

# RESEARCH GUIDEBOOK



**Arkansas  
Children's**  
Research Institute

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## 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 Hospital 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

We champion children by making them better today and healthier tomorrow

### History

ACRI is a not-for-profit corporation owned by Arkansas Children's, Inc. 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 Chief Operating Officer 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.

### Funding

ACRI research support comes from grants and contracts (\$21.5 million in fiscal year 2017) with federal, state, industry and private agencies and from philanthropic donations. Federal funds account for \$14.6 million of ACRI's research support money. Of this federal support, \$7.9 million is from the USDA and \$4.7 million is from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Funds from the State of Arkansas total \$3.8 million. 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 ft<sup>2</sup> 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 Professional Building 2 (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 with the following types of appointments may serve as a Principal Investigator (PI) on grants and contracts managed by ACRI:

- 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 sponsoring mentor)
- Others as approved by ACRI

In general, it is the responsibility of the PI 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 ACRI 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 himself or herself and other project personnel 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 matching commitments made for the project are fulfilled and reported to ACRI in a timely manner;
- Complete Time and Effort Reports. The reporting of time and effort spent on all sponsored projects is a federal requirement. If you have cost sharing obligations in the form of employee effort, you will need to inform department personnel who complete the Time and Effort Reports to input the appropriate percentage of time spent on your project so they can complete the reports;
- Provide care and maintenance of property procured with project funds, in accordance with the sponsor's guidelines;
- Write and submit progress reports as stipulated by the sponsor in the award agreement;
- Review the online financial reports provided by ACRI and closely monitor the project expenditures. If corrections are needed, please notify the **post award office**;
- Complete the final technical report and submit it within the time and in the format specified by the sponsor. Failure to submit timely technical reports can penalize the institution as a whole by possibly making ACRI/UAMS ineligible to receive new awards.

## Proposals

Individuals wanting to conduct research at ACRI must contact the Administrative offices (Ext. 47373). 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.

#### Grants Administrator

Researchers that have decided to submit an application for a funding opportunity should contact the office of the Research Grants Administrator (Ext. 45381). The office will confirm the eligibility of the researcher and coordinate necessary agency registrations by the researcher and the institute. The Grants Administrator is the Authorized Organizational Representative for applications that must be submitted by ACRI.

#### Grant Writing and Budgeting Support

Grant and science writing and editing services are also available free of charge to investigators (Ext. 46296). 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 (Ext. 45143).

#### Regulatory Compliance and Quality Assurance

ACRI provides assistance in developing human research documents and technical help for IRB submissions. The Research Compliance Director (Ext. 43586) and Human Research Auditor (Ext. 42862) provide training on human research and study auditing.

#### Animal Use

Animal Operations (Ext. 42700) 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.

#### Contracts Review

A research attorney (Ext. 43571) 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. 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.

 ACRI Project Tracking - <http://ACRIweb/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.

### **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 completed application, as well as administrative approvals, should be provided to ACRI at least 4 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 support 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 in submitting studies to the institutional review board chosen for the study.

### 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 an Institutional Review Board (IRB). The majority of the human research studies at ACRI are reviewed by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) IRB. Annually, the UAMS 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. Other external IRBs can be utilized for studies taking place on the Arkansas Children's campuses. External IRBs must be accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). Additional approvals are required for external IRB submission. Please contact the ACRI Clinical Trials Administrator for details.

🔗 Central IRB Policy -

<https://compoint.peds.ad.uams.edu/ACRI/ACHRI%20Policies/Clinical%20Trials%20Policy.docx>

🔗 UAMS IRB - <http://irb.uams.edu/>

🔗 CLARA - <https://clara.uams.edu/clara-webapp/login>

### Clinical Trials Administrator

For researchers conducting human subjects research, the Clinical Trials Administrator (Ext. 42760) manages facility, staffing, and fiscal resources. 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-ft<sup>2</sup> 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. Contact the Clinical Research Manager (Ext. 41542) for more information.

🔗 PCRU - <https://www.archildrens.org/research/resources-for-researchers/pcru>

## Research Pharmacy

ACRI maintains a Research Pharmacy at ACH in support of inpatient and outpatient trials at ACH. Its staff of research pharmacists (Ext. 42596) 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.

## 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 3 years.

🔗 Training in the Protection of Human Subjects in Research Policy - <https://compint.peds.ad.uams.edu/ACRI/ACHRI%20Policies/Training%20in%20the%20Protection%20of%20Human%20Subjects%20in%20Research.pdf>

🔗 CITI – [www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org)

## Biorepository

ACRI has organized the ACRI 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. Contact the Biorepository Specialist (Ext. 45112) for additional information.

### **Getting Started – Human Subjects Research**

#### **How do I know if my project is classified as human subjects research?**

Our Research Compliance Director (Ext. 43586) 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 (Ext. 42760) to obtain 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 Research Manager (Ext. 41542). 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 Research Manager.

## 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 ft<sup>2</sup> 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.

### 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.

🔗 CITI - <https://www.citiprogram.org/>

#### **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 (Ext 42710) 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 Director of Animal Operations (Ext 42710) and Research Support Coordinator (Ext. 42700) 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.

## **Biostatistics Core**

The Biostatistics Core at ACRI provides comprehensive assistance with study design, data analysis, and statistical results interpretation. The core is staffed by two doctoral-level statisticians and two master's-level statisticians who are available to support researchers of Arkansas Children's with statistical applications related to basic science, clinical, health outcomes, epidemiologic, and behavioral research. Our statisticians have knowledge and expertise in SAS, open-source R, and SPSS software packages. To request biostatistical support for your research, please contact the Biostatistics Core (Ext. 43184).

## **Project Management**

Upon award of funding to an ACRI researcher, the institute 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.

### **Accounting**

A Research Account Coordinator (Ext. 46554) maintains online systems for accounting, grant tracking, and electronic ordering.

### **Quality Assurance**

The Research Compliance Director (Ext. 43586) assists with issues of compliance to federal regulations.

## **Shared 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 (Ext. 47519) oversees the maintenance and installation of equipment at ACRI. ACRI also has shared equipment available for its researchers.

### **Facilities**

The Facilities and Equipment Manager (Ext. 47519) 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 (Ext. 41911) 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. Security measures at all entry points include monitored cameras and card readers. The ACH Security department 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 lend 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 (Ext. 42710).

## 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. 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 SharePoint site.

 Visitors Policy -

<https://compont.peds.ad.uams.edu/ACRI/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 SharePoint site.

## Recognition Programs

ACRI acknowledges the potential and importance of its researchers' work through competitive intramural grant programs, publications recognition program, and annual research achievement award.

### Intramural awards

ACRI offers five 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.

🔗 Intramural Grant Programs - <https://www.archildrens.org/research/resources-for-researchers/intramural-grant-overview>

### ACRI/ABI Discovery Acceleration Initiative in Pediatric Medicine Investigator-Initiated Research Award

The ACRI/ABI Discovery Acceleration Initiative in Pediatric Medicine Investigator-Initiated Research Award Program is made possible with funds provided to ACRI from the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement via the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI). The funding opportunities were designed to specifically promote the goals of the ABI. Award amounts vary each year. Letters of Intent are due on June 1, and full proposals from those invited to submit applications are due August 1. The program limits eligibility to investigators who are either located on the ACH campus or conduct research on the ACH campus. A special emphasis panel reviews and scores applications, and upon recommendation by the ACRI President, the ACRI Board of Directors approves final funding decisions. Find a full program description at [https://www.archildrens.org/media/file/ACRI\\_ABIDiscoveryAccelerationInvestigatorInitiated2018.pdf](https://www.archildrens.org/media/file/ACRI_ABIDiscoveryAccelerationInvestigatorInitiated2018.pdf)

### ACRI/ABI Discovery Acceleration Initiative in Pediatric Medicine Program Project Planning Grant

The ACHRI/ABI Discovery Acceleration Initiative in Pediatric Medicine Program Project Planning Grant Program is made possible with funds provided to ACRI from the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement via the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI). The funding opportunities were designed to specifically promote the goals of the ABI. Award amounts vary each year. Letters of Intent are due on June 1, and full proposals from those invited to submit applications are due August 1. The program limits eligibility to investigators who are either located on the ACH campus or conduct research on the ACH campus. A special emphasis panel reviews and scores applications, and upon recommendation by the ACRI President, the ACRI Board of Directors approves final funding decisions. Find a full program description at [https://www.archildrens.org/media/file/ACRI\\_ABIDiscoveryAccelerationProgramProject2018.pdf](https://www.archildrens.org/media/file/ACRI_ABIDiscoveryAccelerationProgramProject2018.pdf)

### ACRI/ABI Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant Awards

The ACRI/ABI Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant Award intramural grant mechanism was created to support investigator-initiated, hypothesis-driven (goal-directed) research directed by trainees conducting pediatric research on the ACH campus. Eligible candidates include those with MD, PhD, MD/PhD, PharmD, or PharmD/PhD degrees who are in their second year of postdoctoral training. All trainees must apply with a mentor who is a fulltime UAMS faculty member. Find a full program description at [https://www.archildrens.org/media/file/ACRI\\_PostdoctoralFellowshipAward2018.pdf](https://www.archildrens.org/media/file/ACRI_PostdoctoralFellowshipAward2018.pdf)

### **Nursing and Allied Health Research Awards**

The Nursing and Allied Health Research Award intramural grant mechanism was created to support investigator-initiated, hypothesis-driven (goal-directed) research directed by nurses and allied health professionals conducting pediatric research on the ACH campus. Eligible candidates include those with a terminal professional degree required for their discipline. If the applicant is pursuing a graduate degree, that applicant must include a detailed mentoring plan and a mentoring statement by an ACH staff member. A full program description can be found at [https://www.archildrens.org/media/file/ACRI\\_NursingAndAlliedHealth2018.pdf](https://www.archildrens.org/media/file/ACRI_NursingAndAlliedHealth2018.pdf)

### **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. A full program description can be found at [https://www.archildrens.org/media/file/ACRI\\_MarionB2018.pdf](https://www.archildrens.org/media/file/ACRI_MarionB2018.pdf)

### **President's Choice Publications**

Periodically, the ACRI President reviews research publications submitted by ACRI researchers. Two are selected as President's Choice Publications. These publications are featured in *Research Update*, ACRI's newsletter, and the ACRI intranet site.

### **Fiser Research Achievement Award**

In 2013, ACH added the Fiser Research Achievement Award to the recognitions presented at its signature recognition ceremony, the Ruth Olive Beall and Betty A. Lowe, MD, Awards. At the biennial 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 biennial 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. The Program Director (Ext. 46527) organizes faculty members from various pediatric subspecialties to teach basic science and clinical research techniques and help the students gain exposure to clinical medicine.

🔗 Summer Science Program - <https://www.archildrens.org/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.

🔗 Intranet Site - <https://compoint.peds.ad.uams.edu/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. The ACRI Annual Report is also available at the website.

🔗 ACRI Website - <http://ACRI.archchildrens.org/>

## 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 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* - <https://www.archildrens.org/research/research-update>

### *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.

## Annual Report

Each year, ACRI provides an overview of the institute's accomplishments in its annual report. *ACRI Annual Report* includes features on recent successes and achievements of its researchers and graphics of financial information. The report presents a summary of promotion of its clinical trials recruitment and the work of high school and college students in the Summer Science Program. The printed report is mailed to ACRI donors and supporters and to members of the ACRI, ACH, and ACH Foundation boards and provided to faculty recruits, research collaborators, philanthropic organizations, and others interested in pediatric research. An electronic version of the report is posted at the ACRI website.

## Social Media

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

### **Facebook**

Through Arkansas Children'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 148,000 fans.

### **Twitter**

ACRI releases approximately two tweets weekly through Arkansas Children'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. Arkansas Children's Twitter account has over 16,000 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 Research Communications Director (Ext. 42469) 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 (Ext. 46445). ACH policy does not allow the use of ACH and ACRI resources or facilities for media purposes for activities outside of ACH and ACRI without prior approval.

## 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 Foundation. The Foundation is the fundraising arm of Arkansas Children's. 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 two volunteer organizations, the ACH Auxiliary and Circle of Friends chapters, 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.

🔗 Arkansas Children's Foundation - <http://giving.archchildrens.org/>

## Technology Transfer

UAMS Arkansas BioVentures 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.

🔗 UAMS BioVentures - <http://bioventures.uams.edu/>

## Collaborating Institutions

### Arkansas Children's Hospital

Arkansas Children's Hospital, established in 1910, is a 370-bed, private, non-profit hospital with an active medical staff of more than 500. ACH is the only health care facility in Arkansas dedicated exclusively to children and one of the largest pediatric hospitals in the nation. Located in Little Rock in the center of the state, it serves a population base of approximately 5 million people in Arkansas and surrounding states. ACH is dedicated to offering medical services to all children regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, or ability to pay

The ACH campus covers 32 city blocks over 64 acres with a floor space totaling over 2,050,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Inpatient specialty units include cardiovascular, newborn, and pediatric intensive care units; orthopedics; hematology/oncology; renal dialysis; extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and many others.

ACH serves as a teaching hospital for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), the only medical school in Arkansas, and is home to the UAMS Department of Pediatrics. Medical students, residents, and other health-related professionals receive their primary pediatric training at ACH. UAMS faculty composes most of the over 500 physicians on the ACH staff.

🔗 Arkansas Children's Hospital - <http://www.archildrens.org/>

### University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) provides the only medical and pharmaceutical education in Arkansas. Located less than two miles from the ACH campus, it is the state's largest, most comprehensive facility for medical treatment and biomedical research. UAMS is the state's largest basic and applied research institution, with more than \$107 million in annual research funding, grants and contracts and internationally renowned programs in multiple myeloma, aging, cancer and other areas. The Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Health Related Professions as well as the Graduate School and regional programs are located at UAMS. UAMS employs more than 5,000 health professionals and graduates nearly 600 MDs, PhDs, nurses, pharmacists, and allied health professionals each year.

The Department of Pediatrics is the largest department of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine in Little Rock, Arkansas. The main offices of the Department are located on the campus of Arkansas Children's Hospital, a long-time clinical and teaching affiliate of UAMS. The two institutions coordinate clinical service, educational programs and research initiatives among pediatrics faculty and other university faculty. Pediatrics faculty are also assigned to selected areas within University Hospital and physicians from the department provide clinical services on a regular basis to regional clinics around the state. Pediatrics staffing totals more than 1,000 employees, including more than 190 faculty members and 950 professionals, paraprofessionals, and support staff working in 28 sections in the department.

🔗 UAMS - <http://www.uams.edu/>

🔗 Department of Pediatrics - <https://pediatrics.uams.edu/>

### Arkansas Biosciences Institute

The vision for the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI) emerged during a statewide planning process for use of the state's share of the 1998 nationwide tobacco settlement. Health care leaders across

the state spoke out in favor of dedicating a portion of the tobacco settlement funds to innovative research that could help reduce or prevent smoking-related illnesses.

Arkansas voters eventually endorsed the proposed Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act of 2000 by 64 percent in a referendum in November 2000. The Arkansas General Assembly enacted the provisions of that proposal as Acts 1569 through 1580 of 2001. Part of that legislation established the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI) as a consortium of five research institutions: Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH); Arkansas State University (ASU); the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture; the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF); and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). The legislation designated the president of the University of Arkansas System to chair a board of directors for the institute, with the board to include the senior executive of each member institution as well as two members to be appointed by the Governor.

State funds include support from the Arkansas Biosciences Institute, created as the major research component of the Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act of 2000.

🔗 Arkansas Biosciences Institute - <http://arbiosciences.org/>

## **ACRI Staff Directory**

A directory of ACRI’s administrative staff is available on the ACRI website.

🔗 Administrative Staff Directory - <https://www.archildrens.org/research/about-acri/contact-us>