



PHPM The Liaison

February 2009 **Grant Updates**

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Awarded:

Philippe Thuillier, "Development of Liver Cancer in a New Mouse Model", 2009 Vertex Pharmaceuticals/Oregon Health & Science University Research Agreement

Renewals:

Traci Rieckmann, "State Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices for Treatment of Alcohol and Drug Disorders." This project has entered its 2nd year.

Yvonne Michael, "Neighborhood design and Obesity in Older Women." This project has entered its 3rd year.

Thomas Becker, "Cancer Information Services Partnership Program." This project has entered its 5th year.

Submitted Applications:

Dongseok Choi, "Predicting transcript factors in response to TNF or IL-1 treatment on TM cells." NEI/NIH – Research Grant for Secondary Data Analysis (R21)

Dennis McCarty, "Enhancing Opioid Management Using Process Improvement and Electronic Support." NIDA/NIH – Drug Abuse Epidemiology and Services Research in Cooperation with Clinical and Translational Science Awards Consortium (R01) (Sub-contract with Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research – PI: Carla A. Green)

Please notify Mark Derby at 4-0181 or by email at derbym@ohsu.edu if you intend to apply for a grant.

Publications

Jiang J., **Nguyen T.**, Rao R.S. (2009), A Simplified Adaptive Fence Procedure, Statistics and Probability Letters, 79, 625-629.

Choi D, Sharma SM, Pasadhika S, Kang Z, Harrington CA, Smith JR, Planck SR, Rosenbaum JT. Application of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Tools to Identify Putative Transcription Factor-Gene Regulatory Network of Ankylosing Spondylitis and Sarcoidosis. Communications in Statistics – Theory and Methods. (accepted subject to minor revision)

Traci Rieckmann was quoted in the December 22, 2008 issue of the New York Times in an article titled "Drug Rehabilitation or Revolving Door?" The story examined the implementation of evidence-based treatments for alcohol and drug use disorders in Oregon following passage of state legislation that requires the Oregon Addiction and Mental Health Division to purchase evidence-based practices. Traci worked closely with the reporter, Benedict Cary, and helped set up site visits and interviews with Oregon treatment programs in Portland and Roseburg. Read the story on the web: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/23/health/23reha.html?pagewanted=1&_r=2&sq=evidence%20gap%20substance%20abuse&st=cse&scp=1

Awards

Congratulations to Lynn Kunkel, who received the January 2009 Golden ROSE Award for Service Excellence! Below is Dennis McCarty's nomination letter:

It would have been easiest to turn around and fly back to Portland. Lynn Kunkel, however, persevered. Lynn was flying to Hartford Connecticut on December 15 to complete a pre-implementation site visit for a clinical trial of HIV-rapid testing in addiction treatment centers as part of the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network. Lynn, the manager for the Oregon/Hawaii Node of the Clinical Trials Network, had pioneered the use of standardized patients to facilitate implementation of new trials. She and the actor trained as a standardized patient were spreading the use of the technique in the New England Node of the Network. Storms on the east coast led to a cancellation of the Hartford flight leaving Chicago's O'Hare Field. Lynn spent a night in Chicago and flew into Hartford on Tuesday. Tuesday's site visit was rescheduled for Wednesday and was completed at noon on Thursday. Weather again delayed flights out of Hartford. The connecting flight to Chicago was boarded, cancelled, and re-boarded before sitting on the runway for two hours. Lynn got to Chicago too late for any flights to Portland and was rebooked for Friday afternoon. Friday afternoon became Saturday evening before Lynn got the first flight out of Chicago to Portland and a snowy ride home from the airport. Lynn's commitment to the Clinical Trials Network and the research protocol being implemented exceeded expectations. The site visit got rave reviews from the clinical staff, contributed to their training and improved the quality of the research. She provided excellent service and strengthened OHSU's contributions to and reputation in the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network.

Don't let outstanding service go unrewarded! To nominate an OHSU employee or team for a Golden ROSE Award, visit the O-Zone or call Kelli at 503 418-8397

Congratulations to Linda Humphrey, who won a Volunteer Faculty Recognition Award! There will be a recognition dinner at Waverly Country Club on May 31st.

PHPM Says Goodbye to Gary Sexton

Gary Sexton, Ph.D., Associate Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Medicine, and Public Health and Preventive Medicine, passed away on February 9th. He received his MS and Ph.D. in Statistics from Oregon State University, was appointed to OHSU in 1978 as a Research Associate, served as an Adjunct faculty member at OSU from 1981-85, and received a faculty appointment at OHSU in 1985. He began his appointment in our department in July 1993. Dr. Sexton was one of the founding faculty of the Oregon MPH program in 1993. He taught Biostatistics II and III and Categorical Data Analysis in the beginning years of the program, initially without compensation. Throughout his involvement with the department he also advised numerous students on their thesis projects. His contributions to the program and to many MPH students were great and he will be missed. In addition, Dr. Sexton served as a biostatistician for the General Clinical Research Center as well as for the Alzheimer Disease Center for many years. He collaborated with a large number of investigators at OHSU and PVAMC. A memorial service was held on Monday, February 16th.



The Finley Sunset Mortuary set up a web page for sharing his photos and tributes.

See: <http://www.finleysunsethills.com/obituaries/tribute.html?urlName=Gary-Joe-Sexton--PhD-Portland-OR-2009&urlID=85232311>

On the Road Again: Standardized Patient Walkthroughs in the CTN



Holly Fussell, Lynn Kunkel, and Harold Philips (actor) were back on the road in December and January conducting walkthroughs of participant screening, HIV rapid testing and behavioral health interventions for CTN-0032, a controlled clinical trial testing the effectiveness of rapid testing for HIV and clinical intervention on reduced risk behavior. The walkthroughs were conducted in six of the 12 participating CTPs. States including Oregon, Connecticut (2 sites), Arizona, Missouri, and North Carolina. The SP portrayed an opioid (heroin) dependent male in his mid-thirties and “walked through” study procedures. On-site debriefing provided the opportunity for fielding study staff concerns as well as providing associated suggestions. A summary report will be provided to the HIV Rapid Testing executive committee. Walkthroughs were completed at the end of January and feedback from site staff was quite positive. To date, SP walkthroughs have been implemented for four CTN studies.

Homeless Street Count

On Wednesday January 28 and Thursday, January 29, the City of Portland’s Bureau of Housing and Community Development conducted the Homeless Street Count. The Homeless Street Count is conducted bi-annually by the City of Portland in an effort to assess the needs of people sleeping outside (e.g. on the street, in cars, and in abandoned buildings). Information from the count is used to help local government and non-profits better meet the needs of people who are homeless in our community.

Ana Hilde and Marisa Gholson volunteered and were stationed at agencies that provide services to homeless persons to assist those agencies in conducting a short survey in an effort to obtain an accurate snapshot of the number of families and individuals who are homeless on a given night.

Ana spent Thursday morning at the Day Labor Center conducting surveys in Spanish. She also walked around inner NE/SE in an effort to locate as many day laborers as possible.

Marisa spent her shift surveying people who were waiting for a hot meal at the Blanchet House on Wednesday the 28th. Several of them reported becoming homeless recently due to the nation’s economic crisis. Marisa said, “I really enjoyed talking with the people who were waiting. This experience reminded me that everyone has a story and they just want someone to listen. I was very glad to have helped and hope that the data all of the volunteers collected can be used to secure funding for more homeless services.”

For more information on the Homeless Street Count, please visit: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bhcd/index.cfm?c=43985> or you can visit http://yellowbrickroadoutreach.blogspot.com/2009/01/2009-street-count_26.html

Have you been published recently? Have you recently presented at a seminar or hosted a lecture? Is there an upcoming event that you’d like to share? Please submit articles or information about the following:

- Current promotions*
- Awards received by our faculty and/or students*
- New grants that have been awarded or applied for*
- Any other interesting projects that we are working on*
- Information about MPH, MD/MPH students and our residents*
- Recently Published articles*
- People in the department that made the news*
- Recent or upcoming events*

Please submit all information four The Liaison to Gloria Harrison: harrisog@obsu.edu by the 10th of each month.

MPH Program News

OMPH STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

The Oregon Master of Public Health Program Student Symposium is held on the Friday of National Public Health Week, which is the first full week in April. Due to holidays, this year the Symposium will be held on Friday April 3, 2009. For more information on National Public Health Week go to: <http://www.apha.org/programs/healthweek/>.

The symposium is designed to provide a forum for current students to share their ongoing work (from research, projects from class, field experiences, current public health interests) with other members of the OMPH Program and public health practitioners from around the state. It is great practice for future presentations at conferences such as APHA and OPHA. It is a time to show off your interests and contributions to public health and to excite others about your work and interests.

All students of the OMPH Program will be invited to submit abstracts to be considered for an oral or poster presentation at the symposium. You should start thinking about the process early in the year so that you have time to complete a project and prepare a presentation. You will need a faculty sponsor who will review your submission and answer your questions.

2ND ANNUAL MD/MPH RESEARCH RETREAT

By invitation only, the 2nd Annual MD/MPH Research Retreat will be held March 13, 2009 at the Kennedy School: Martha Jordan Room. The Kennedy School is located at 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97211. This year's retreat will feature poster sessions and oral presentations of thesis work by MS4 students and ongoing research projects by selected OHSU faculty.

Omnivorous and vegetarian food options and beverage, including McMenamins beer, will be provided. Family and friends are welcome. Additional details about presentations and posters will soon be emailed to students presenting and faculty.

If you think of anyone else who would be interested in attending, please feel free to share the information with them.

APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

The School of Medicine Graduate Studies Program invites applications/nominations for the following awards:

Outstanding Master's Thesis Award: To be awarded for an outstanding Master's thesis by a School of Medicine graduate student who will graduate this year (June 2009). The individual receiving this award will be recognized at the School of Medicine Hooding Ceremony in June. Applications must be received by March 6, 2009.

John A. Resko Ph.D. Dissertation Award: To be awarded for an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation by a School of Medicine graduate student who will graduate this year (June 2009). The individual receiving this award will be recognized at the School of Medicine Hooding Ceremony in June. Applications must be received by March 6, 2009.

Please coordinate the nominations through Tree Triano—trianot@ohsu.edu.

UPCOMING THESIS PRESENTATIONS

Rebecca Marshall

Factors correlated with patient activation and associated outcomes among patients with HIV
3/09/09, Campus Services Building, Room CSB679, 8:30am - 9:30am

James Chao

Lipoprotein risk factors for ventricular tachyarrhythmias in a cohort of ICD patients
3/10/09, Campus Services Building, Room CSB679, 11:00am - 12:00pm
