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ACRI STAFF DIRECTORY
ACRI’s complete administrative staff directory is available online at http://www.archildrens.org/experience-arkansas-childrens-hospital/research/about-acri/contact-us
ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Advances in pediatric medicine begin with a vision for a future in which all children can grow up to be healthy adults. Arkansas Children’s Research Institute (ACRI) researchers share this common vision and have devoted their lives to making this vision a reality. Researchers at ACRI are addressing a broad spectrum of children's health concerns, such as the biological mechanisms underlying birth defects; diabetes-related complications; and numerous childhood diseases, including asthma and cancer. Research expertise is diverse, ranging from basic science to clinical and community-based research.

- **Mission**
  At ACRI, our mission is to improve children's health, development and well-being through high quality research.

- **Vision**
  The institute’s vision is to be a leader in cutting-edge research that improves the health and well-being of children and their families.

In support of our vision, we aim to

- Recruit and retain highly qualified scientists;
- Provide an exceptional environment for research;
- Seek and obtain appropriate funding for research;
- Manage and leverage resources to succeed in our mission;
- Support transfer of discoveries to industry to create jobs in Arkansas;
- Form productive collaborations with other institutions, especially those in Arkansas;
- Promote a strong research capability to support recruitment of the best possible physicians for the campus; and
- Serve as a key learning laboratory for various trainees to learn the disciplines and methodologies of research.

- **History**
  ACRI is a not-for-profit corporation owned by Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH). ACRI was created to provide a research environment on the ACH campus to meet the needs of the UAMS faculty. The ACH Board of Trustees established ACRI in 1989.

- **Organization**
  The overall operations of ACRI are managed by its board of directors and executive officers. These leaders are responsible for ensuring that ACRI achieves its mission to improve children's health, development and well-being.

  - **Executive Officers**
    The President of ACRI has the overall responsibility to ensure the Institute meets its mission and establishes a responsive, investigator friendly research environment. The President of ACRI reports directly to the ACRI Board of Directors. The Vice President of ACRI manages the administrative staff and oversees the day-to-day activities in support of ACRI research activities.

  - **Board of Directors**
    The ACRI Board of Directors is responsible for the leadership and stewardship of the Institute by overseeing and approving policies, procedures, and regulations for the operation of ACRI and for monitoring its financial health, programs, and overall
performance. The Board seeks for ACRI to achieve its vision and mission. Board membership includes the Chief Executive Officer of ACH, the Dean of the UAMS College of Medicine, and the Chair of the UAMS Department of Pediatrics.

- **Funding**

  ACRI research support comes from grants and contracts ($20.23 million in fiscal year 2015) with federal, state, industry and private agencies and from and philanthropic donations. Federal funds account for $13 million of ACRI’s research support money. ACRI researchers receive the majority of these funds through grant applications and contract arrangements to support their research efforts.

- **Facilities**

  Currently, ACRI has over 196,000 ft² of research space. The four-story Research Institute Building is the central location of ACRI administrative offices and houses researcher offices, conference space, laboratories, and ACRI’s animal facility. The two-story Arkansas Children’s Nutrition Center (ACNC) adjoins to the south of the Research Building. Opened in 1997, the ACNC houses a USDA National Human Nutrition Center.

  Remaining ACRI research space includes the Pediatric Clinical Research Unit located in the main ACH hospital building two blocks north of the Research Institute Building. ACRI maintains the Research Pharmacy in the hospital’s Pharmacy unit. ACH also affords clinic and unit space for investigators performing their research at the hospital. ACRI researchers also have assigned, dedicated office, clinic, and laboratory space on the ACH campus in the Sturgis Building (one block north of the Research Building), the Medical Arts Building (adjoining the Research Building to the east), and the Dennis Developmental Center (one block south of the Research Building).

- **Services**

  ACRI’s research support staff acts as facilitators to ease the administrative burden of sponsored research. At the same time, the staff provides an array of unique services outside the general area of research administration. The administrative staff supports ACRI faculty throughout the grant process providing pre- and post-award assistance. ACRI provides such unique services as an electronic proposal routing system, electronic purchasing and real-time accounting, design and maintenance of institute websites, and assistance with the location of funding opportunities and policy information.
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS
Individuals on the following types of appointments may serve as a PI on grants and contracts managed by ACHRI:

- Tenured Professors, Associate Professors or Assistant Professors
- Tenure-track Professors, Associate Professors or Assistant Professors
- Research Professors, Associate Research Professors or Assistant Research Professors
- Research Scientists
- Fellows (With a Mentor)
- Others as approved by ACHRI
- Any individuals who are qualified to serve as PI may also serve as a Co-PI

In general, it is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to read and become familiar with the agreement/contractual requirements of the project, and to:

- Conduct the project according to the approved statement of work or the terms and special conditions published in the award agreement;
- Notify ACHRI of any proposed changes in the scope of the project, change or absence of PI, changes in budget, period of performance, etc.;
- Obtain proper training for him/herself and their employees to work effectively within the IRB/IACUC guidelines;
- Supervise expenditures in conformity with the budget approved by the sponsor;
- Initiate the necessary documents/forms for travel, purchasing, employment, contracted services, extra compensation, etc., in conformity with established business policies and procedures;
- Charge only expenditures that meet sponsor's guidelines;
- Assure that cost sharing or ma

- Failure to submit timely technical reports can penalize the institution as a whole by possibly making ACHRI/UAMS ineligible to receive new awards.
PROPOSALS

Individuals wanting to conduct research at ACRI must contact the Administrative offices. ACRI can assist in identifying funding opportunities, available resources, and other needs to meet research goals. Investigators responding to a specific funding opportunity must contact the Administrative office so ACRI can verify and address investigator and institutional eligibility, commitments, resources, and other considerations.

■ ACRI Pre-Award Support
For its researchers pursuing funding, ACRI provides services including proposal development assistance, acting as liaison between the researcher and the sponsoring agency while ensuring the research complies with the agency guidelines and administrative requirements, assisting with the preparation of appropriate internal and external application forms, and determining the accuracy of proposal budgets.

  o Grants Administrator
Researchers that have decided to submit an application for a funding opportunity should contact the office of the Research Administrator. The office will confirm the eligibility of the researcher and the institute for the opportunity. The office also coordinates necessary agency registrations by the researcher and the institute. The office is the Authorized Organizational Representative for applications that must be submitted by ACRI.

  o Grant Writing and Budgeting Support
Grant and science writing and editing services are also available free of charge to investigators. The writing staff assists investigators with grant proposal preparation as well as providing developmental and substantive editing of manuscripts. In addition, support for developing a project budget is also available to determine project-related costs.

  o Regulatory Compliance and Quality Assurance
ACRI provides assistance in developing human research documents and technical help for IRB submissions. The Regulatory Compliance Specialist and Research Auditor provide training on human research and study auditing.

  o Animal Use
Animal Operations supports researchers with animal use protocol, IACUC submissions, facilities and operations planning and management, and animal orders. They also provide personnel training in regards to animal use.

  o Contracts Review
A Legal and Human Protections Administrator is available to review and negotiate biomedical research agreements, such as clinical trial agreements and amendments, material transfer agreements, and confidential disclosure agreements.

■ Project Tracking
ACRI provides an electronic proposal routing system Project Tracking. For each proposal, a researcher will create a record to provide pertinent information and documents pertaining to it. The researcher will use Project Tracking to route his or her proposal for electronic approval, a process that should begin 10 business days prior to the application due date.
The online project tracking system may be accessed via the following link: [http://ACHRIweb/ProjectTracking/](http://ACHRIweb/ProjectTracking/)

- **Letters of Intent**

  If a researcher is planning to apply for a funding opportunity that requires a letter of intent, he or she must contact ACRI prior to submitting the letter. ACRI must consider and evaluate the letter and funding opportunity for any commitments made on behalf of the institute or required by the funding agency if an application is invited and an award made.

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**Getting Started - Proposals**

Where can I find funding opportunities?

We provide a summary of federal funding opportunities and post notices of UAMS and ACRI funding opportunities at our intranet site. We can also assist you with finding other sources of funding.

I have found a funding opportunity, when should I contact you?

Let us know as soon as possible. We can help verify investigator and institutional eligibility and commitments and address other specific considerations. We can then help you add the proposal to our online system Project Tracking.

When should I give my completed application to ACRI?

Your application, as well as administrative approvals, should be provided to ACRI at least 2 business days before the funding agency’s deadline. However, you should begin routing the application through Project Tracking at least 10 business days before the funding agency deadline.

Do you just assist UAMS faculty?

No, we also assist fellows, residents, clinical staff, and students planning to conduct research on the ACH campus.
HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH

ACRI researchers have been involved in human subjects research for over 25 years. These studies assure medicines, vaccines, and treatments for children are safe and effective. The majority of these studies are industry sponsored, while federal agency (FDA and NIH) and other grant awards supported the remaining trials. These research projects include clinical research and community-based studies as well as investigations using patient chart reviews or stored biological samples. ACRI provides specialized staff to support its human subjects researchers, and these researchers submit all study protocols to the UAMS Institutional Review Board.

- **Institutional Review Board**
  To protect the rights and welfare of subjects involved in the human subjects research at ACRI, its researchers conducting human subjects research must submit their protocols to the UAMS Institutional Review Board. This IRB oversees all human subjects research on the campus of Arkansas Children's Hospital. Annually, the IRB has over 1,500 open studies at various locations including UAMS, ACH, and ACRI. To review these studies, the UAMS IRB maintains 4 review committees that meet monthly to evaluate study protocols. The UAMS IRB ensures at least one representative from the UAMS Department of Pediatrics for each of its four committees. Researchers use an electronic system (CLARA) to submit protocols for review. The UAMS IRB has been fully accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) since 2005.

  - UAMS IRB - [http://irb.uams.edu/](http://irb.uams.edu/)
  - CLARA - [https://clara.uams.edu/clara-webapp/login](https://clara.uams.edu/clara-webapp/login)

- **Clinical Trials Administrator**
  For researchers conducting human subjects research, the Clinical Trials Administrator manages facility, staffing, and fiscal resources. The Clinical Trials Administrator oversees the Pediatric Clinical Research Unit (PCRU) at Arkansas Children's Hospital where ACRI’s researchers conduct their clinical trials and supervises an established pool of research coordinators (composed of RNs) that provides clinical trial coordinators for researchers in need of support for their trials. In regards to clinical trial projects, support also includes overseeing the budget including the release, monitoring, and closing of project accounts and managing ACRI’s subject tracking system, an Internet-based program allowing processes including enrollment of trial subjects, release of payment stipends, and verification against ACH’s billing system.

- **Pediatric Clinical Research Unit**
  Many researchers conduct their clinical trials at ACRI’s Pediatric Clinical Research Unit (PCRU) located at ACH’s main hospital building. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the PCRU provides a 4,000-ft² facility for high-quality clinical pediatric research. The PCRU has 4 semi-private and 2 private beds. It includes a laboratory, kitchen, offices, equipment storage, waiting area, and small conference room.

  To learn more about the PCRU, visit


- **Research Pharmacy**
  ACRI maintains a Research Pharmacy at ACH in support of inpatient and outpatient trials at ACH. Its staff of research pharmacists is accountable for drugs administered from the
initiation through the completion of clinical trials at ACRI. They oversee the formulating, dispensing, accounting, blinding, and storing of the drugs and the documentation of these activities. Research Pharmacy staff also provide input on study design and planning.

- **Human Subjects Training**
ACRI adheres to federal regulations and guidelines and its institutional policies regarding training and education concerning human subjects research. All personnel involved in human subjects research are required to successfully complete human subjects research modules in Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), an online training program. CITI training must be repeated every 2 years.

The CITI program may be accessed via the following link: https://www.citiprogram.org/

- **Biorepository**
ACRI has organized the ACRI Transgenerational Biorepository to gather and provide biological samples and data for researchers. Upon IRB approval, a researcher in need of samples to complete a project may obtain biospecimens from the biorepository. The biorepository is of value to researchers by providing samples and data without the costs associated with obtaining new samples. In addition, early stage investigators with limited funding for pilot projects may find the data and samples from this resource useful. With oversight from the Biorepository Committee, procedures for sample and data collection and tracking will be IRB approved and will ensure reliability and stability of samples for participating researchers.

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**Getting Started – Human Subjects Research**

How do I know if my project is classified as human subjects research?
Our Regulatory Compliance Specialist can help you contact our IRB which determines if your project is defined as human subjects research.

How do I obtain pricing for clinical services?
Contact the Clinical Trials Administrator will provide you with pricing for clinical services your study will use.

What if I need dedicated clinical space or staff to carry out my project?
Discuss your needs with the Clinical Trials Administrator. The Pediatric Clinical Research Unit may serve as a base for clinical research. A pool of clinical trial coordinators is also available and is supervised by the Clinical Trials Administrator.
VERTEBRATE ANIMAL RESEARCH
ACRI has provided support for its researchers conducting animal research since its beginnings when it provided facilities for large animals that could not be held on the UAMS campus. Since then, ACRI has established a state-of-the-art animal facility on the ACH campus. ACRI also provides support in protocol development, animal procurement, facilities scheduling, and personnel training.

- **ACRI Vivarium**
  ACRI maintains a 38,000 ft² animal facility housing all animals used in research. Located in the Research Institute Building, the facility provides separate areas designed to provide housing for both large and small animals. The animal facility has surgical suites, wet laboratories, procedure rooms, and pathogen-free containment units. The animal facility is accredited by the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AALAC). It is registered with the USDA and has a fully approved Letter of Assurance on file with NIH. ACRI requires animal certification of all investigative faculty and staff using the facility in the use of laboratory animals. Three veterinarians are responsible for veterinary care at ACRI’s animal facility. In addition to rounds and on call availability, the veterinarians provide consultation to ACRI investigators and staff concerning animal care and housing, surgical procedures, and IACUC protocols.

- **IACUC**
  The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at ACRI meets monthly to review new animal use protocols, annual renewals, close protocols. The committee notifies investigators and institutional officials in writing of its decision to approve, require modifications, or withhold approval of reviewed applications and proposals related to the care and use of animals required to secure IACUC approval as set forth in the Animal Welfare Act and PHS policy. In addition, the IACUC reviews and inspects ACRI’s vivarium and animal use program twice a year.

- **Animal Research Training**
  In regards to training for personnel involved in vertebrate animal research, ACRI adheres to federal regulations and guidelines and its institutional policies. All personnel involved in vertebrate animal research are required to successfully complete requisite animal research modules in Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), an online training program. CITI training must be repeated every 2 years.

  The CITI program may be accessed via the following link: [https://www.citiprogram.org/](https://www.citiprogram.org/)

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**Getting Started – Vertebrate Animal Research**

**Who do I contact if I want to conduct animal studies?**
Researchers planning to use animals should contact the Director of Animal Operations to discuss their projects.

**When do I need to secure space for animals and what are the per diem rates for animal care?**
As you develop your proposal, contact the Direct of Animal Operations and Research Support Coordinator to plan for animal housing and care upon funding and to obtain prices for study costs.

**Is there help for developing and submitting animal protocol and other IACUC-related documents?**
The staff of Animal Operations can assist as you develop your protocol and navigate the IACUC submission process.
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Upon award of funding to an ACRI researcher, the institute provides ACRI provides various research support services including contract review and budget negotiation, support for research accounting, research pricing for many hospital services, a proprietary system for tracking study subjects to ensure that billing to study accounts is separated from billing for routine clinical care. Research Computing Staff provides support services such as data management, data entry support, database design and programming, and computing support.

- Accounting
  A Grant Post Award Systems Administrator maintains online systems for accounting, grant tracking, and electronic ordering.

- Quality Assurance
  A Research Compliance Specialist assists with issues of compliance to federal regulations.

RESOURCES AND FACILITIES
ACRI researchers have access to scientific resources and facilities. These assets ease study conduct and institutional preparedness.

- Equipment
  The Facilities and Equipment Manager oversees the maintenance and installation of equipment at ACRI. ACRI also has shared equipment available for its researchers.

- Facilities
  The Facilities and Equipment Manager facilitates the allocation of space at ACRI. The office also assists with the maintenance, relocation, and renovation of research space at ACRI.

- Environmental Services
  Environmental Services ensures routine facilities care. The team maintains shared and scientific spaces throughout the ACRI buildings for cleanliness, sanitation, and sterilization.

- Safety
  The Safety Committee at ACRI coordinates planning and activities concerning issues regarding laboratory and equipment safety.
SECURITY
ACRI is considered a secured, restricted area and access is allowed only to authorized persons. ACH appropriately staffs a Security department for the hospital campus including ACRI. Uniformed officers are located at the main entry points to ACRI buildings. Further security measures at all entry points include monitored cameras and card readers. Security maintains camera recordings and card entries. Additional monitored cameras and card readers are located at key locations throughout ACRI. ACH’s Building Automation department continually monitors security, fire, and equipment alarms for ACRI. Upon an alarm, Building Automation immediately notifies appropriate ACH and ACRI personnel. ACRI has building-wide intercom systems to notify personnel during emergencies.

- **Badges**
  ACH Security issues an ACH badge to ACH employees and UAMS employees located on the ACH campus. While on the ACH campus, all ACRI personnel must wear their badges in an upright, readable position on the outermost layer of clothing (including lab coats or sweaters), and the badge photo must be visible. Badges must be worn in the shoulder area or on lanyard. No stickers, pins, or other markings should be on badges. Do not give your badge to anybody. Immediately report lost badge to ACH Security (364-4444) and obtain a replacement badge.

- **Access**
  Each ACH badge is individually coded to allow approved door and room access. Do not allow others to "piggyback" through a doorway or into a room; they should use their badge to enter any area. Requests to modify access are made through eRequest and granted only upon approval by the Director of ACRI Facility Operations.

- **Parking**
  All ACRI personnel must display appropriate ACH parking stickers in the lower right of their vehicle’s rear window. Notify ACH Security (364-4444) if a new sticker is required. Parking is available throughout the ACH campus for ACRI personnel in designated areas. Parking in the ACNC lot is reserved. Call boxes and security cameras with 360° vision are present and operating in parking areas. ACH Security has established a 5 mile per hour speed limit in the Green Parking Lot and a 10 mile per hour speed limit in all other parking lots. Stay alert and pay attention while driving through ACH parking lots and remain in your lane of traffic, as many families, patients, and co-workers walk through the lots throughout the day. You may contact ACH Security for shuttle service or escort (364-4444).

- **Visitors**
  All visitors (including visiting scientists, academic visitors, and minor researchers, volunteers, and visitors) to ACRI must be escorted and supervised. ACRI policies concerning visitors are available at its intranet site.

  The Visitor’s Policy may be accessed via the following link: [http://compoint/ACHRI/ACHRI%20Policies/Forms/AllItems.aspx](http://compoint/ACHRI/ACHRI%20Policies/Forms/AllItems.aspx)

- **Vendors**
  All routine vendors conducting routine business at ACRI must receive authorization through the Director of ACRI Facility Operations. Upon approval, the vendor will be issued a vendor’s badge. Vendors that infrequently conduct business at ACRI must call their ACRI contact for admittance to ACRI. ACRI policies concerning vendors are available at its intranet site.
INTRAMURAL GRANT PROGRAMS
ACRI offers four intramural competitive grant programs for its research community. The grant programs assist and encourage researchers of all levels of experience from beginning researchers to experienced researchers. Each program has specific research goals, eligibility requirements, and funding support.

To learn about these programs, please visit us on the web at http://www.archildrens.org/experience-arkansas-childrens-hospital/research/resources-for-researchers/intramural-grant-programs

- **ACRI/ABI Competitive Research Grant Program**
  This intramural grant program is made possible with funds provided to ACRI from the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement via the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI). The ACRI/ABI Competitive Research Grant Program was designed to specifically promote the goals of the ABI. Award amounts vary each year. The ACRI/ABI Review Committee reviews and scores applications, and the president of ACRI approves final funding decisions.

- **Children's University Medical Group (CUMG) Award Program**
  The CUMG Award Funds for the Children's University Medical Group (CUMG) award program originate from UAMS. ACRI administers the fund. Twice a year, established investigators, young investigators and clinician/faculty/trainee researchers may apply for awards. Award amounts vary with category. The deadlines for submission are September 1 and March 1 of each year. Submissions are peer-reviewed and final funding decisions are made by the Dean of the College of Medicine at UAMS. Award recipients must submit a final report and meet requirements of the award.

- **Marion B. Lyon New Scientist Development Award**
  A generous gift from a private donor endows the Marion B. Lyon New Scientist Development Program. The award was established to promote the career development of young investigators who are initiating independent research careers, but have not yet received NIH funding. Each year, one award in the amount of $50,000 is available on a competitive basis. Award recipients are required to submit two reports for the donor.

- **Student and Clinical Staff Research Intramural Grant Program**
  ACRI's Student and Clinical Staff Research Intramural Grant Program provides a funding mechanism for graduate students, medical students, and clinical staff to stimulate pediatric research activities and help foster the career development of pediatric researchers. The ACRI Student and Clinical Staff Research Intramural Grant Program requires that supported students, medical trainees and clinical staff submit for a manuscript publication within 2 years of the end of the budget period.
FISER RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In 2013, ACH added the Fiser Research Achievement Award to recognitions presented at its signature recognition ceremony, the Ruth Olive Beall and Betty A. Lowe, MD, Awards. At the annual event, the award is presented to an ACRI research scientist who has distinguished himself or herself through extraordinary scientific research that will have lasting impact on the health, development, and well-being of children and their families. Nominations for the award are accepted in the fall, and it is presented in the spring at the annual banquet.

ACRI’s Research Achievement Award is named in honor of the late Dr. Robert H. Fiser, Jr. Dr. Fiser has been described as a true visionary who dedicated his life’s work to the children of Arkansas. As UAMS Department of Pediatrics Chairman from 1975 to 1994, his leadership was instrumental in laying the foundation for the current success of ACRI.

SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Summer Science Program at Arkansas Children’s Hospital, a program co-sponsored by the UAMS Department of Pediatrics and the Arkansas Children’s Research Institute, gives outstanding sophomore-, junior-, and senior-level college students the experience of a career in academic medicine—in both the clinical and the research aspects. The students spend 8 weeks during their summer shadowing physicians, attending rounds and clinics, and touring different hospital units, as well as participating in a mentored research project involving children’s health. Program Director Joanne Szabo, MD, organizes faculty members from various pediatric subspecialties to teach basic science and clinical research techniques and help the students gain exposure to clinical medicine.

To learn more about the program, please visit the program’s webpage at http://www.archildrens.org/experience-arkansas-childrens-hospital/research/summer-science-program/summer-science-program

ACRI COMMUNICATIONS

ACRI communicates to its research community by many means. An intranet site is available through ACH’s on-campus network for internal communication, and an internet site provides information to ACRI researchers, supporters, and anyone interested in our research endeavors. Our newsletters and annual reports document the institute’s successes and accomplishments. ACRI hosts meeting and conferences for our researchers to keep them up to date on ACRI and research activities. In addition, ACRI uses traditional and social media and other outlets to inform the public about the institute.

■ Websites

ACRI provides two websites: an intranet site accessible on the ACH campus with content for its research personnel and an internet site accessible to all with content for researchers and the public.

○ Intranet site

ACRI maintains an intranet site for its researchers and staff. The site provides announcements, funding opportunities, and a calendar of events. Information from ACRI’s quarterly Investigator Meetings is also posted at the site. Researchers and staff can use the site to share documents for grant application preparation and for institute committees. Photos and videos of ACRI-related events and personnel are featured.

COMPoint may be accessed via the following link: http://compoint/ACRI/
ACRI Announcements
This page provides up-to-date notices for researchers concerning ACRI events, accomplishments, funding, policies, and other news of interest.

ACRI Calendar
This online calendar notes upcoming researcher-related meetings, training, and other events.

Weekly Funding Opportunities
Updated weekly, this section of the site presents funding opportunities from federal and intramural sources. The page also provides links to databases and other resources for pediatric research funding.

Shared Documents
ACRI provides institutional information and policies at its intranet site. ACRI researchers can also use this feature to manage documents among members of a grant writing team or committee members.

ACRI Website
ACRI maintains a website that provides information about the institute’s history and mission, profiles of ACRI researchers and administrative staff, and resources for its researchers. The ACRI website provides an overview of clinical trials research for the general public, maintains list of currently enrolling clinical trials, and an electronic form to enroll in the participant database. The website also presents an overview of the Summer Science Program and an archive for Research Update newsletters. The ACRI Annual Report is available at the website.

Newsletters
ACRI produces two newsletters: a monthly newsletter for a broad audience and a weekly newsletter for its researchers and their staffs.

Research Update
ACRI’s monthly newsletter provides news about research on the ACRI campus to ACRI researchers and staff, ACH and UAMS communities, and the general public. Each issue of Research Update leads with a feature describing how the work of an ACRI researcher or research team impacts the health of children in Arkansas and beyond. Other features include recent accomplishments of ACRI researchers. Introductions of new ACRI researchers and administrative staff are included in the newsletter. Recent funding awards and grant applications are listed. Research Update and an archive of past issues are available at ACRI’s website.

Weekly Research Update
ACRI notifies its researchers and research staff of pressing news, meetings, training sessions, funding opportunities, and other urgent announcements through a weekly email, Weekly Research Update. The email provides a brief title of each item that links the reader to the full announcement at ACRI’s intranet site.
Meetings and Conferences
ACRI schedule for meeting and conferences provides researchers with important institutional information, scientific findings, and relative training.

- **Investigator Meetings**
  Quarterly, ACRI hosts Investigator Meetings to provide reports on ACRI matters and a forum for investigator discussion.

- **Research Conferences**
  ACRI holds monthly conferences for visiting and institute researchers to present and discuss recent findings from their pediatric research programs.

- **ACRI Workshops**
  The Regulatory Compliance Office at ACRI sponsors approximately 20 meetings on human subjects research education and conducts meetings and presentations as requested by ACRI researchers. The Grants Writing office provides at least 6 grant writing workshops annually in addition to workshops and presentations upon request.

Social Media
ACRI uses social media to share research news and to recruit clinical trial participants.

- **Facebook**
  Through ACH’s Facebook page, ACRI manages posts announcements and news concerning pediatric research and clinical trials participation. Posts relating to specific clinical trials are IRB approved. Generally, ACRI posts twice a week to the ACH Facebook page. The ACH Facebook page has over 130,000 fans.

- **Twitter**
  ACRI releases two tweets weekly through ACH's Twitter account. The tweets encourage enrollment in ACRI's clinical trials participant database or highlight a currently enrolling clinical trial. Tweets relating to specific clinical trials are IRB approved. ACH's Twitter account has over 10,000 followers.

- **Text Messaging**
  ACRI uses text messaging to contact subscribers about currently enrolling clinical trials. Trial-specific messages are IRB approved.

News Releases
The ACRI Communications office coordinates the creation and distribution of news releases pertaining to ACRI and its researchers with the ACH Marketing & Communications department and the UAMS Office of Communications & Marketing.

Photography
For photography needs, the ACRI communications office can provide basic photography services or assist in acquiring outside photographic services.

Outside Media Inquiries
Researchers may be contacted by media other than the ACH Marketing & Communications department. In these cases, please refer the inquiry to the ACH Marketing & Communications department (info). ACH policy does not allow the use of ACH and ACRI resources or facilities for media purposes for activities outside of ACH- and ACRI-related activities without prior approval.
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

UAMS Arkansas BioVentures (http://bioventures.uams.edu/) and its Technology Licensing Office (TLO) were established as a formal outgrowth of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences’ (UAMS) interest in translating its research into products that benefit human health. The UAMS College of Medicine established UAMS BioVentures to maximize global, industrial interaction with the University of Arkansas faculty, as well as to facilitate technology transfer, the creation of startup companies that are based on UAMS technology invention disclosure, and contributions to Arkansas’ economic development. UAMS BioVentures links the research minds at UAMS to global markets in order to advance Arkansas’ scientific and economic development.

The mission of TLO is to translate UAMS’ publicly funded research into products that benefit human healthcare by supporting the faculty investigators in identifying, disclosing, patenting and licensing their inventions, as well as participation in Arkansas startup companies, and developing strong Arkansas Research Alliances with other research institutions, specifically, the University of Arkansas System, Arkansas State University, the FDA's National Center for Toxicology Research, and the USDA's Aquaculture Station Stuttgart and the medical and biotechnology companies in the Mid-south Region, and creating an infrastructure to support both technology transfer and startup company development.

UAMS BioVentures works to convert Arkansas’ medical and biotechnology research into new companies and high wage jobs for Arkansans by operating UAMS’ startup company incubator program under the guidance of the UAMS Arkansas BioVentures Advisory Board, and developing an interactive network between UAMS, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System and global industries, and supporting a state-of-the-art education and training programs that promote Arkansas’ medical and biotechnology development.

PHILANTHROPY

Throughout its history, ACRI has been the beneficiary of philanthropic individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations. The institute’s foremost partner in its philanthropic successes is the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Foundation. The Foundation is the fundraising arm of ACH and with ACH and ACRI, the ACH Foundation provides patients and their families with excellent patient care, research, education, and prevention. The Foundation has been a partner with ACRI from the time it was just a dream of what might be. In the 25-year period that has followed, the Foundation has helped donors with a keen interest in research connect with ACRI, giving researchers additional resources with which to continue seeking more answers to childhood illnesses and injuries. These forward-thinking philanthropists are an important part of the past, present, and future of ACRI.

Because research revenue alone is not enough to fully support the enterprise, ongoing operational support is critical to help fill in the gaps not covered by project-based grant funding. Among those who give to ACRI for day-to-day, annual support are ACH’s three volunteer organizations, the ACH Auxiliary, Circle of Friends chapters, and Committee for the Future, understand the need for unrestricted annual support and for many years have designated a portion of their fundraising proceeds to support the day-to-day work of research.