



## Marshfield Clinic® Research Institute



# Research MATTERS

December 2017

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## Director's Report

**Amit Acharya, B.D.S., Ph.D.**  
**Executive Director**

On November 16, 2017, we honored the life of Mr. Melvin R. Laird at Marshfield. I never had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Laird in person. Learning about him and meeting his family was a momentous event. Mr. Laird was a force of nature and shaped our organization to where we are today. His passion for research and lifelong support of the Marshfield Clinic's research endeavors has set the stage for all the innovative and cutting edge research that is currently being conducted as well as those to come in the future of MCRI. Mr. Laird often said, "All the research in the world is not worth very much if you don't get it to the patients." This is a philosophy that is so deeply embedded in how I perceive the role of research and his quote struck a chord with me.

To fly, a caterpillar has to metamorphose into a butterfly and involves many changes as it goes through the process. The same analogy applies to us as we grow and are in between many positive changes at the Institute that will have significant impact on our future. As we embark on a journey

focused around better integration and translation of medical research into patient care, I want all of us to think of Mr. Laird and the legacy that he has left behind for the future of research and patient care at MCHS. Never underestimate the impact a single individual can have. Every interaction that we have is an opportunity to positively impact the culture and the quality of work that we deliver at our Institute and beyond.

My initial focus since I took the office of the MCRI Executive Director has been geared around refining key operational process/workflow and building collaborations among our research centers and offices. I am amazed by how individuals from different centers and offices have come together to identify barriers and developing solutions to making positive changes to our operations. Some examples of the activities include:

- Service barriers and solutions workgroup comprised of center research administrators and managers have been actively reforming key areas of research support at MCRI. They went through identifying service barriers as it relates to our Sponsored Program and have laid out detailed solutions that are currently being implemented. They are now shifting their focus on Fiscal support activities for MCRI.
- The Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Task Force comprised of a few scientists and Ms. Stueland has developed and submitted a proposal to cultivate a strong postdoctoral fellowship program at MCRI. The proposal prioritizes the development of a mentor program for post-docs in order to 'Advance the Quality of Research Processes and Practices.'
- We are in the process of establishing a MCRI shared research support platform which is part of the 'Hub and Spoke' model (Center of Excellence for Service). I will be working closely with the leadership team of the MCRI shared research support group (Directors of Integrated Research and Development Lab (IRDL), Office of Research Support Services (ORSS) and Office of Research Computing and Analytics (ORCA)) to further enhance the quality of services, communication and accountability that each of their groups will be providing to better support the mission of MCRI and research being conducted at our research centers and beyond.

- We have established a MCRI capital prioritization group to assess the key needs in the areas of infrastructure/space, facilities, research equipment, hardware and software. A prioritized list of the above will help us to be proactive and engage with the new MCHS capital request process.

We have also started focusing on strategic positioning of MCRI within our health system and exploring how best to creating the value proposition for our health system entities. I will be sharing additional information as we move forward with all the initiatives. Here are few areas:

- The Marshfield Medical Center (hospital) is exploring ways to move from a Level-2 to Level-1 trauma center in the coming years. Key among the competencies for achieving a Level-1 trauma center is being able to conduct trauma research by our surgeons. A group of MCRI scientists and staff have been working on a proposal and are currently in the process of engaging with the MCHS leadership and trauma surgeons.
- I will be serving on the Clinical Care Operational Leadership Team (CCOLT) of Marshfield Clinic (MC) to share updates between MCRI and CCOLT. This is a key platform to highlight the important work being conducted at MCRI as well as keeping MCRI in the loop on vital MC operational topics.
- I will also be serving on the System Wide Community Health Steering Committee. The primary responsibility of this steering committee is to provide support, guidance, and oversight of community health and community benefit strategies for the Marshfield Clinic Health System. The Steering Committee is made up of representatives from various entities throughout the health system with a vested interest in community health and/or community benefits. This will provide us a key opportunity to better understand all the community health projects that are ongoing or in the pipeline and collaborate/provide our research expertise on those projects that can benefit.

It is such an honor to lead a top class research enterprise in the nation like MCRI and I am so thankful for everything that you all are doing to support the mission of our organization. I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season!

"Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together." James Cash Penney (Founder of JC Penney).

# MCRI Welcomes New Staff

## Glen Bluth



**Glen Bluth** joined **BIRC** on September 11th as a **Research Programmer Analyst**. While working as a Pharmacy Technician with Marshfield Clinic he attained his Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science Degree, UW Wood County, and his Associate in Applied Science Degree, Mid-State Technical College, in May 2017. As an employee of TEK Systems, contracted with St. Joseph's Hospital, Glen developed experience training physicians to use Centricity and Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE). Before deciding to change careers, Glen owned and operated a small town grocery and has 15 years of combined service as a fire fighter for Winnebago, MN and Bruce, WI, before moving to this area.

## Lisa Kunst



**Lisa Kunst** recently joined the **Center for Human Genetics (CHG)** as **Project Manager** for the *All of Us* Research Project. She received her BS and MS degrees from Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri. Her formal post-graduate education includes completion of a Project Management Certificate Program as well as Lean Six Sigma training. Additionally, she recently received her Project Management Professional certification through the Project Management Institute.

Ms. Kunst previously worked as a Project Manager at Skyward in Stevens Point prior to joining CHG. Her healthcare background includes serving as Medical Education Program Coordinator & Provider Liaison in the Provider Recruitment and Retention department at Ministry Medical Group and as Clinical Education Coordinator for the Mid-Missouri Area Health Education Center. In her spare time, Ms. Kunst enjoys attending local festivals, exploring our many State and County parks, volunteering at the Humane Society and spending time with her nine nieces and nephews, as well as her two dogs and two cats.

## Krystin Rendell

**Krystin Rendell** has accepted the **Research Coordinator Associate** position with the **Clinical Research Center**, effective October 2nd, 2017. Krystin holds a bachelor degree in biology (and studio art) from Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. She is currently working as a Dental Lab Technician with Dental Crafters, and has experience as a Physical Therapy Technician as well. Krystin's experience working with patients and dentists will serve her well in her new role with Multispecialty research.

## Jason King

**Jason King** joined MCRI on September 18th as an **Accountant in Fiscal**. He received his BS degree in Business Administration from Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota. Mr. King previously worked as an Accountant at Grassland Dairy in Greenwood, WI prior to joining MCRI. In his spare time, Mr. King enjoys attending sports events, competing in sporting activities, visiting family across the United States but most importantly spending time with his daughter and wife, as well as his two cats and dog.

## Parijat Sharma

**Parijat Sharma** has accepted the **Research Coordinator Associate** position with the **Clinical Research Center**, effective October 2nd. Parijat holds a bachelor degree in chemistry from University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. He is currently working as a QC Technician for Sherwin Williams, and has worked with Covance Laboratories in the role of Analyst. Parijat brings

valuable experience operating within established lab protocols, and has been working under the direction of FDA and GCP/GLP regulations. This experience will serve him well with his new role in Multispecialty research.

## Faith Matheka

**Faith Matheka** has accepted the **Research Coordinator Associate** position with the **Clinical Research Center**, effective October 2<sup>nd</sup>. She will be located in our Western division, primarily at the Lake Hallie center, while we grow our research operations in Eau Claire. Faith is a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, and holds a bachelor degree in chemistry (*with an emphasis in biochemistry*). Faith is very excited to be joining our program, where she hopes to continue growing her passion working in the medical field.

## Mackenzie Francisco



**Mackenzie Francisco** joined the Center for Human Genetics as **Research Project Coordinator** for the *All of Us* Research Project. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. Ms. Francisco previously worked in Phase I Clinical

Pharmacology at Covance in Madison, Wisconsin, as a Clinical Research Coordinator. In her spare time, Mackenzie likes to hike and camp at our many State parks and hopes to explore all of them in the near future.

## Katherine Graebel-Khandakani



**Katherine Graebel-Khandakani** recently joined the Center for Human Genetics as a **Research Coordinator** for the *All of Us* Research Project. She received her undergraduate degrees in Biology and German from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. She is also certified in Human Services and Psychology. Ms. Graebel-Khandakani previously worked as a research coordinator on respiratory syncytial virus and flu virus studies. When she is not working, Katherine likes to go hiking with her children and skiing during the winter months.

## Molly Wight



**Molly Wight** recently joined the Center for Human Genetics as an **Associate Research**

**Coordinator** for the *All of Us* Research Project. She received her undergraduate degrees in Zoology and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Ms. Wight previously worked as a research coordinator managing Phase II and III cancer treatment trials. She also worked at St. Clare Meadows Care Center in Baraboo, Wisconsin, as a Certified Nursing Assistant. In her spare time, Molly enjoys hiking and birdwatching.

## Shane Stuard



**Shane Stuard** recently joined the Center for Human Genetics as an **Associate Research Coordinator** for the *All of Us* Research Program. He received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee and his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh. His previous work experience includes working as a research coordinator on a Lyme disease study. Mr. Stuard also worked as a Third Party Administrator for a healthcare company. In his spare time, Shane loves outdoor activities such as hiking and snowshoeing. He is an avid cyclist – primarily mountain biking and snow biking – and enjoys cooking. Shane and his wife have one dog and two cats.



## Kasey Midthun



**Kasey Midthun** joined CRC on September 11 as an **Oncology Research Nurse** in Eau Claire. Kasey holds a BSN from Alverno College in Milwaukee. She comes from the UW Hospital system in Madison. She has most recently worked in the Bariatric program. Prior to this position she worked as a chemotherapy RN at Carbone Clinic and at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

## Becky Tussing



**Becky Tussing** joined CRC on September 11 as an **Oncology Research Nurse** in Rice Lake. Becky moved to the area from Kentucky with her fiancé. She holds an Associate degree in Nursing and a BSN completion from Capella University. She has practiced as a nurse since 1998 and has a rich body of experience that includes her beginning in

cardiac and critical care and expansion in to clinic care and supervisory and management.

## Becky Maronde



**Brenda Maronde** joined CRC on October 16 as an **Oncology Research Nurse** in Marshfield with a primary focus on Breast/GYN studies. Brenda brings 20 years of nursing experience as an OB/GYN nurse, lactation consultant, Nurse educator and charge nurse. She has recently moved to Central Wisconsin settling in Marshfield with her husband and family.

## Dawn Barker

**Dawn Barker** has accepted the **Research Coordinator Associate** position with the **Clinical Research Center**, effective November 27th. She will be located in our Eastern division, primarily at the Weston center. Dawn is a recent graduate from Walden University, with a bachelor degree in health studies. She has also held a Medical Assistant certification since 1998. Dawn's first priority will be to train and work on the upcoming Cepheid RSV/Flu trial.

## Jordyn Dieman

**Jordyn Dieman** has accepted a temporary **R.C.A.** position with the **Clinical Research Center – Multispecialty Program**, effective November 20. She will be located in our Northern division, working with Ariel Marcoe on the upcoming Cepheid RSV/Flu trial in Minocqua. Jordyn is a recent graduate of UW-La Crosse, with a bachelor degree in Community Health Education/Public Health. She has been working with CCEPH since June 2017 on the Sophia Lyme study. This experience will serve her well as she transitions to our program.

## Tosin Olaiya



**Oluwatsoin (Tosin) Olaiya, MBChB, MSc** joined CCEPH as a **Project Scientist** from CDC where she was an Epidemiologist in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. Tosin received her medical training from Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria and has a Master of Science degree in Global Health Science from the University of Oxford, UK. She completed additional training at CDC in the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS). At MCRI, Tosin is primarily working on a CDC-funded study to assess patterns of influenza transmission within households. In addition, she serves as an investigator in the CDC funded Vaccine Safety Datalink, including

a project that is examining the risk of spontaneous abortion following seasonal influenza vaccination. What attracted Tosin to MCRI was the unique opportunity of a well-defined population with linked clinical data on which she could employ her epidemiologic research skills while learning a new research topic- Influenza! Since moving to Marshfield, Tosin has loved being away from so much city hustle and bustle, especially the road traffic. She enjoys meeting new people and talking about cultures and traditions that shape people's way of life.

## Kayla Hanson



**Kayla Hanson, MPH** joined **CCEPH** this fall as an **Epidemiologist – Masters Prepared** to manage MCRI's participation in the CDC-funded Vaccine Safety Datalink. Kayla is a recent graduate from the University of Minnesota where

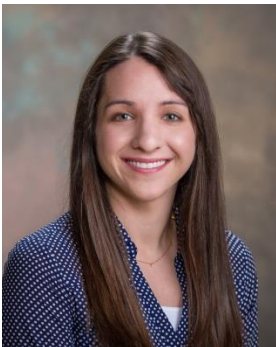
she received her Master of Public Health in epidemiology. Her thesis was focused on national trends in parental intent to vaccinate their teens against HPV and reasons for vaccine hesitancy. Kayla also has experience with disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, and study coordination through work with the Minnesota Department of Health. She was drawn to CCEPH because of its long-standing history conducting infectious disease and vaccine research, as well as glowing endorsements from colleagues. In her free time Kayla enjoys reading, exploring new places, and spending time with family and friends.

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## MCRI On The Move

### Staff Updates

#### Molly Dowden



**Molly Dowden** recently accepted the **Project Manager** position in **CRC-Multispecialty** and is slated to move in to her new role on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Molly holds a Bachelor degree in Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She brings a unique perspective to this role, having a background in pharmaceutical manufacturing, research, and compliance. Molly has an upbeat, professional demeanor which has served her well in establishing positive relationships with colleagues and leadership. Her thorough understanding of the organization will be a valuable asset to our Team.



#### **Project Manager for the Center for Oral and Systemic Health (COSH) receives PMP certification**

Annie Steinmetz, Project Manager-Senior for the Center for Oral and Systemic Health (COSH), recently earned her Project Management Professional (PMP) certification. The PMP certification is issued by the Project Management Institute (PMI) and is recognized internationally. Annie will be able to apply the knowledge gained from preparing and completing this certification to current and future COSH projects.



## Dairy industry publication features series on emergency responder project

Progressive Dairyman is covering the Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health (RF-DASH) project in a four-part series. [Part 1](#), authored by Casper Bendixsen, is an introduction to this innovative project from the National Farm Medicine Center. RF-DASH is an intervention project intended to leverage the highly trainable and esteemed rural firefighter and EMS community towards improving farmer health and safety in their coverage areas. The project is led by Dr. Bendixsen. The project team includes Kate Barnes, M.S., M.P.H., as well as key collaborators at Penn State University and the University of Washington. This project is supported by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC-NIOSH), in collaboration with the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (Grant # U54 OH010170).

## CCBI Paper Accepted to IEEE Big Data 2017



Dr. Ahmad P. Tafti recently had a paper entitled “bigNN: an open-source big data toolkit focused on biomedical sentence classification” accepted at IEEE Big Data 2017. Acceptance rate for the IEEE Big Data 2016 was about 18.7%. Dr. Tafti, Ehsun Behraves, Mehdi Assefi, Eric LaRose, Jonathan Badger, Dr. John Mayer, Dr. AnHai Doan (UW-Madison), Dr. David Page (UW-Madison), and Dr. Peggy Peissig collaborated on the paper which aims at developing a big data biomedical sentence classifier with the use of advanced artificial neural network model composed of Apache Spark. Combining a variety of the internal neural network parameters, they presented a predictive model that obtained the auROC of 0.875 on a massive dataset downloaded from PubMed (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>). Using a moderate size of data, they obtained the auROC of 0.904. IEEE Big Data 2017 conference will be held December 11-14, 2017 in Boston, MA.

## MCRI Paper Published on Microbial Diversity on Dairy Farms

Marshfield Clinic Research Institute research staff led by Sanjay K. Shukla, Ph.D., CHG Senior Scientist, recently published a research article, “The nasal microbiota of dairy farmers is more complex than oral microbiota, reflects occupational exposure, and provides competition for staphylococci,” [in the PLoS One journal](#). Dr. Shukla and team studied the connection between occupational/environmental exposure of microorganisms and their impact on dairy farmers. This is the first study showing that the bacteria found in the noses (2.15x more vs. non-farmers) and mouths (1.5x more vs. non-farmers) of healthy dairy farmers is more diverse than non-farmers. Farmers also had lower abundance of *Staphylococcus* species, some which are known “opportunistic” pathogens. Such microbial diversity may help protect farmers against allergic and autoimmune diseases. This study also sets the foundation for future research into the farm-as-medicine concept.

### Recent Publications and Grants

Each month, MCRI researchers and MC clinical investigators are active publishing journal articles and seeking research funding. A listing of publications is posted monthly on the [MCRI website](#).

Here are the grants received for [August](#), [September](#) and [October](#).

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@marshfieldresearch.org](mailto:baer.patricia@marshfieldresearch.org)





## Compliance Notes

### NIH Updates Certificates of Confidentiality Policy

**Linda Jaros,  
Research Compliance Officer**

As of October 1, 2017, researchers no longer need apply to NIH for a Certificate of Confidentiality (CoC). Protections will be assigned automatically to research that is 1) funded wholly or in part by NIH; 2) supported through grants, cooperative agreements or contracts; and 3) collects or uses identifiable, sensitive information.

NIH defines sensitive information as: information that is gathered or used during the course of biomedical, behavioral, clinical or other research where: an individual is identified, or for which there is at least a very small risk that some combination of the information, a request for the information, and other available data sources could be used to deduce the identity of an individual.

If a CoC has been issued, a researcher must not:

- Disclose or provide, in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceeding, the name of such individual or any such information, document, or biospecimen that contains identifiable, sensitive information about the individual and that was created or compiled for purposes of the research, unless such disclosure or use is made with the consent of the individual to whom the information, document, or biospecimen pertains.
- Disclose or provide to any other person not connected with the research the name of such an individual or any information, document, or biospecimen that contains identifiable, sensitive information about such an individual and that was created or compiled for purposes of the research.

The CoC change applies to all research that started or was ongoing on or after December 13, 2016, and as of October 1, is included in the NIH Grants Policy

Statement as a standard term and condition of award. A major change is that NIH will no longer provide CoC certificates. Researchers must instead determine whether their research qualifies, and if so, the NOGA and Grants Policy Statement serve as documentation of CoC protection.

CoCs are also issued by other Health and Human Services agencies including CDC and FDA. If your research is funded by CDC or operating under the authority of the FDA, please continue to contact the CoC Coordinators at those agencies. Complete information is available at

<https://humansubjects.nih.gov/coc/index>

## HCCA Holds Regional Conference



**Molly Dowden, Research Compliance  
Project Manager**

On September 15, the Health Care Compliance Association (HCCA) hosted its Regional Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The conference brought together compliance professionals from healthcare, medical research and health insurance institutions as well as medical drug/device manufacturers. The conference started with a discussion about updates to the healthcare industry and included a Q&A session. Next, an investigator from the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) provided an overview and update on the administration and enforcement of the HIPAA privacy, security and breach notification rules. The next session provided a refresher on research billing compliance and how to design audits to determine if clinical trial billing is appropriately charging the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for research-related medical charges. Representatives from UnitedHealthcare held a panel discussion on their preparation process for CMS Part C & D program audits. Part C relates to CMS Medicare Advantage (private insurance companies providing Medicare benefits) reporting requirements, whereas Part D is associated with Original Medicare (stand-alone plan) prescription drug coverage. Representatives from



Medtronic's Office of Ethics and Compliance provided an overview of how their corporation developed a pipeline for funneling innovative medical device development in a compliant and efficient manner. The conference wrapped up with a discussion on how to prepare meaningful compliance reports for board meetings, which tailor the reports based on the interests of your board and discuss key metrics important to the institution. If anyone is interested in obtaining more details and/or the slides from the sessions, please contact Linda Jaros.

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## BIRC's Research Scientist Invited Guest Speaker at CPCP meeting



Dr. Ahmad P. Tafti, Associate Research Scientist, BIRC, was pleased to be asked to be the guest speaker for the Center for Predictive Computational Phenotyping (CPCP) meeting at UW-Madison, October, 10, 2017. CPCP is developing innovative computational and statistical methods and software for a broad range of problems that can be cast as computational phenotyping. CPCP is supported by the National Institutes of Health Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Initiative.

Dr. Tafti's presentation discussed BIRC's recent scientific contribution in adverse drug events (ADEs) analysis with the use of artificial neural networks composed of big data infrastructures. BIRC is one of the first to investigate a big data artificial neural network strategy for ADEs discovery on massive datasets downloaded from PubMed Central and social media. This contribution illustrated possible capacities in big data biomedical text analysis using advanced computational methods with real-time update from newly published data on a daily basis.

## CCEPH Scientist Requested to Present Study Findings to ACIP

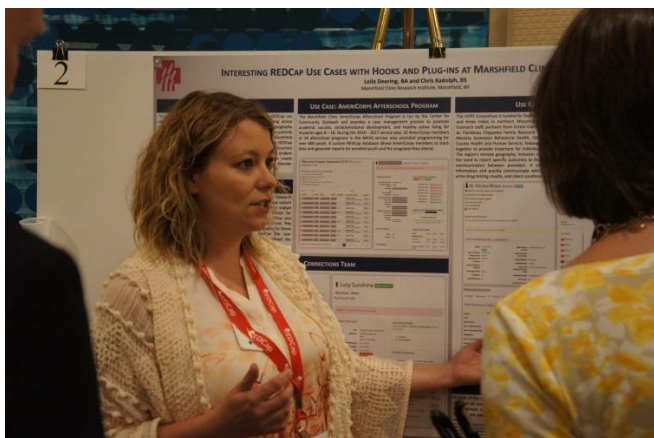
Center for Clinical Epidemiology & Population Health (CCEPH) scientist, James Donahue, DVM, Ph.D., MPH, was requested to present recent study findings to the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in November. ACIP is a group of medical and public health experts that develop recommendations on use of vaccines in the United States. Dr. Donahue's study, in partnership with the CDC funded Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), sought to determine if influenza vaccine containing pH1N1 antigens was associated with miscarriage, the most common serious adverse event of pregnancy.

The study was published in the journal *Vaccine* in September, but ACIP requested a presentation to members because the results raised concerns about the safety of influenza vaccination during early pregnancy. The study found a significant association between miscarriage and receipt of flu vaccine in the prior 28 days, and this association was seen only in women who had also been vaccinated in the previous flu season. This finding was unexpected and differed with an earlier study which found no association between miscarriage and vaccination.

Dr. Donahue presented these findings to ACIP and described a follow-up study that is currently underway. The follow-up study will assess repeated vaccination and miscarriage in pregnant women, and it will include more recent influenza seasons (2012-13 through 2014-15). Results are expected in late 2018 or early 2019. Influenza is dangerous for pregnant women and their children, and ACIP members supported additional research while continuing to recommend influenza vaccination during pregnancy. [Visit the CDC webpage](#) for more information about this study and current recommendations.



Marshfield Clinic investigators included Jim Donahue DVM Ph.D., Burney Kieke MA, Jennifer King MPH, Maria Mascola MD MPH, and Edward Belongia MD.



## MCRI Represented at REDCapCon

Leila Deering, Application Analyst, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute Biomedical Informatics Research Center, presented a poster entitled Interesting REDCap Use Cases with Hooks and Plug-Ins at Marshfield Clinic Health System at REDCapCon in New York City in August. Joined by Chris Kadolph, Programmer/Analyst, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute Biomedical Informatics Research Center, Leila will presented four novel REDCap use cases, including the HOPE Consortium platform for health information exchange. Importantly, Leila and Chris's poster mentions the state-funded HOPE Consortium and all of its partners by name, noting that, "The region's remote geography, inclusion of numerous partners with varying record keeping systems, and the need to report specific outcomes to the funder necessitate a data tracking tool that also encouraged communication between providers. A custom REDCap database allows providers to track patient information and quickly communicate with other regional providers regarding appointment attendance, urine drug testing results, and client condition."

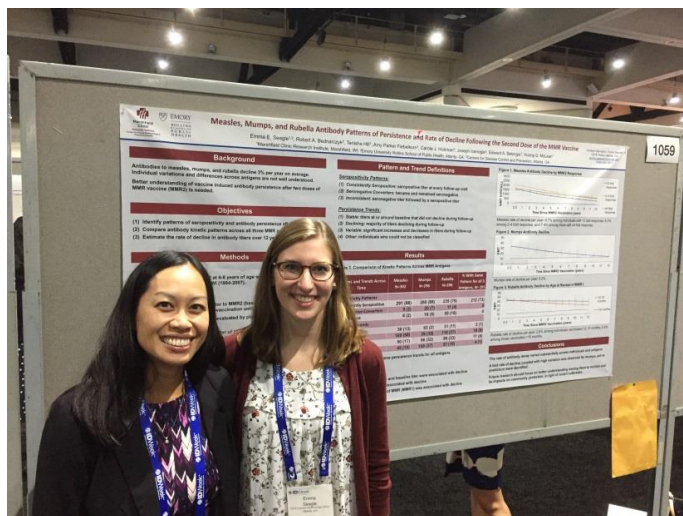
## Oral health information presented to participants of Marshfield Clinic's 7th Annual Diabetes Conference

Alok Panny, Research Specialist for the Center for Oral and Systemic Health, presented information and provided valuable educational materials on how oral health affects diabetes to healthcare providers and community members at Marshfield Clinic's 7th Annual Diabetes Conference at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wausau, Sept 29th and 30th 2017.

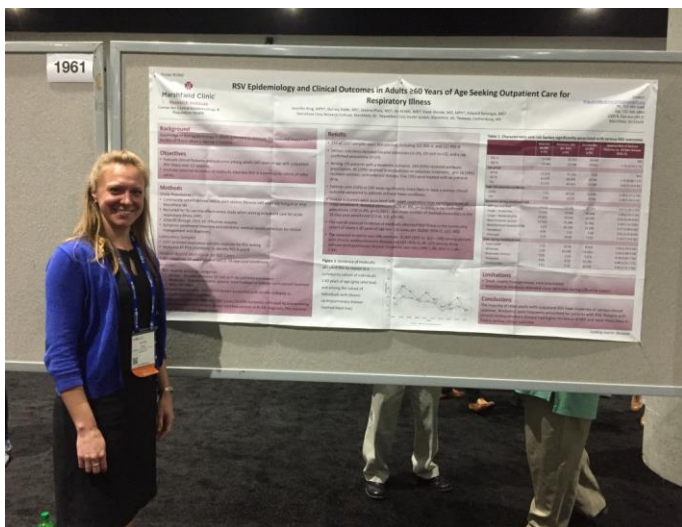
## Center for Human Genetics Research Staff Attend Individualizing Medicine Conference

Jeff Joyce, MS, Research Specialist, Emili Leary, PharmD, Research Pharmacist, and Jixia Liu, Ph.D., Post-doctoral Fellow - Research, attended the 2017 Individualizing Medicine Conference at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, on October 9-10, 2017. The conference focused on a multidisciplinary approach to learning more about the practical applications of genomic and pharmacogenomic medicine and how to integrate precision medicine therapies into patient care. The knowledge and insight gained is beneficial as the Center for Human Genetics prepares to launch *All of Us* Research Program and other future precision medicine studies.

## CCEPH Scientists Present at ID Week



CCEPH researchers presented findings from recent studies on influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine at ID Week in San Diego, Oct 4-8. Huong McLean, PhD, gave an oral presentation on prior season influenza vaccination and risk of vaccine failure with the live attenuated influenza vaccine (FluMist) and inactivated influenza vaccine in children. Jennifer King, MPH, presented a poster on RSV epidemiology and clinical outcomes in older adults seen as outpatients in the Marshfield Clinic Health System. Emma Seagle, MPH, former SRIP intern, presented her thesis work on patterns of persistence and decline of measles, mumps, and rubella antibody following receipt of the second dose of MMR vaccine.



IDWeek is an international infectious disease meeting sponsored by the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) and three other professional organizations.

Links to the presented abstracts and associated Marshfield Clinic authors are below.

**[Impact of Prior Vaccination History on Risk of Vaccine Failure with Live Attenuated and Inactivated Influenza Vaccines in Children, 2013–14 through 2015–16](#)**

Authors: Huong McLean, Edward Belongia

**[RSV Epidemiology and Clinical Outcomes in Adults ≥60 Years of Age Seeking Outpatient Care for Respiratory Illness](#)**

Authors: Jennifer King, Burney Kieke, Joanna Pluta, Ali Al-Hilli, Edward Belongia

**[Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Antibody: Patterns of Persistence and Rate of Decline Following the Second Dose of the MMR Vaccine](#)**

Authors: Emma Seagle, Tenisha Hill, Edward Belongia, Huong McLean

## \$300k donation supports precision medicine research fellowship

The Ebenreiter Family, long-time supporters of Marshfield Clinic Health System, have again stepped forward with a generous donation, this time supporting precision medicine research.

Tom and Sally Ebenreiter, who first were treated at Marshfield Clinic more than 30 years ago, have donated to support cancer research at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute (MCRI). Now their generosity now includes a \$300,000 gift to help scientists and physicians use genetics to treat and prevent disease.

“Genetics has always been of interest to me,” Sally said. “When this opportunity came to help further genetic research, I was pleased to support a Marshfield Clinic research fellowship in precision medicine. This certainly is a vital study for the future of patient care in the areas of prevention, detection, and treatment.”

She and her late husband gave the lead gift to help establish the Tom and Sally Ebenreiter Distinguished Physician/Scientist Endowment in Oncology Research in 2014, currently held by Adedayo Onitilo, M.D., Ph.D., Oncology service line director.

The Center for Human Genetics is already collecting data for a genetic biobank to help physicians determine how patients might respond to common drug treatments. The results will be integrated into patients’ electronic health records, so that each patient receives the right treatment in the right dose at the right time.

“These funds will be used to support a young researcher’s career in studies that will not only serve to train the next generation of scientists, but will also advance knowledge to transform future health care,” said Murray Brilliant, Ph.D., director of the MCRI’s Center for Human Genetics. “We envision a world where we don’t just treat disease, but one where we anticipate and prevent disease.”



## Better safety through data



A project newly-funded by the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center is taking a deep dive into workers' compensation and agricultural employer datasets. The goals of the proposed research are to 1) aggregate sufficient data from multiple sources to characterize specific injury risk factors for the most severe and costly injuries in animal agriculture production, and 2) develop corresponding injury prevention and control protocols that can be utilized by producers, managers, and insurance loss control professionals. Dr. Bryan Weichelt, working with the project PI, Dr. Bruce Alexander, will lead development of algorithms to characterize injury events using text data from the worker compensation claims data and company reports of injury.

## Improving Safety and Health in Cattle Feedyards

The cattle feedyard sector has exceptionally high non-fatal injury and illness rates. Turnover among feedyard employees is high; many have little experience and no safety training. There is increasing recognition that reducing injuries and illnesses among workers is a critical part of retaining a skilled workforce, decreasing losses and improving sustainability. Dr. Cap Bendixsen has been asked to join a team from the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH) in Omaha, Neb., to develop a culturally appropriate feedyard safety and health training program. This is a four-year project funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Bendixsen will start by interviewing feedyard managers and workers using the multi-sited ethnography method. The project will then evaluate the program's effectiveness.



## Summer Research Internships Offered at MCRI

The Marshfield Clinic Research Institute (MCRI) is currently accepting applications for the 2018 Summer Research Internship Program. The primary goal of the program, which started in 1974, is to provide a mentored, hands-on research experience for college undergraduate, graduate, dental, and medical students considering a career in research.

Students work with research scientists on an independent project and contribute to all aspects of the research process. Students also lead a journal club discussion, prepare an abstract describing their research, and present their research findings at the annual Research Symposium on August 9th. Opportunities to attend medical Grand Rounds, scientific seminars, and shadow clinicians are also available.

Applicants must be currently enrolled as a full- or part-time college or university junior or graduate student (including graduating seniors intending to go on to graduate/medical/dental school). Students are expected to work full-time for the duration of the program. In addition to earning an hourly wage, student interns are provided housing in Marshfield.

Research areas include Biomedical Informatics, Cultural/Medical Anthropology, Epidemiology, Genetics, and Oral and Systemic Health.

For information about specific projects available this summer or to read more about the application criteria, please visit the [Summer Research Internship Program](#) website.

Application deadline is January 15, 2018.

## Sponsored Programs Update

### Approval process for grant funded expenditures streamlined

With the assistance of Molly Dowden and Linda Jaros, Sponsored Programs recently issued several new policies to streamline the approval process for grant funded expenditures and to provide further guidance on the utilization of grant funds:

[Expenditures on Sponsored Projects](#)

[Procedure for Budgeting and Utilization on Sponsored Projects](#)

[Budgeting and Charging Postage and Shipping to Sponsored Projects](#)

[Budgeting and Charging Administrative Time and Effort to Sponsored Projects](#)

By implementing these new policies, prior approval from Sponsored Programs is no longer required for grant funded expenditures, with the exception of the following cost categories:

Foreign travel

Subcontract payments

Drugs for clinical trials

Capital equipment (> \$3,000)

Initial charge for patient care costs

Please contact Deb Hansen, Accounting Manager – Grants and Gifts with any questions regarding the approval process or budgeting procedures.

## Auction raises \$260,000 for farm safety

Sporting a TV game show theme, the 2017 Auction of Champions, held Sept. 21 at RiverEdge Golf Course, raised \$260,000 for support of agricultural safety and health research and outreach. The annual gala featured live and silent auction packages. A special appearance by the family of Mike Biadasz, the young beef farmer who lost his life to hydrogen sulfide gas a year ago, spurred donations of more than \$50,000 to the Fund-a-Need portion of the auction. Proceeds from the auction provide support for the *Journal of Agromedicine*, skin cancer screening, the Wisconsin ROPS Rebate Program and other National Farm Medicine Center initiatives.



## MCRI staff make time for a little Halloween fun



Left image: L-R: CRC team members Angie Bulgrin, Nicole Karl, Susan Franseen, Deb Schillinger, Melissa Slager

Right image: L-R: COSH team members Ingrid Glurich, Yvonne Cerne, and Dixie Schroeder.



## Volunteer Opportunities

The Nutrition On Weekends (NOW) program is a collaborative, community effort to provide healthy, easy-to-prepare nutritional foods for children – children whose parents don't have enough food to feed them on the weekend. We need your help to pack lunches for these kids!

### Thursday, February 15, 2018

Time: Noon-1 p.m.

Location: Conference Room LL207, lower level Main Building

### Thursday, March 15, 2018

Time: Noon-1 p.m.

Location: Conference Room LL207, lower level Main Building

### Thursday, April 19, 2018

Time: Noon-1 p.m.

Location: Conference Room LL207, lower level Main Building

### Thursday, May 17, 2018

Time: Noon-1 p.m.

Location: Conference Room LL207, lower level Main Building

What to Bring: Your helping hands – all food items provided through United Way

If you are available to help on any of these dates, please e-mail Patti Bell ([bell.patricia@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:bell.patricia@marshfieldclinic.org)) the dates that work for you.



## Upcoming Talks and Presentations

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

#### Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

Preventing Shingles: Update on Herpes zoster and New Vaccine Recommendations  
Edward Belongia, MD, Center Director of Epidemiology, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute

## In Addition:

- The next MCRI Full Staff meeting is scheduled for November/January 25, 2017 at 10:00AM in the Froehle Auditorium. Questions can be routed or emailed to Jeanette Normington at 1R3 or [normington.jeanette@marshfieldresearch.org](mailto:normington.jeanette@marshfieldresearch.org).
- For the latest UW-ICTR news, please visit: <https://ictr.wisc.edu/news/>.
- The Marshfield Clinic Research Institute website can be accessed through this link: <http://marshfieldresearch.org/>.
- Archived issues of *Research Matters* are [available online](#).

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