

# ACCELERATE

CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH NEWS  
FROM THE AHC OFFICE OF CLINICAL RESEARCH

## ACADEMIC AND CORPORATE RELATIONS CENTER

*A new portal to the business  
community*

The Academic and Corporate Relations Center (ACRC) offers a new way to connect with the business community. The Office of the Vice President for Research created the ACRC in July 2006 as a two-way portal between the University and businesses. The primary function of the ACRC is to connect companies with University resources, expertise, and services through their concierge service, relationship managers, and Web site; likewise, ACRC connects faculty and staff to the business community.

The ACRC manages a comprehensive database of faculty expertise for all University of Minnesota campuses. This not only allows businesses to connect to University faculty and staff, but also allows faculty and staff to connect to each other and available resources at the University.

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Academic Health Center

## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

by Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.,  
Executive Director



### *Clinical Trials Registration*

Last month, the Journal of the American Medical Association published an editorial on clinical trial registration ( <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/298.1.jed70037> ) that I would like to bring to your attention. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) announced in 2005 that in order for clinical trial results to be considered for publication in journals that adhere to ICMJE standards, all clinical trials must be registered with a public registry before the enrollment of the first patient. The purpose of this requirement, according to the ICMJE, is “to promote the public good by ensuring that everyone can find key information about every clinical trial whose principal aim is to shape medical decision-making.” All researchers need to be aware of two elements of the ICMJE requirement detailed in the recent JAMA editorial update.

First, the definition of “clinical trial” is revised to include Phase I studies. A clinical trial is “[a]ny research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes.” This expanded definition will take effect for all trials that begin enrollment on or after July 1, 2008. However, trials meeting this expanded definition can be registered before this date.

Second, the editorial describes registries that are acceptable to the ICMJE. One of these is ClinicalTrials.gov, developed and maintained by the NIH. Details of how to register via the Protocol Registration system can be found at <http://prsinfo.clinicaltrials.gov/>.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *ACRC, continued.*

“For example,” says Jim Woodman, ACRC business relationship manager, “companies often utilize faculty networks to meet myriad business needs, such as talent acquisition, research services, sponsored research projects, technology acquisition, and clinical expertise. Business access to University resources begins with awareness, which is a big part of my job.” The ACRC employs three business relationship managers to facilitate connections between the University and business communities.

For more information, visit [www.business.umn.edu](http://www.business.umn.edu), or contact the concierge service at [frontdoor@umn.edu](mailto:frontdoor@umn.edu) or 612-626-3438.

**GRANT WRITING SEMINARS:** Two popular day-long seminars open to those AHC faculty and research staff currently involved in clinical and translational research are scheduled for the 2007-2008 academic year. Past AHC participants have found them to be detailed, engaging and very useful. Space is limited to 100 participants and will fill very quickly. Registration now available for Sept. 27.

**Sept. 27, 2007: “Getting Started as a Successful Grant Writer and Academician”** teaches new investigators how to write a grant application, a subject that may be missing from the educational backgrounds of most junior faculty members. The program content is appropriate for senior graduate students, post-doctoral research fellows, and non-tenure-track faculty members who aspire to tenure track and have never written a successful grant application. Register now at [www.ahc.umn.edu/ocr/events/gettingstarted/home.html](http://www.ahc.umn.edu/ocr/events/gettingstarted/home.html).

**March 24, 2008: “Write Winning Grants”** addresses both practical and conceptual aspects that are important to the proposal-writing process. It is designed for faculty members and administrative staff who have had some exposure to writing grant applications, either through training / mentoring or personal experience. Register in early spring.

**REGISTER NOW for “Current Issues in Clinical Research”** on Sept. 18 and 19. This annual conference focuses on emerging trends and provides a comprehensive review of the responsibilities and process of clinical research performance. Sponsored jointly by the AHC’s Office of Clinical Research and Mayo Clinical Trial Services, it is designed for principal investigators, study coordinators, nurses, and other research personnel involved in managing and coordinating clinical research. Register now at [www.mayocts.com/research](http://www.mayocts.com/research).

*(more Events on page 4)*



# SPOTLIGHT

## TISSUE PROCUREMENT FACILITY

Investigators needing human tissue for research purposes should know about the University's Tissue Procurement Facility (TPF). This facility provides surgically resected tissue and bone marrow aspirations for research while safeguarding all aspects of patient care. In recent years, major studies by investigators using TPF resources have been published in the *American Journal of Pathology*, *Cancer*, *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy*.

Skilled technologists from the TPF work with surgeons, pathologists, and researchers to maximize the scientific value of the acquired tissue without compromising diagnostic processing or patient privacy. Tissues may be obtained in the following forms:

- fresh
- frozen in liquid nitrogen
- embedded in the cryopreservative O.C.T., or
- fixed in formalin and paraffin-embedded.

The TPF is conveniently located on the 3rd floor of University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview. Surgical pathologists oversee the tissue procurement and tissue is processed precisely according to researcher specifications. Limited de-identified clinical information is available, and a large amount of previously banked tissue is catalogued and available for immediate use. In addition, the TPF affords investigators, surgeons, clinicians, oncologists, and surgical pathologists ample opportunity to collaborate.

Investigators interested in applying for TPF services should fill out an application form at [www.cancer.umn.edu/exfiles/research/TPF-Application.pdf](http://www.cancer.umn.edu/exfiles/research/TPF-Application.pdf). The application, along with an abstract of the research, copy of IRB application, and IRB approval notification should then be sent to Dr. Ralph Powell, c/o Sarah Bowell, University of Minnesota Cancer Center, MMC 806, 420 Delaware Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455.

For more information, go to: [www.cancer.umn.edu/research/cores/tissueproc](http://www.cancer.umn.edu/research/cores/tissueproc) or contact Sarah Bowell, lab manager, at [bowel001@umn.edu](mailto:bowel001@umn.edu) or 612-273-6652.

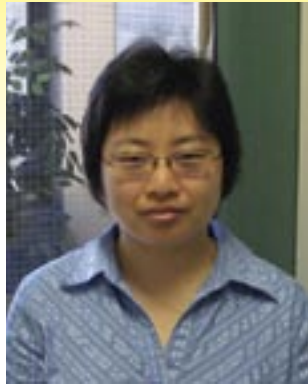


*Scientist Diane Rauch (foreground) and lab manager Sarah Bowell.*

### ***Director's Update, continued.***

Although some journals only require registration of clinical trials before submission of a manuscript, I would encourage researchers to register their clinical trials according to the ICMJE guidelines, which will help maximize publishing options.

## CAPS PROFILE: FANG YU, PH.D., R.N.



While working in the cardiac unit at the hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Fang Yu observed a frequent problem of impaired daily function abilities among her older patients. Each hospitalization seemed to cause further functional decline in those with cognitive impairment. This observation led to Yu's dissertation and post-doctoral work, where she examined methods to promote functional independence in older adults with dementia. Her findings were intriguing: through rehabilitation services, patients with dementia could improve daily function to the same degree as could those with intact cognition.

Yu, now an assistant professor in the School of Nursing, is beginning her first year as a CAPS scholar. "Physical activity, specifically aerobic exercise, is a very important component in cognitive improvement," explains Yu. Recent research shows that aerobic exercise can improve executive cognitive function in older adults without dementia and in animals can delay amyloid accumulation, widely accepted as the cause of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Yu's research focuses on developing effective aerobic exercise interventions to improve executive cognitive function, and consequently, daily functioning and overall quality of life for older adults with AD. Yu has two co-investigators: J. Riley McCarten, M.D., medical director of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC) at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center; and Susan McPherson, Ph.D., neuropsychologist, Behavioral Health Service, VA Medical Center, and associate professor of neurology, Medical School. They will enroll patients in a three-month aerobic stationary biking protocol to test the impact of this type of physical activity on executive cognitive function. They will recruit participants exclusively through the Memory Clinic at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview.

As a CAPS scholar, Yu is allocated 75 percent protected time for research. She will work with a multidisciplinary mentoring team including: Maurice Dysken, M.D., director, GRECC, Minneapolis VA Medical Center and professor of psychiatry, Medical School; Arthur S. Leon, M.D., M.S., professor, School of Kinesiology, College of Education and Human Development, and director, Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene and Exercise Science; Donna Bliss, Ph.D., R.N., professor, School of Nursing; and Wei Pan, Ph.D., associate professor, biostatistics, School of Public Health. Yu feels that the K12 award is fundamental step for young investigators, and that the program prepares scholars to thrive in today's multidisciplinary research environment. "In thinking of a career trajectory, CAPS is a natural step. It offers investigators the time and training necessary to launch a successful research program," says Yu.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**BREAKTHROUGH SERIES**  
**October 29-30, 2007: "Diabetes: Advancing Our Med-Tech Edge"**  
The Office of Clinical Research has joined with LifeScience Alley to launch an educational partnership. The second topic in this Breakthrough Series is Diabetes, taking off with leading researchers and speakers from the University of Minnesota and industry. See next month's *Accelerate* for registration details.

The first event in this Breakthrough Series, held on June 4-5, 2007, focused on neuromodulation, spotlighting leading academic and industry research into the treatment of psychiatric and movement disorders using deep brain stimulation (DBS), vagus nerve stimulation (VNS), and other emerging modalities. Information about the June neuromodulation event, including a full program listing and PowerPoint presentations by several presenters, is available at [www.ahc.umn.edu/ocr/neuromodulation/home.html](http://www.ahc.umn.edu/ocr/neuromodulation/home.html).

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