

Report from RDPG Clinical and Translation Science Sub-Unit (CTSS)

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The National Center for Research Resources will announce the next round of Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) this spring. As of early next year all General Clinical Research Centers (GCRCs) will be at the end of their funding cycle and will be competing for the CTSA if they have not already received this grant. It is truly the end of an era for the staff and the investigators who produced outstanding research at these centers. While several GCRCs are awaiting the results of their CTSA application, several sites are working on completing renewals. Those institutions that received the CTSA on the first round of funding in 2006 are now showing the results of five years of CTSA research. This change represents a challenge to Bionutritionists across the country who are working to determine the best ways to support investigators under the CTSA system. For more information about which institutions have received the new grant please visit http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/clinical_research_resources/clinical_and_translational_science_awards/interactive_awards_map/awards/. By following the link for individual institutions you can learn more about the research being conducted at each site.

This past fall was a busy time for the RDPG CTSS. The sub-unit developed an online survey for RDPG members, which was sent out to the electronic mail list (EML) in October 2010. The purpose of this survey was to determine the level of awareness of the CTSA within the RDPG community. We had a great response with over 100 members completing the survey. The answers indicated that while over 60% of respondents

are aware of the CTSA, less than 50% know whether their institution is a recipient of the grant. This result, along with the fact that only 33% of respondents have utilized a CTSA site or GCRC, brings about a clear goal of linking nutrition researchers with the resources at CTSA sites. I am happy to be that link between RDPG members and CTSA sites. If you would like to know if there is a CTSA at your institution or in your area please do not hesitate to contact me and I will connect you with the Bionutritionist closest to you.

In collaboration with the National Association of Bionutritionists (NAB) the RDPG CTSS hosted a meeting at Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo (FNCE) in Boston. Members of the NAB, who support the nutrition research at CTSA's, have a wealth of knowledge and can offer any researcher support and expertise on a wide range of services. Bionutritionists from the Harvard Catalyst and University of Florida spoke at the sub-unit meeting at FNCE and described the extensive list of services available. Mara Vitols, DrPH, MPH, RD, a RDPG member and researcher, shared her experience at the GCRC at Wake Forest University. She is grateful for the expertise the GCRC has provided and she has accomplished much with the staff's support. We hope this meeting was just the start of a strong collaboration between NAB and the RDPG. While the two groups do have similarities with their focus on nutrition research, they can also learn from each other and work together with outstanding results.

The goal of both these endeavors was to facilitate collaboration

between RDPG members and the NAB. The result of this relationship will be more comprehensive nutrition research.

Emily is the Bionutrition Research Manager, General Clinical Research Center, University of Vermont.

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a starvation study which in its own way was as important as world peace.

References

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