



Director's Report



Amit Acharya, BDS, PhD
Executive Director

Before I begin discussing activities at MCRI, I'd like to take a moment to express that like many of us at MCHS my thoughts are with the residents of Texas and Louisiana dealing with Hurricane Harvey and the recovery efforts underway. My sincere prayers are with them and the responders assisting with the hurricane's aftermath. I would also like to [direct you to Dr. Turney's email](#) sent earlier. As she mentioned, MCHS will match its employees' donations to relief efforts and provided instructions on how to ensure your contribution is included in the matched donation.

"The key is in not spending time, but in investing it." -Stephen R. Covey

As I write my second report on Research Matters, I was reminding myself as to how fast *Time* goes by – it is already Week Eight since I accepted my new role and was taking a quick pause to reflect on how best am I investing my time in the various administrative, operational and scientific leadership activities related to MCRI. In this report I want to provide key updates on several activities that have been taking shape within MCRI in the past few weeks.

I am happy to share that I have transitioned to my new administrative office in the 1R3 area thanks to some of my colleagues at COSH and some special help from my daughters. Please do not hesitate to stop by if you see me in my office. I am so thankful to be working with so many passionate people who believe in research and the mission of MCRI. We are what we do on a daily basis and my sincere thanks to you all for what you do!



While on the topic of office spaces, I want to thank all those individuals from Scientific Writing, CRC, COSH, BIRC and others groups who have been on the move to their new spaces to support the MCRI growth in key research areas. I personally know how much it takes to move offices and have a special appreciation for your willingness to accommodate this request to support our research needs. A special thanks to Ms. Jan Kaiser and Dr. Jen Meece for coordinating and helping with these office moves. I can now say that we have moved one step closer to making better use of our research space.

I am very happy to share key federal grant-funding success by our investigators in oncology research, personalized medicine and influenza research. I am very excited to share that these grants are multi-year and total over \$11 million. I want to congratulate and thank Dr. Onitilo, Dr. Brilliant, Dr. McLean and their respective scientific/administrative groups on this key success and hard work. I want to wish them all the very best for the next phase of their projects and want
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to assure that MCRI administrative and support offices are here to provide the necessary support and leadership as we move forward. Additional information on these key projects will be available in future *Research Matters*.

MCRI administration has invested substantial financial resources in the amount of \$900,000 in key priority areas to improve research infrastructure, MCRI staff training to support research studies and enable professional development opportunities. I am confident that this decision will bring significant return on investment in the areas of further enhancing external collaboration, key publications and presentations as well as recognition for MCRI and our Health System.

I have also been learning about the purpose and function of the existing committees and making changes to some based on the advice from the MCRI senior leadership group. Key MCRI working groups have been or being established to operationalize, implement and report back on our strategic plans. Center Administrators and some managers are in the process of identifying key barriers and potential solutions for the many processes that are the backbone to support research. A working group is engaged in the design and publication of 'MCRI Year in Review' report. Center Directors are getting together to discuss the scientific priorities and future growth of MCRI. You will be hearing more details about the several activities and milestones achieved by these groups in the coming weeks.

As you can see, there are lots of exciting things that are happening and I request your patience and investment of your time in the right areas that matter to support the growth and recognition of our organization. With your support, I have no doubt in my mind about the high level of growth, success and stability that we can achieve together in the months and years to come.

"We are not a team because we work together. We are a team because we trust, respect and care for each other." – Vala Afshar

MCRI On The Move



STAFF UPDATES

Dr. Neel Shimpi has accepted the **Associate Research Scientist** position at the **Center for Oral and Systemic Health (COSH)** and began her new role on August 7, 2017. Dr. Shimpi has a bachelor's degree in dental surgery from India and a master's degree in Healthcare Management with a major in healthcare informatics from Cambridge College of Management in Massachusetts. Dr. Shimpi also has diplomas in clinical research and hospital administration. Most recently, she completed her doctoral degree in

Biomedical and Healthcare Informatics at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee with a focus on Healthcare Information Systems. Dr. Shimpi's research interest lies in medical and dental informatics, artificial intelligence, oral and systemic health connections, developing clinical decision support tools, provider and patient education and electronic health records.

LOCATION UPDATES

The **COSH staff** has relocated to **ML3**. The scientific writing and editorial staff previously located at ML3 have moved to the following areas: **Emily Andreae - GR3, Marie Fleisner - ML1, and Sherry Salzman Scott - 1R4**.

OPPORTUNITIES

- **BIRC** currently has the following positions available: **Research Specialist-MS Informatics (part-time)** and **Project Scientist I, PhD**.
- **Sponsored Programs** is hiring an additional **Grants and Contracts Specialist**.

All 3 positions are eligible for an ERP bonus if your referred candidate is selected. Applicants should visit HR's [Career Opportunities](#) webpage to apply.

MCRI Welcomes New Staff

Patrick Allaire, PhD recently joined the **Center for Human Genetics (CHG)** as a **Research Postdoctoral Fellow** under the mentorship of CHG Research Scientist, Scott Hebbring, PhD. Dr. Allaire received his undergraduate degree from the University of Montreal and his master and doctorate degrees from McGill University, Montreal, Canada. Dr. Allaire's past work experience includes postdoctoral fellowships at Montreal Neurological Institute and University of Utah. His primary area of interest at MCRI is harvesting and mining genomic data with the goal of improving preventive healthcare methods and contributing to precision medicine. In his free time he enjoys the outdoors, cycling, competing in triathlons, cross-country skiing and backpacking/mountaineering.

Tiffany Bredeck joined the **Clinical Research Center (CRC)** on July 24 as an **Oncology Research Nurse** in Weston. Tiffany obtained her Associate Degree in Nursing in 2015 and also holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. She previously worked at Aspirus Hospital.



Kimberly Daane joined **CRC** on July 10 as an **Oncology Research Coordinator Associate** in Eau Claire. Kim recently graduated from University of Wisconsin Stout with a Master's degree in Psychology. She has previously worked as a Psychology Lab Assistant having assisted with planning a research study, reviewing literature, designing a survey, testing study participants, collecting and analyzing study data, and writing a grant for a study.

Stephanie Engelen joined **CRC** on July 24 as an **Oncology Research Nurse** in Stevens Point. Stephanie has been a nurse since 2000, beginning her career at Riverview Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids followed by the last 11+ years working with Ministry Hospice. Stephanie is also an Adjunct instructor for the MSTC nursing program and working towards the completion of her graduate degree in Nursing Education. She brings with her a great deal of patient care experience in the acute care and home care setting, as well as supervisory and education experience.

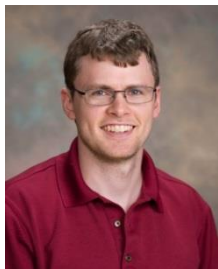


Sandra Lodell joined **CRC** on July 10 as an **Oncology Research Nurse** in Minocqua. Sandy holds a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Concordia University. She has recently moved back into the Minocqua area to be near her family; she brings with her 15 years of nursing experience with the last 11 years in Oncology.

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New Staff

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Jordan Roush joined the **ICR team** in **BIRC** on **July 24th** as a programmer/analyst. Jordan graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems (Web and Digital Media Development minor) from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. He has eight years of development experience overall. Outside of work Jordan enjoys developing games, playing piano, lifting weights, and making bad puns.

Stephen Theis has accepted the **Research Coordinator Associate** position with the **Clinical Research Center - Multispeciality**, effective September 11th. Steve holds a Bachelor degree in biology from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. He currently works as an analytical chemist for a pharmaceutical company, responsible for quality control testing of all products that enter the facility, as well as all products leaving for sales. Steve brings valuable experience operating within established lab protocols, and has been working under the direction of FDA and GMP regulations.

Recent Publications and Grants

Each month, MCRI researchers and MC clinical investigators are active publishing journal articles and seeking research funding. Please select the hyperlink to view recent [publications](#). There were no new grants received in July.

If you have recently published an article or received a grant or an award and want it included in the next issue of *Research Matters*, please contact Patti Baer at baer.patricia@mcrf.mfldclin.edu

Marshfield Flu Study Published in New England Journal of Medicine

The August 10, 2017 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine included a research article on "[Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness in the United States during the 2015-16 Season](#)." This article reported the results from the U.S. Flu VE Network demonstrating that the live attenuated vaccine (FluMist) was not effective in children. The estimated vaccine effectiveness was only 5% for FluMist compared to 60% for inactivated vaccine in children. The overall vaccine effectiveness was 53% against the H1N1 strain. The study included about 6,900 participants with acute respiratory illness, including 1,216 who were enrolled at Marshfield Clinic. The study findings were presented to the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in 2016, and they contributed to the decision to not recommend FluMist use in 2016-17 or 2017-18. The U.S. Flu VE Network is funded by CDC and includes Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, University of Michigan, University of Pittsburgh, Baylor Scott & White, and Kaiser Washington. Marshfield coauthors on the New England Journal paper were Ed Belongia and Huong McLean.



The Flu Study Team at MCRI's Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Population Health (CCEPH)

Farming as Medicine: Child Asthma Study Joins National Network

The National Institutes of Health announced an important initiative in 2016 to bring together studies throughout the United States in order to learn more about diseases, such as asthma and allergies that affect many children. The Wisconsin Infant Study Cohort (WISC) has now joined with 11 other studies to learn about environmental influences on allergies and asthma during childhood, said Marshfield site Principal Investigator Dr. Cap Bendixsen. This new study is called CREW (Children's Respiratory Research and the Environment Workgroup), and includes studies from mostly urban areas and suburban areas throughout the United States. As part of CREW, the WISC study will be sharing and comparing information about early life environmental exposures and its effects on children's health. WISC is the only participating study located in rural America.



COSH Project Scientist Presents about Oral Health to Bariatric Surgery Patients



Dr. Ingrid Glurich, project scientist at the Center for Oral and Systemic Health (COSH), was given the opportunity to speak with patients who had undergone bariatric surgery about post-surgical side effects during a scheduled support group session. After an increasing number of patients who had the surgery began approaching Kim Fuehrer, Bariatric Program Coordinator in Marshfield with questions concerning unexpected emergent oral health issues, Kim reached out to COSH for help addressing these concerns. The presentation promoted health literacy around the topic, and

presented patients with practical guidelines and best practices for preventing or minimizing onset of post-surgical dental and oral side effects that may occur in a subset of patients undergoing these surgeries. Two sessions were presented in Marshfield with outreach to regional centers and drew a strong turnout among the bariatric support group members, with approximately 40 patients in attendance.

The day ended with a question and answer session. The steering committee has a post-event conference call planned for early September to review conference evaluations and to consider a second workshop to be hosted by Marshfield Clinic Research Institute in 2018, after the new Rule has gone into effect.



Save the Date! Auction of Champions, September 21

The 2017 Auction of Champions is set for Thursday, Sept. 21, at RiverEdge Golf Course, Marshfield. This year's dinner gala features live and silent auction packages, and a Game Show theme. It is the largest annual fundraiser for the National Farm

Medicine Center, supporting agricultural research and outreach, including the *Journal of Agromedicine*. For information contact Tiffany Halan, 7-9189.

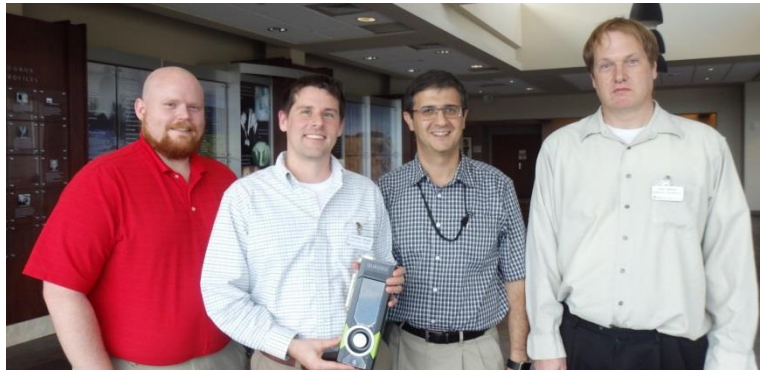
MCRI Co-Sponsors IRB Workshop

On August 21, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute had the opportunity to co-sponsor, along with UW-Madison and PRIM&R, a day-long workshop on IRB preparedness for the implementation of the newly revised Common Rule (45 CFR 46). Linda Jaros, Research Compliance Officer and Lori Scheller, IRB Administrator served on the planning committee and Linda took part in a panel discussion.

2017 marks the first time the human subjects regulations have been updated since their initial Federal Register appearance in the early 1980's. The workshop was presented free of charge and staff from every registered IRB in Wisconsin was invited. Attendees included representatives from universities from across the state, community hospitals, and health systems. Keynote speaker John Baumann, PhD, Associate Vice President for Research Compliance at Indiana University, gave an overview of some potential challenges presented by the Rule change. Three issues that generated the most interest included if and how institutions would apply the new rules to existing research studies, similar questions about application of the rules to non-federally funded research, and opinions about implementing broad consent for specimen research. Single IRB mandate was of concern to the smaller research programs who had not gained experience with that model.

NVIDIA Supports BIRC's Deep Learning Computational Vision Projects

Biomedical Informatics Research Center (BIRC) researchers were awarded an NVIDIA Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) Grant for their accomplishments and ongoing research projects involving deep learning computer vision, and its application in medical image analysis. They were selected from a highly competitive set of applicants. The NVIDIA Corporation is a prestigious platform company in the computer science community that focuses on professional visualization, parallel processing, data centers, and high performance computational resources. The NVIDIA GPU Grant is dedicated to empowering and collaborating with scientists and researchers at universities and research institutions worldwide. It aims to inspire cutting-edge and highly technological innovations, particularly for computationally intensive machine intelligence algorithms, deep learning, and computer vision strategies.



BIRC researchers (l-r): Eric LaRose, Jon Badger, Dr. Ahmad Pahlavan Tafti, and John Mayer.

Biadasz Family Donates \$40,000 to Establish State Manure Gas Monitor Rebate Program

The Biadasz family continues to inspire and mobilize those who love farming and who share grief over the 2016 death of Mike Biadasz, 29. Through safety workshops, fundraising events and media outreach, this family from Amherst, Wis., is living proof of the power of a story. On July 28, the Mike Biadasz Farm Safety and Education Memorial Fund presented a \$40,000 check to the National Farm Medicine Center and Marshfield Clinic Center for Community Outreach. The funds will be used to establish a rebate program for farmers who rent portable gas monitors. Mike Biadasz died when he accidentally inhaled a lethal dose of hydrogen sulfide gas emitted from the farm's manure pit. A case report was published in the August 18 [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).



SRIP Research Symposium Available Online

On Thursday, August 10th, MCRI hosted its annual Research Symposium to conclude the Summer Research Internship Program. The symposium began with opening comments from Dr. Amit Acharya, MCRI Executive Director and Jill Kurszewski, MCHS Foundation Gifts Officer for Research. The presentations were followed by a luncheon in the Erdman Lobby with staff, scientists, and physicians to celebrate the hard work of our interns.

Abstracts for each presentation can be [read online](#) and a recording of the Symposium is [available for viewing](#).



The success of our Summer Research Internship Program is due in part to the strength of our mentors who guide undergraduate and graduate students through the process of conducting a research study. Thank you to all who made this commitment!



Volunteer Opportunity

South Wood County Mobile Food Pantry

Marshfield Clinic and Security Health Plan partnered on a contribution to the South Wood County Mobile Food Pantry located at 441 Garfield Street in Wisconsin Rapids. There will be a food distribution event **Wednesday, September 27**. For more information about the volunteer opportunities, click [here](#). For a volunteer waiver/release form for the food pantry, click [here](#).

Upcoming Talks and Presentations

Scientific Seminars (Froehlke Auditorium)

Wednesday, September 27th

12:05pm-1:00pm

“Focused Immune Responses to HA-Stem – Search for a Universal Influenza Vaccine”

Adrian McDermott, MSc, PhD, Chief, Immunology Core Laboratory, NIH Vaccine Research Center

Grand Rounds (12:15-1:00 p.m. in the Froehlke Auditorium)

Friday, September 1st

Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis from 1964-2017, or, Too Much Data, Not Enough Action?!

Jason Tompkins, MD, MPH, Marshfield Clinic Infectious Diseases Consultant

Friday, September 8th

Medication Use in Pediatrics

Angela Brenner, PharmD, Pharmacist - Senior Lead, Marshfield Medical Center

Friday, September 22nd

Pneumonia Update for the Non-Specialist

E. Ann Misch, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Disease, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine and Public Health UW-Madison

In Addition:

- The next MCRI Full Staff meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2017 at 2:00PM in the Froehlke Auditorium. Questions can be routed or emailed to Jeanette Normington at 1R3 or normington.jeanette@marshfieldresearch.org.
- The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on September 13, 2017 at 6PM in the Laird 50 conference room.
- For the latest UW-ICTR news, please visit: <https://ictr.wisc.edu/news/>.
- For updates on the Wisconsin Network for Health Research (WiNHR), please visit: <https://ictr.wisc.edu/winhr>
- The Marshfield Clinic Research Institute website can be accessed through this link: <http://marshfieldresearch.org/>.
- Archived issues of *Research Matters* are [available online](#).

Contributors to this issue: Dr. Amit Acharya, Patti Baer, Yvonne Cerne, Scott Heiberger, Linda Jaros, Jeffrey Joyce, Stephanie Karl, Jeanette Normington, Dr. Ahmad Pahlavan Tafti, Michelle Wellsandt.

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