer service for the research community, while streamlining and standardizing business processes amongst partner agencies. Research.gov is an exciting new initiative that enables organizations and grantees to access streamlined research grants management services and other resources for multiple federal agencies in one location, led by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Research .gov is a moderation of FastLane that provides a menu of services tailored to meet the needs of the research community.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire Faculty who submitted proposals for review and approval and the Grant Administrators and Staff who assisted in the process. During the deadlines, September (2008) through December (2008), the Office of Research Services for the Health Sciences (ORSHS) processed 72 grant proposals for a total requested amount of \$54,265,283. For calendar year 2008, the Office of Research Services processed more the 300 hundred proposals for a total requested amount of \$ 150,697,641. For calendar year 2009 to date, the Office of Research Services has submitted approximately 55 proposals for a total requested amount of \$20,954,828.

I would also like to remind everyone once again that as more and more agencies are moving toward electronic submissions; The Office of Research Services for the Health Sciences is requesting that departments and their Investigators not wait until the last minute to submit proposals for review and approval.

NIH Updates Fall & Winter 2008

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is announcing a change in allowable levels of salary support for their early career (K01 [[PAR-09-052](#)], K07 [[PAR-09-078](#)], K08 [[PAR-09-050](#)], K12 [[PAR-06-449](#)], K22 [[PAR-09-089](#) and [PAR-09-069](#)], K23 [[PAR-09-051](#)], K25 [[PA-09-039](#)]) and midcareer to established investigator (K05 [[PAR-09-088](#)], K24 [[PA-09-037](#)]) career awards. The current NCI salary cap for the early career awards and for individual scholars supported by the NCI Paul Calabresi (K12; [PAR-06-449](#)) Award for Clinical Oncology is \$75,000 per year. Salaries for the K05 [[PAR-09-088](#)] and K24 [[PA-09-037](#)] awards are up to the maximum legislated salary rate in effect at the time of award. Effective for competing applications for these awards submitted after January 1, 2009, the NCI is setting the salary cap at \$100,000 per year.

Any career award affected by this Notice requires the grantee to devote a minimum of 3 to 6 person-months (K05, K24), 6 person-months (K18), or 9 person-months (K01, K07, K08, K12, K22, K23, K25) to conducting cancer research. The remaining effort may be devoted to clinical, teaching, and/or other research pursuits and activities consistent with the objectives of the awarded grant. For information regarding NIH policy on determining full-time professional effort for career awards, see [NOT-OD-04-056](#).

The salary must be consistent both with the established salary structure at the institution and with salaries actually provided by the institution from its own funds to other staff members of equivalent qualifications, rank, and responsibilities in the department concerned. If full-time, 12-month salaries are not currently paid to comparable staff members, the salary proposed must be appropriately related to the existing salary structure. Confirmation of salary may be required prior to the issuance of an award. Fringe benefits, based on the sponsoring institution's rate and the percent of effort, are provided in addition to the salary.

Research News

OFFICE OF RESEARCH SERVICES NEWSLETTER



LOYOLA
MEDICINE

Loyola University Chicago
Stritch School of Medicine

SPRING 2009

Community of Science

In our efforts to reduce costs, we have chosen not to renew our subscription with Community of Science, effective April 1, 2009. However, the University Research Office of Research Services has agreed to continue the subscription and the Health Sciences Campus faculty will still be able to use their user ID and Password to access the Community of Science website to search for funding opportunities (a special thanks to Samuel Attoh, PhD, Associate Vice Provost for Research and Centers and Bill Sellers, PhD, Research Services Director, Lakeshore Campus).



Graduate Student Highlights

Laurie Riesbeck, Molecular Biology Program, Cardinal Bernadin Cancer Center

Laurie Riesbeck grew up in Palos Heights, Illinois, a southwestern suburb of Chicago. In 2004, Laurie received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame. There she had begun her research career in the laboratory of Dr. Lei Li, in the Department of Biological Sciences. In Dr. Li's lab, she learned to use zebrafish as genetic model for identifying mutations that can cause blindness and age-related vision diseases. Her positive experience learning and working in the lab also helped her realize her calling as a research scientist.

Laurie was happy to be accepted into the Ph.D. tract of the Molecular Biology Program at Loyola University Medical Center in the fall of 2004. After completing courses in the newly instated Core Curriculum her first semester at Loyola, she continued to attend classes and rotate in three labs affiliated with the Molecular Biology Program. In the summer of 2005, she joined Dr. Nancy Zeleznik-Le's laboratory in the Cardinal Bernadin Cancer Center. Dr. Zeleznik-Le's lab focuses on MLL, or mixed lineage leukemia, which is aggressive disease that accounts for greater than eighty percent of infant leukemias, and up to ten percent of adult leukemias. Because current cancer therapies are not effective for treating MLL leukemia, researching the molecular basis of this disease is critical for discovering a cure for MLL patients. Laurie's research involves an in-depth characterization of the MLL protein's CXXC DNA-binding domain. By incorporating new work on the molecular structure of this protein domain and other recent findings from her lab, she was able create single amino acid point mutations within the protein. Her results in both cell culture and mouse leukemia models have demonstrated the importance of the CXXC binding function to MLL leukemia. This work could eventually lead to the development of small molecule inhibitors designed to block MLL function. Laurie's research at Loyola has contributed to one publication in the journal *Blood* entitled "Regulation of mir-196b by MLL and its overexpression by MLL fusions contributes to leukemia," on which she is the second author. Laurie is also currently working on revising another manuscript entitled "Binding of MLL CXXC domain to CpG DNA is required for MLL-AF9 to protect Hoxa9 from methylation and induce leukemia," on which she is a primary author.

For the past three years, Laurie's research has been supported by the National Institute of Health's Training Grant in Experimental Immunology. This grant has also providing funding for Laurie to annually attend national scientific conferences, including the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology's Summer Research Conference on Hematological Malignancies in Saxtons River, Vermont, an MLL Symposium at the Stowers Institute in Kansas City, Missouri, and the American Society of Hematology's annual conference in San Francisco, California. At these conferences, Laurie was able to meet with and attend the lectures of many experts in the fields of MLL, leukemia, and hematology, which enhanced her education and allowed her to make contacts that will prove invaluable to her career.

For Laurie's final year of graduate school, she has applied and been accepted to receive the Arthur J. Schmitt Dissertation Fellowship Award. This award is offered at several Catholic universities to support the doctoral work of students who have done well in their studies and who demonstrate that their research helps to contribute to knowledge in the service of humanity. Laurie is grateful to receive this award, and hopes that her commitment to research in biomedical science will someday lead to new cures and the advancement of knowledge. Laurie's doctoral training under the mentorship of Dr. Zeleznik-Le has proven to be an excellent experience, in which she has learned much, not only about the leukemia field, but also about how to be a professional scientific researcher. After graduation next year, Laurie hopes to continue pursuing cancer research in an academic setting as a post-doctoral trainee

Department and Institute Highlights



Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology

On September 1, 2008 Dr. Pieter de Tombe was appointed as the James R. DePauw Professor of Physiology and Chair of the Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology. As before, a central focus of the Department will continue to be in the area of the Cardiovascular Sciences with a special emphasis on cellular and molecular mechanisms that underlie the development of cardiac hypertrophy and the syndrome of congestive heart failure. His research is focused on the regulation and biophysics of the contractile machinery of the heart. With this new leadership, the Department is actively engaged in the expansion of the faculty with the aim to recruit new faculty with active research programs in areas of cardiac cellular physiology ranging from molecular signal transduction to the in-vivo function of the cardiovascular system in health and disease. The ultimate goal the development of a integrated program that allows for a rich collaborative and translational environment between the laboratories of the Basic Science Departments and Research Institutes and the Clinical Departments.

With the expansion of the Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology, several new core facilities have recently been established, while others are planned for in the near future. A highlight of these developments certainly is the installation of a two-photon Leica-SP5 confocal microscope capable of deep tissue fluorescent imaging. In addition, the instrument is also equipped with a two-channel fluorescent life-time imaging module and a fluorescence correlation microscopy unit. This instrument will allow investigators extended periods of access for physiological and biophysical experiments that runs for several days at a time. Other recently installed core facilities are a GE typhoon 2-D scanner and a Shimadzu MALDI-TOFF mass spectrometer which facilitate proteomic analyses. A future planned core facility is an animal core specialized in the generation of animal models of cardiac disease and state of the art analysis of cardiac function in these animals. Overall, the availability of these essential core facilities will greatly enhance the ability of our current and future faculty to engage in research at the forefront of new discoveries that will form the basis of novel therapeutic strategies to combat (cardiac) diseases. These core facilities will be available to Physiology and CVI investigators, and

Research Activity at LUMC

Research Funding—New Awards, since January 2009

AWARDS 2009			
NAME	DEPARTMENT	Agency	DATE/AWARD
Cui, Rutao	Oncology Institute	ACS	1/1/09
Marchese, Adriano	Pharmacology	AHA Midwest	1/1/09
Jacobson, Gloria	School of Nursing	NIH	6/1/08
Saban, Karen	School of Nursing	CINN Foundation	7/1/08
Whelton, Paul	LUMC	NIH	9/15/08
Byron, Kenneth	Pharmacology	NIH	1/15/09
Zelevnik-Le, Nancy	Oncology	NIH	1/16/09
Leonetti, John	Medicine	Gyrus ENT L.L.C.	10/1/08
Fareed, Jawed	Pathology	Thrombosis Research Institute	10/1/08
Cooper, Richard S.	Preventive Medicine & Epidemiology	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	12/1/08
Kramer, Holly	Preventive Medicine & Epidemiology	NIH	10/1/08
Samarel, Allen	Medicine/CVI	NIH	6/1/08
Vlasses, Frances	School of Nursing	Illinois Board of Higher Education	12/9/08
Kramer, Holly	Preventive Medicine & Epidemiology	NIH	8/15/08

