

## Director's Report



Frederick Wenzel,  
Interim Executive  
Director

I want everyone to join me in welcoming our summer interns. This is a program which has a long history at the foundation and we are pleased this year to have six students with us for the summer. The students and their mentors are Grayson Cole, and his mentor Dr. Acharya; Colin Korlesky with mentor Dr. McPherson; Matthew Eidenschink with mentor Dr. Hebbing; Yiqing Zhao and mentor Dr. He; Fran Lendacki and her mentor Dr. McLean; and Emma Seagle also with Dr. McLean as her mentor.

You also may have read Dr. Turney's comments about the STEM Program which is sponsored by the Foundation in memory of one of our staff, Donna David who lost her life in a bicycle accident last year. Donna was one of those outstanding individuals who not only a great staff member and senior research associate but a great teacher as well. The STEM Program sponsored by MCRF in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America provided an opportunity for 39 elementary school students to have real hands-on laboratory experience in a variety of scientific areas. The leadership team is made up of staff from MCRF, SHP, volunteer nonregistered leaders and leader/volunteers. Congratulations to the entire group.

On another front the MCRF hosted the Marshfield High School SMART Team with presentations on May 24, 2016. The program was moderated by Sanjay Shukla, PhD of the MCRF staff. He also mentored the students along with instructor Amy Fassler. Topic 1 was "PKU-Mutations in Phenylalanine Hydroxylase" presented by Roma Shah and Haenia Kahn. Topic 2 was "Emergence and Spread of NDM –1 Reveals Novel Superbugs" presented by David Gui, Michael Gui, Andrew Rall, Eric Schultz, Kyle Scholz and Ayush Shukla. Both presentations were outstanding. The SMART Team program is a program of the Milwaukee school of engineering through its center for biomolecular modeling. The high school students develop teamwork as they inquire into the molecular world, explore science is a process and not necessarily a collection of facts. They have a researcher mentor who helps them understand and model the structure-function relationships of a protein in research studies.

On still another front I would like to thank our Department of Education for hosting the Wenzel science seminar for high school students and their faculty from all over the state of Wisconsin. The conference this past year had over 150 participants which is a record in the program's 26 year history. I mentioned all of these things to demonstrate the interest that the Marshfield Clinic Health System and its entities have in young people and has developed programs to interest, energize, and motivate these young people in science and healthcare. I'm sure there are other programs that are more individualized involving students from other universities as well. These young people have a great advantage as they stand on the shoulders of those already engaged in science and health care delivery.

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I'm also pleased to announce that Stu Guenther, a recently retired Clinic pharmacist, will rejoin our staff as chairman of the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Stu had an opportunity to meet with many old friends among the board and staff of IRB at its last meeting and the transition is planned for mid-June. Anna Schotthoefer, PhD, the retiring chairman, will expand her research centering on tick-borne diseases.

## Associate Director's Report



Steve Ziemba,  
Associate Director

Today, as I am writing this column, organizations engaged in clinical research around the world are celebrating International Clinical Trials Day. We wrote about this day at this time last year, but as a refresher, it was on May 20, 1747 when James Lind, a surgeon in the British Royal Navy, started his study on the identification of an agent for the effective treatment of scurvy. At the time, scurvy was thought to be caused by "putrefaction" of the body. Acting more on a hunch that acids could be used as a cure, he investigated six agents, including cider, dilute sulfuric acid, vinegar, sea water, citrus fruits, and a paste of garlic, mustard seed and radish root. As we now know, scurvy is the result of Vitamin C deficiency, and as such the use of citrus fruits was

found to be effective. This was not only a breakthrough in terms of the treatment of a disease that was the bane of sailors, but Lind's study is also considered the first prospective clinical trial. International Clinical Trials Day provides us the opportunity to recognize all those individuals involved in clinical research. You can read more on this important point in history at

<http://www.jameslindlibrary.org/>.

I want to thank our physician and scientist investigators and clinical research professionals for their work, and for engaging with our community and patients in providing clinical trials as a valuable resource for healthcare. MCRF's involvement in clinical trials may be more extensive than most people realize. At first, one may feel clinical research only impacts CRC, which has an extensive portfolio of hundreds of studies in oncology, cardiology, neurology, infectious disease, and multiple other medical disciplines. However, CRC is not the only group engaged in clinical trials. CCEPH, as well, has developed an impressive expertise in clinical trials focused on vaccines, particularly influenza and RSV. IRDL serves as the national central laboratory for vaccine study sample processing and analysis. BIRC provides data for study feasibility and assessment, in order to help in the decision if a clinical trial is appropriate for our location and patient population. In many ways, too, CHG, NFMC, and IOSH have been involved in leading



projects that were themselves clinical trials or related in some fashion, such as the development of PMRP by CHG, the investigation of Farmer's Lung and farm safety by NFMC, and the development and implementation of a tooth sealant registry by IOSH. And let's not forget Research Administration and Resources, including Scientific Writing, IRB, Sponsored Programs, Fiscal Affairs, and CM&R, which along with Research Compliance; provide the foundation upon which studies can be conducted. In short, clinical research is an extensive and integral part of MCRF, and their variety reflects the spectrum of research we do.

## BIRC Welcomes New Staff Member



**Ross Kleiman** has joined BIRC as a **Research Specialist**. Ross is “interested in using machine learning techniques in conjunction with electronic medical record (EMR) data to design algorithms suited for both computer aided diagnostics and prognostics. Specifically, I am interested in pan-diagnostic predictions that aim to determine the major health events individuals will encounter based on their current health record.”

Ross grew up in Westfield, N.J. After graduating Rutgers University with a B.S. Biomedical Engineering, he moved to Madison, WI where he worked for Epic for 2 years prior to starting his Ph.D. at UW Madison in Computer Science. Ross continues toward his PhD while working with us here in BIRC.

## NFMC Project Manager Earns Doctorate

Congratulations Dr. Bryan Weichelt! The National Farm Medicine Center project manager “walked across the stage” on May 22 at UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena with his doctorate in Biomedical and Health Informatics. The Iraq War veteran served eight years in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, leaving the service as a Captain in 2012. This past weekend, he was one of three graduates whose inspirational stories were [featured on video](#) at the commencement ceremonies. Dr. Weichelt was already working on a doctorate when his newborn identical triplet boys were diagnosed with a rare virus, Human Parechovirus Type 3 after a two-month hospitalization and an international search for answers, called by some a “medical mystery.” He finished his studies while holding a full-time job at NFMC and continuing to help on his family’s fourth-generation dairy farm near Stratford. “The ability to finish this program in spite of everything else going on in my life – I don’t know if it is a testament to me, but it is certainly a testament to my wife Stacey and the sacrifices that she has made.” Dr. Weichelt has a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology from UW-Stout, a BA in Criminal Justice from UW-Eau Claire, a Master of Science from UW-Stout, and a Master of Business Administration from UW-Whitewater. His wife Stacey is the Dietitian and Director of Food Service for the Marshfield School District. They have four children: Lily, 3; and triplets Logan, Mason, and Dylan, age 19 months.



Dr. Bryan Weichelt on the Jumbotron at UW-Milwaukee’s Panther Arena.

## Second Postdoctoral Fellow begins at IOSH



Adham Abdelrahim, B.D.S, a practicing general dentist in Illinois recently accepted one of the two NLM funded Oral Health Informatics Postdoctoral Fellowship within IOSH. He started at IOSH on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be working closely with Dr. Yakub Elias, Urgent Care Physician (co-mentor) and Dr. Amit Acharya on 'Dental Emergency Pilot Program: A New Approach To Decrease Non-Traumatic Dental Related Emergency Department Visits' project.

Dr. Abdelrahim completed his Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency from Michigan. An oral surgery externship at Detroit Receiving Hospital, an oral surgery (M.Sc.) residency from Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt and his Bachelor of Dental Surgery (B.D.S.) from Ibb University, Ibb, Yemen (Graduated in 2006) with a scholarship. He is passionate about pursuing a research career and also has a strong interest in informatics and health information technology. Dr. Abdelrahim's research interest lies in the area of health-services research, dental public health research and oral biology/genetics.

Dr. Abdelrahim has also been accepted by the NIH funded National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) program's Grant Writing Workshop and will be attending later this Spring.

More information about the oral health informatics postdoctoral program and application materials can be obtained from the Computation and Informatics in Biology and Medicine Training Program (CIBM) Training Program at <http://www.cibm.wisc.edu/>

## MCRF On The Move

"MCRF On The Move" is a recurring section of *Research Matters* where you can find information about the new roles, new locations, and new opportunities for MCRF staff.

**Daniel Wall** begins his new role as **Associate Center Administrator** for the Biomedical Informatics Research Center (BIRC) on June 12th. Daniel is a graduate of UW Platteville with a degree in Engineering. He brings many years of project management and process improvement experience and has extensive knowledge of the MCRF administrative systems.

Marshfield Clinic's **Employee Referral Program (ERP)** is intended to reward employees who refer candidates for open positions. This program promotes the referral of candidates from external sources and provides employees who refer such candidates with the opportunity to earn a referral bonus in accordance with the program guidelines.

Visit HR's [Employment Center](#) website to learn whether any ERP-bonus eligible positions currently available are appropriate for a qualified candidate you would like to refer.

## Recent Publications, Grants, and Awards

This column is to highlight recent accomplishments of MCRF researchers and MC clinical investigators.

Please select the hyperlink to view recent [publications](#) and [grants](#).

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](mailto:baer.patricia@mcrf.mfldclin.edu)

For more, please visit <http://www.marshfieldresearch.org/>

## MCRF Scientist invited to present at WHO meeting



Dr. Ed Belongia was invited to participate in the “WHO/PAHO Regional Meeting on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination in the Americas”, which was held in Santiago, Chile this spring. The meeting addressed influenza issues in Latin America and the Caribbean, including seasonality in tropical and subtropical regions, vaccine supply and demand, measurement of vaccine effectiveness, maternal vaccination, use of quadrivalent vaccines, operational challenges and data quality. Dr. Belongia presented the results of a

meta-analysis on influenza vaccine effectiveness by type and subtype that was recently published in [The Lancet Infectious Diseases](#).

## MCRF Researcher Interviewed on WPR

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Anna Schotthoefer, PhD spoke with Wisconsin Public Radio host Joy Cardin about tick-borne diseases in Wisconsin and prevention ideas for residents. As noted during their discussion, Wisconsin is a hotspot for these diseases and cases of tick-borne illnesses are becoming more common across the State.

Along with Tammy Ellis in MCRF’s National Farm Medicine Center, Dr. Schotthoefer produced a Tick ID Business Card, a Tick ID card that includes a map of confirmed Wisconsin Lyme cases by county, and a foldout Tick ID Field Guide providing more in-depth information and graphics in an effort to provide the public with identification information to help reduce exposure. [All the products](#) include diseases the ticks transmit, precautions, symptoms and instructions on how to remove an attached tick.

Dr. Schotthoefer’s segment on The Joy Cardin Show is [available online](#).

## WI State Rep to Champion ROPS Rebate Program

In a [May 29th article](#) in the Wisconsin State Journal, state Representative Bob Kulp expressed a desire to propose the expansion of the ROPS Rebate Program as a statewide initiative receiving \$200,000 in state funding during the next legislative session. The MCRF program under Dr. Barbara Marlenga provides financial assistance to farmers seeking to retrofit their tractors with rollbars, which greatly reduces the risk of injury or death when tractors overturn. The article reveals Rep. Kulp has had personal experience with farming accidents, having nearly been killed as a child after falling off a tractor himself, and he feels although the budget has many demands it is important for the State to support making tractors safer for its farming families.

## 2016 Health Care Systems Research Network Conference A Success!

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Health Care Systems Research Network (HCSRN) conference, with a theme of *Advancing Population Health: New Models and the Role of Research*, was held in Atlanta, GA, April 13-16, 2016 (<http://www.hcsrnmeeting.org/>). Co-hosted by Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation and Henry Ford Health System, the conference focused on the use of health care system and patient data in new ways to improve the health of our patient and community populations, and highlighted new and ongoing collaborations between researchers, clinicians, administrators, and patients.

This year's scientific planning team included co-chairs Robert Greenlee, PhD, MPH, from Marshfield, and Lois Lamerato, PhD, from Henry Ford, along with CCEPH's Deb Multerer as conference co-coordinator. A total of ten Marshfield staff attended this year, including folks from CCEPH, BIRC, Oncology Research, and Research Administration, who served in a variety of roles including representatives on governance groups, scientific poster presenter, concurrent session moderators, room hosts, and discussion panel moderators.

About 340 conference attendees experienced scientific plenary sessions and special symposia focused on: 1) patient-centered care and the role of research; 2) new models for population health management; 3) precision oncology; and, 4) patient engagement in research. Approximately 135 scientific abstracts were presented across a wide range of research topics within 15 podium and 2 poster sessions. In addition there were about 40 ancillary sessions scheduled for project teams and scientific interest groups to meet on existing projects or develop new research ideas.

Formerly known as the HMO Research Network, the HCSRN brings together 20 research departments from some of the nation's best and most innovative health care systems. Collectively, the HCSRN represents over 1,900 scientists and research staff with methodological and content expertise from an array of disciplines including epidemiology, economics, disparities, outcomes and quality assessment, trials, genomics, and more (<http://www.hcsrn.org/en/>).

This is the second time MCRF has co-hosted the annual conference since joining the HCSRN in 2005, the previous time being in collaboration with HealthPartners in Minneapolis in 2008. The HCSRN 2017 Conference is scheduled for March 20-23, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, San Diego, CA and will be hosted by Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute.

## Project Shine is an Opportunity to Make a Meaningful Gift



Jill Kurszewski,  
Development Officer  
for Research

As you have hopefully heard, the annual Project Shine appeal is in full swing. Project Shine is the one time of year that Marshfield Clinic Development asks all employees of the Marshfield Clinic Health System to consider making a gift to support our important mission. Project Shine also gives us an opportunity to reflect on why giving back makes a difference, celebrate all that we are able to do because of philanthropy, and think about how we want to leave our mark on this organization.

It's important to remember that making philanthropic gifts is a very personal decision. While we encourage all employees, physicians, and researchers to give at this time, we want you to feel good about the gifts you're giving. Because of this, the amount you give and where you direct your gift is entirely up to you.



Rikki Starich, Annual  
Giving Officer

Listed in the [annual brochure](#) are a number of “featured funds” that we think employees system-wide might want to support. We’ve also listed the funds that are specific to each patient care region ([such as the Marshfield area](#)) in case giving back in your community is important to you. But there are [dozens of funds](#) not listed in the Project Shine brochure that might be meaningful to you, including some that benefit the work being done by MCRF researchers every day.

In addition to supporting specific research centers, many of our donors choose to support the disease specific research funds. Gifts to these funds are sometimes made in memory or honor of someone who had personal experience in the area the fund supports. For example, we often see families directing memorial gifts for someone who passed away following a stroke to the Neurological Disorders and Stroke Research Fund.

Many other donors give to the Angel Funds which provide for patients who are in need. For these donors, it's often a way of showing gratitude for the things they personally have been given and ensuring others who aren't so lucky have support available when they need it most.

Where you direct your gift, and how much you choose to give, is a decision only you can make. However, Development staff members are available to help you think through these decisions if you need some guidance. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions!

## Compliance Notes

### NON-COMPLIANCE UPDATE



Linda Jaros,  
Research  
Compliance Officer

The system of reporting non-compliance internally via RedCap has been in place for one year. As much as anyone reacts positively to reporting such things, response to the system itself has been positive. In fact, during an FDA audit in 2015, the auditor made a specific note about the excellent, proactive mechanism we have in place to find and address errors internally.

There were 223 incidents of non-compliance reported between May 2015 and May 2016. The largest category was “policy violations,” with 55 reported.

These include IRB and other MCRF policies. “Study Procedure out of Window,” was second with 45, and the broad category of, “Other Protocol Deviations,” was reported more than 40 times. The vast majority of reported non-compliances were determined to be “minor.” Eight were forwarded to IRB for a final determination. Of those, one is pending, five were found to be minor, and 2 were deemed serious non-compliance.

The reporting categories have now been revised to specifically list more incident types based upon the content of the incidents reported under “Other Protocol Deviation,” and “Other.” Please use care when choosing applicable categories so that meaningful data are generated regarding non-compliance at MCRF. The [MCRF Non-Compliance Reporting policy](#) is available in Document Control System, and the reporting tool is maintained in the MCRF HUB. Please do not access the tool via old email links or one you saved to your desktop, etc.

(Note: I want to acknowledge presenting a watermarked image in my presentation to Full Foundation Staff. I didn’t notice it when I dropped the free clipart into my slide, but someone pointed it out to me, and being cognizant of compliance - related irony, I apologize for mistake. LJ)

## Updates from ORIP/IRB

### IRB FORMS

Located in the Policy & Handbook Library – Forms section are all of the ORIP/IRB Forms. Occasionally these forms require some revisions in order to assist in making the content requested clearer for the user to answer and to make the form consistent with the policy/procedure. In addition, minor administrative changes such as a name change may be necessary. Recently the following forms have been updated:

- IRB Consent Template (Feb. 11, 2016)
- IRB Application - New Research (April 25, 2016)
- IRB Continuation Request (April 26, 2016)
- IRB Change or Update to Original Submission (April 26, 2016)
- IRB End Oversight Request (April 26, 2016)



Lori Scheller,  
IRB Administrator

It is suggested that the IRB Forms be accessed directly from the Forms Library rather than saving it to the desktop or another folder to ensure that the most current version is being filled

out and submitted to ORIP for review. Not using the most current version of the IRB Form may cause delays in processing your request.

### **CONTINUING REVIEW REMINDER CHANGE**

In the interest of greater efficiency and the use of less paper, ORIP will be changing the IRB Continuation Request - Final Reminder process. Reminders are currently sent out on paper two weeks prior to the “due date” of the report to be submitted to ORIP. Effective July 1, 2016, the reminders will be sent by e-mail. In addition, for studies reviewed through the Expedited process, the reminders will be sent out closer to that due date. We understand that in most cases the report is in process and no reminder is needed, but just in case a notice was missed, fell through the cracks, etc., we will send a reminder out the week before the report is due. If PIs and/or research staff are using the paper final reminder notice as a “tickler” for their work on the report, it is suggested that this process be modified to ensure that reports are submitted in a timely manner.

### **IRB MEMBERSHIP CHANGE**

Effective June 21, 2016, Stu Guenther will be the new IRB Chair so that Dr. Anna Schotthoefer will be able to focus more of her efforts on her own research projects. Thank you so very much Anna for serving as IRB Chair and for agreeing to remain as one of our IRB members.

## **Internal Funding Available for Research**

MC and MCRF is the beneficiary of donations from grateful patients that are expected to be used for conducting disease specific research. Through MCRF's [Internal Funding policy](#) employees of MC can apply for access to these donated funds by submitting a research proposal to the Research Committee for scientific merit review. The "[Research Committee Application - Projects Requesting Funds](#)" is located in the Forms Library. The level of base funding available per project is currently \$50,000. (When practicing clinicians are participating in the research, an additional \$15,000 per project may be awarded to compensate for their time and effort.)

Pre-proposals are required to be submitted for review in advance of submitting a full proposal. Applications may be submitted any time prior to the start of each quarterly cycle, with new cycle dates beginning on the 16th of March, June, September and December. Applications are reviewed in the order they are received during the cycle, so it can be advantageous to submit proposals earlier in the cycle than later.

A listing of disease specific funds available can be found on the [MCRF intranet site](#). Questions regarding this funding mechanism can be directed to Deb Hansen (79130).

## Upcoming Talks and Presentations

### Scientific Seminar (Froehlke Auditorium)

#### **Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

12:00pm-1:00pm

“Social Marketing for Healthcare Providers: How to use a consumer-centric perspective to improve patient care”

Julie Sorensen, PhD, Director-Northeast Center for Occupational Safety and Health:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing/New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health

### PreventionGenetics Seminar Series

All seminars take place in Helix Hall at PreventionGenetics from 12noon-1pm.

#### **Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

Speaker: Evan Eichler, PhD, University of Washington

Topic: Autism: New Mutations, Models & Genetic Subtypes

#### **Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**

Speaker: Meghan Marino, MS, LGC

Topic: Ocular Genetics

#### **Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

Speaker: Kerry Jedelee, MD, Gundersen Health Systems

Topic: TBD

#### **Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Speaker: Adam Shapiro, MD Montreal Children's Hospital

Topic: Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia and Related Ciliopathies

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

#### **June 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>:**

No grand rounds.

## In Addition:

- The next Full Foundation meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2016 at 9AM in the Froehlke Auditorium. Questions can be routed or emailed to Jeanette Normington at 1R3 or [normington.jeanette@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:normington.jeanette@mcrf.mfldclin.edu).
- The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on September 29, 2016 at 6PM in the Laird 50 conference room.
- For the latest issue of the UW-Madison newsletter, *ICTR Today*, please click here: <https://ictr.wisc.edu/Newsletters>.
- For updates on the Wisconsin Network for Health Research (WiNHR), please visit: <https://ictr.wisc.edu/winhr>
- The Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation website can be accessed through this link: <http://marshfieldresearch.org/>. You will find in depth articles, news about upcoming presentations, and achievements by the staff. There are also links to each Center, with detailed information about the staff and projects.
- *Research Matters* is always accepting announcements. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

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