Got Research?

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UNM faculty, staff, and students of the medical, nursing, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy schools are eligible to receive support from the GCRC for clinical research. The GCRC offers the following forms of support:

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GCRC Sends Delegate to Washington DC

This December, Mary Martinez, GCRC bionutritionist, will be an at-large delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA). Over 1,000 people will be involved with each state represented by the governor and governor-appointed delegates as well as at-large delegates from the community. The National Congress of American Indians, and Members of the 109th Congress will also participate, in addition to other entities with a stake in the aging of America.

This Conference occurs once a decade to make aging policy recommendations to the President and Congress, and to assist the public and private sectors in promoting dignity, health, independence and economic security of current and future generations of older persons.

78 million baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964), will begin to turn 60 in 2006. Policies created now will seriously impact the first and future waves of the baby boom generation as they prepare for retirement. Participation in the conference is a unique opportunity to creatively assess aging in America and improve the lives of older Americans.

Past White House Conferences on Aging have contributed to the establishment of many key aging programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, the Older Americans Act, the Supplemental Security Income Program, Social Security reforms, and establishment of the National Institute on Aging. Past Conferences also led to creation of a national nutrition program for older persons, and establishment of the national aging network.

The agenda items for 2005 are:

- Planning along the Lifespan
- The Workplace of the Future
- Our Community
- Health and Long Term Living
- Social Engagement
- Marketplace

As a delegate, Mary's personal initiative is to outline the importance of establishing health promotion programs, with nutrition awareness as a key element in preventing health problems.

For more information on the 2005 White House Conference on Aging, please visit their website: http://whcoa.gov

If you would like to contact Mary about her participation in the conference, you may reach her by email at: mamartinez@salud.unm.edu

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Dominic Raj Receives Prestigious Award by John Lucas

Dr. Dominic Raj, MD DM, received the 2005 GCRC Clinical Research Award on October 13, 2005 from the Department of Internal Medicine. During Research Grand Rounds, Dr. Raj was recognized for his exemplary use of the GCRC facilities and resources. The National Kidney Foundation and NIH support his research exploring the mechanism of sarcopenia in patients with end-stage renal disease. His research explores the link between muscle wasting and protein metabolism, oxidative stress, apoptosis and cytokine activation. Dr. Raj was one of four to receive an award for distinguished performance in research. The Department of Internal Medicine also recognized Sanjeev Arora, MD MMM; C. Richard Lyons, MD PhD, and Thomas Y Ma, MD PhD.
On the Lighter Side

* * * *Begin doing what you want to do now.

We are not living in eternity.

We have only this moment,

* * * sparkling*

like a star in our hand

* -and melting

* -like a snowflake

* * ~Marie Beyon Ray

Publications

Watch for GCRC Bionutritionist Rosemary Wold’s manuscript in an upcoming volume of the Journal of Nutrition Health and Aging. The manuscript is: Rosemary S. Wold, MS, RD, LD, Sharon J. Wayne, MPH, Debra L. Waters, PhD, Richard N. Baumgartner, PhD, Behaviors Underlying the Use of Nonvitamin Nonmineral Dietary Supplements in a Healthy Elderly Cohort.

Recent GCRC supported publications by William Kelly, Pharm.D. include:


Intrathecal Baclofen Study

Dr. Neal Gerstein, Dr. John C. Sanders, and Dr. Dennis Rivero are currently conducting a study to determine whether intrathecal baclofen is an effective agent to decrease acute and chronic post-operative pain. Previous research has shown that intrathecal baclofen reduces chronic pain in humans and animals.

METHODS 60 patients presenting for total knee arthroplasty who choose to have spinal anesthesia are eligible for inclusion in the study. Exclusions include refusal of consent, patients taking MAOIs or clindamycin, pregnancy or breast feeding. Anesthesia is provided by intrathecal injection of 15 mg of 0.75% hyperbaric bupivacaine combined with either 100mcg baclofen in 2 ml, or 2 ml of placebo solution. Sedation is by i.v. midazolam 1-2 mg and propofol as needed. Data on side effects, opioid usage, VAS pain scores and antiemetic use are collected for 72 hrs postoperatively. A 0-10 pain score is recorded 3 months after the operation. The SAS statistics program was used for analysis.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS In an analysis of the first 20 patients, the baclofen group had lower VAS pain scores (p=0.04) and morphine use (p<0.01) in the post anesthesia recovery room than the control group. The baclofen group also had lower pain scores and frequency of pain reported 3 months after surgery (p=0.06). There was no other significant difference in emesis, nausea, other side effects, VAS pain score or analgesic use over the 72 hour postoperative period, although there was a trend for less morphine use during the first 24 hours in the baclofen group.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS Intrathecal baclofen is an effective analgesic in the immediate post-operative period, as shown by decreased morphine use and lower pain scores. Intrathecal baclofen also reduces pain scores 3 months after surgery and may provide preemptive analgesia.

If you would like further information please contact: Dr. Gerstein (ngerstein@salud.unm.edu) or Dr. Sanders (jcsanders@salud.unm.edu)

Pediatric Scatterbed Celebrates 25 Years

The long-awaited 25 year celebration of the Pediatric Scatterbed Department was held on Thursday, October 20. There was a reception, refreshments, and displays in the 3rd floor ACC hallway.

The GCRC and the Department of Pediatrics celebrated the history, accomplishments and contributions of the Newborn/Pediatrics Scatterbed group. Founder, Dr. John Johnson, was on hand to tell of his vision to facilitate research and improve care of hospitalized children.

Please Don’t Forget...

A friendly reminder to GCRC investigators to remember to credit the GCRC grant in all publications. You may use this phrase:

Study supported by NCRR-GCRC
Grant# 5M01 RR00997

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

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A Fond Farewell from Selina Keryte

My name is Selina Keryte and I was the Administrative Manager for the GCRC from February 2003 until October 2005. I’m Navajo and originally from Tseyatoh, New Mexico which is 13 miles northwest of Gallup, NM. I provided the day-to-day administrative support for the GCRC staff and reviewed protocols for new and current investigators. I submitted the annual continuation grant to NIH and communicated with the Project Officer to resolve programmatic issues with the GCRC grant and completed the annual report.

I enjoyed working with all of the GCRC investigators who are conducting biomedical research. This research enables scientific advances in biomedicine that lead to the development of lifesaving drugs, devices, and therapies and more and bigger opportunities for investigators to obtain R01 Grants. The experiences I obtained at the GCRC advanced me to better opportunities. I have accepted a position with the Indian Health Services National Epidemiology and Disease Prevention Center as a Project Officer. I’m excited about my new job and sad to leave the GCRC. I’m looking forward to this exciting opportunity to gain new knowledge and experiences in working with Tribal Epidemiology Centers throughout the country. Currently there are 556 recognized American Indians/Alaska Natives tribe throughout the country.

Western Regional Bionutritionist Meeting

by Rosemary Wold

The Western Regional Bionutritionists’ meeting was held in Denver, Colorado on September 28-30, 2005. The meeting was hosted and coordinated by Coni Francis at the GCRC at University Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

On the first day, there was an “American on the Move, Day of Action” activity at the Health Sciences Center. In the afternoon, we attended the GCRC seminar and heard two investigators present their studies: “Intravenous Acyclovir in the Treatment of Postherpetic Neuralgia” and “The Effect of Immobilization on Myostatin Expression and Activation of its Downstream Pathway”. That evening we went out to dinner in downtown Denver. On the second day, we had the business meeting with thirteen Bionutritionists in attendance: Gail Wiebke of Utah, Martha McMurry, Rebecca Kitterman and Julia Jordan of Oregon, Rosemary Wold of New Mexico, Karen Todd (retired) of California, and Kristen Bing, Therese Ida, Coni Francis, Kathleen Farrell, Suzanne Short, Archana Mande and Melanie Kasten of Colorado. Committee chairs gave brief reports and then Martha, our president elect, reported on progress for our annual meeting. We brain stormed on ideas for the annual meeting. We toured the adult GCRC in Denver at University Hospital that morning as well, and then had a tasty lunch prepared by the metabolic kitchen. After lunch we attended a seminar on “Function and Regulation of Sterol Regulatory Element Binding Proteins (SERBS) in Skeletal Muscle”. In the afternoon we drove to Boulder and Kathleen Farrell gave us a tour the GCRC Satellite there. That evening we browsed through the Pearl Street Mall and dined in downtown Boulder. The morning of the third day, Janine Higgins gave us a tour the pediatric GCRC at Children’s Hospital in Denver.

It was a fabulous meeting and was great to see what other units are doing and how they are set up!