

# chm research newsletter

CHM Associate Dean's Office of Research



Thank you for your positive response to both the CHM Research Newsletter and the inaugural *Lunch with Jeff*. This is an opportunity for us to get together with no formal agenda. It is a dedicated time to share ideas, concerns, or questions about research and for me to learn more about how to best serve the research support needs of CHM. *Lunch with Jeff* is currently held on the East Lansing campus but I would be happy to develop similar experiences at any – or all – of our campuses. We are exploring ways in which to expand these opportunities to all the campuses and welcome your thoughts on this.

We hope that each new initiative provides a vehicle for updating you about the exciting work taking place in the College of Human Medicine every day and our efforts to facilitate your research productivity. Please let me know what more we can do to enhance your success and take a moment to congratulate your colleagues on their many accomplishments in the past few weeks.

Best Regards,  
Jeffrey Dwyer, PhD  
Acting Associate Dean for Research

next **Lunch with Jeff**  
November 6, 12-1:30  
for more info, e-mail Maureen Cullen  
(cullenm@msu.edu)

MSU College of Human Medicine  
**RESEARCH**  
research.chm.msu.edu

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Issue 3

## stay connected

### The CHM Research Listserv

The CHM Research Listserv is an important and growing research communication tool for faculty, residents, students, and others that connects all of us across the campus network. Sign up today at <http://list.msu.edu/archives/chm-research.html>. The CHM Research Office will be using it to broadcast research announcements and news. Subscribers can post questions and research opportunities, highlight research accomplishments, request assistance, etc. Subscribe today and get some dialogue going!

## FEATURED RESEARCHER

**Gretchen L. Birbeck, MD, MPH, DTMH**  
CHM Departments of Epidemiology, Neurology and Ophthalmology

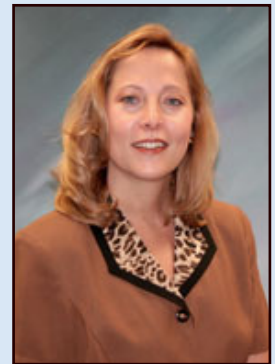
Gretchen L. Birbeck, MD, MPH, DTMH, CHM Departments of Epidemiology and Neurology and Ophthalmology, is among twenty-three experts on global health who were recently selected by the Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research Advisory Council to serve as Rogers Society Ambassadors or "scientist-advocates" for U.S. led global health research. The goal of the Society, established in 2006 by Research!America, with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is to create a higher national priority for greater U.S. investment in global health research aimed at fighting diseases that disproportionately affect the world's poorest countries.

Selected by an Advisory Council that includes three Nobel Laureates, members of this prestigious group will meet with editorial boards, policymakers, media and the public. They will build a national discussion about global health research, and stress the importance of effective collaboration among the nation's government, industry, academic,

patient advocacy and philanthropic research sectors.

The Ambassadors include leaders in a variety of global health areas, including HIV/AIDS research, TB, vaccines, nutrition and environmental hazards.

Dr. Birbeck's specific interests are in neuroepidemiology and health services research. She has been Principal Investigator on multiple projects in sub-Saharan Africa including investigating neurologic conditions that presented in a large rural Zambian hospital, an R21 NIH grant funded project to examine Epilepsy-Associated Stigma in Zambia, an HIV study of Rural ART adherence in Zambia funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and a Rockefeller funded project on Epilepsy and Febrile Seizures conducted with Chikankata Health Services in Mazabuka. Dr. Birbeck is currently the PI on the NIH/NINDS funded Blantyre Malaria Project Epilepsy Study in Malawi which is a prospective exposure-control study of children with cerebral malaria to determine if the disease is a risk factor for epilepsy.



MSU College of Human Medicine  
**RESEARCH**  
ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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# campus network news

## ■ Flint

**Kay Taylor, PhD**, Director of Research, MSU/FAME, Hurley Medical Center has been awarded a six month \$50,903 contract from Genesee County Community Mental Health Services to conduct a two-part needs assessment on substance abuse in the county. The Strategic Prevention Framework/State Incentive Grant is funded by the Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy. Its two primary objectives are to 1) review existing data on consumption patterns and consequences of substance use problems; and 2) collect new information to better define intervening variables, contributing factors, and readiness for change. Findings will be used to prioritize problems related to substance abuse in the community, identify service gaps, and target resources more effectively.

## ■ Grand Rapids

GRMERC Community Health Research Day: April 15, 2008. Keynote Speaker: Phil B. Fontanarosa, MD, MBA, Executive Deputy Editor, JAMA, Adjunct Professor, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University.

Abstracts are now being accepted and can be submitted to: <http://www.grmerc.net/research/researchday.html>

In addition, the GRMERC Research Department will be hosting research orientation sessions in October. Sessions will include presentations from the Spectrum Health and Saint Mary's Health Care research departments and libraries. For more information about these events, contact [research@grmerc.net](mailto:research@grmerc.net).

## ■ Kalamazoo

**Michael Liepman, MD**, MSU/KCMS recently received a \$250,000 grant from Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) for The Mother's Mind Matters project, developed by the Perinatal Mood Disorders Task Force. This project will promote perinatal depression screening, facilitate referral and follow up of symptomatic women, and will increase treatment capacity through the development of a mental health provider network specializing in perinatal mood disorders and the MSU/KCMS Psychiatry Women's Behavioral Health Clinic for provider consultation and referral.

"An Introduction to Integrity in Research"  
by Dr. Paul Friedman  
Professor Emeritus of Radiology  
University of CA, San Diego  
Hans Kende Memorial Lecture Series  
October 24, 3:30 pm  
Kellogg Center, Big Ten B  
register at [gradwrsp@msu.edu](mailto:gradwrsp@msu.edu)

## ■ Lansing

**Rebecca Malouin, PhD**, CHM Departments of Family Medicine, Pediatrics and Human Development, has been received into the Grant Generating Project Fellowship sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the North American Primary Care Research Group and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. The aim of the fellowship is to assist faculty in identifying and honing the critical skills needed to develop and submit competitive research grant proposals that result in the award of external funding.

## ■ Saginaw

**Thomas Raskauskas, MD**, Synergy, with the support of the Research Department, has recently submitted a series of grants to expand the Simulation Laboratory at Synergy Medical Education. A total of eight grants have been submitted to diverse foundations for a total amount of \$475,000.

## ■ Upper Peninsula

**David Luoma, MD, UPHEC**, CHM Community Assistant Dean, Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, has been named the UP Representative of the Michigan Advisory Council on Immunization (MACI) which provides evidence-based policy recommendations to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Division of Immunization. Board certified in travel medicine, Dr. Luoma recently presented "Planning for Healthy Travel" at a MDCH statewide conference in Lansing, Michigan.

## MAKE SOME NEWS!

### The CHM Research Newsletter Needs Your Stories!

The CHM Research Newsletter represents all of the CHM community campuses and we want to feature a research news story from each campus in every issue!

If you have a research project, grant, award, publication or any other research-related activity that you'd like more people to know about, don't hesitate! Send us an e-mail at [chmnews@ht.msu.edu](mailto:chmnews@ht.msu.edu), and get the word out.



# research highlight

## National Children's Study (NCS) – \$18.5 million NIH contract funds Michigan role, led by MSU.



NIH recently announced that MSU, in alliance with Henry Ford Health System, University of Michigan, Wayne State University and the Michigan Department of Community Health for Wayne County, will be one of 22 new NCS Study Centers. The project will be directed by **Nigel Paneth, MD, MPH**, CHM Departments of Epidemiology and Pediatrics and Human Development.

The NCS will monitor more than 100,000 children nationally, from before birth to age 21, to better understand how environmental influences and genetic constitution interact to affect child and adult health. The study has the potential to pinpoint causes of conditions like autism, asthma, pregnancy-related problems, obesity, and mental health disorders. It is believed to be the most ambitious children's health study of its kind in the nation.

Dr. Paneth states, "We are examining the effects of environmental toxins, nutrition and family and societal structures on health and disease. We also expect that issues especially important to the health

of Michigan children will be addressed, leading to new ways of treating and preventing disease in our children and to new public health programs in our state."

New study centers were selected based on rigorous criteria including the capacity for broad data collection, building extensive community networks for recruiting and retaining eligible women and newborns, and protection of participant data. The first phase will focus on Wayne County. Eventually, four other counties, selected to be among the 105 counties representing the U.S., will be included: Genesee, Grand Traverse, Lenawee and Macomb counties.

Planning began in 2002 when MSU and its partners formed the Michigan Alliance for the National Children's Study, which reflects a sustained collaborative effort among the core institutions.

For more information, visit the NIH NCS website at [www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov](http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov).

Or contact: Nigel Paneth at (517) 353-8623, ext. 112; [paneth@epi.msu.edu](mailto:paneth@epi.msu.edu) or Dele Davies, MD, CHM Chair of Pediatrics and Human Development: (517) 355-3380, [daviesde@msu.edu](mailto:daviesde@msu.edu)

## FEATURED MENTOR

**Henry C. Barry, M.D., M.S.**

**Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Research  
CHM Department of Family Medicine**

Dr. Barry graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1982. After residency, he spent four years in Appalachia as part of a National Health Service Corps commitment. He came to MSU in 1989. In 1995, Dr. Barry completed a Master's degree in Clinical Research Design & Statistical Analysis at the University of Michigan. He has since led a multidisciplinary working group to plan and implement an electronic health record in Family Medicine, served as the AAFP Senior Scholar in Residence at the AHRQ, and been the Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, or collaborator on numerous grants. His scholarly interests include the areas of evidence-based medicine, information application and evaluation of common ambulatory problems.

In addition to his own scholarly accomplishments, Dr. Barry has provided research mentoring to dozens of young researchers including medical students, residents, and OMERAD Fellows as well as colleagues and GRIN participants. He has mentored students on a wide range of topics and methodologies. In most cases, he has helped them develop their own research ideas and projects. When students have

expressed a shared interest in evidence-based medicine, he has collaborated on generating critical summaries of original published research. These summaries are distributed widely via e-mail, internet, print media, and as part of a decision support tool. In addition, Dr. Barry and CHM colleagues developed the Block III Critical Appraisal /Analytic Medicine (CAAM) course which builds upon earlier biostatistics and epidemiology training students receive in first and second-year. In CAAM, students learn how to critically read the medical research literature and how to design, execute, and present a research study.



Dr. Barry states that "as a mentor, I find it much more rewarding to work with young researchers on their own projects than to have them work on an existing project for a short time. I believe they learn more from the experience and have a greater appreciation for the scientific method. Early in my career, I didn't know the value of mentoring and, as an introvert, I never sought out mentors. And it showed with my first projects. I made lots of mistakes. While I learned from the mistakes, having a mentor would have helped avoid a few fatal flaws!" Our thanks to Dr. Barry for all of his valued mentoring.



# students and residents

■ **Khalid Ibrahim** is a MSc student in the Department of Epidemiology. When he was first accepted to the program, he spoke with professors to learn about their research interests. **Dr. Hossein Rahbar**, Epidemiology, suggested the possibility of conducting research in Pakistan on autism spectrum disorders (ASD), an idea that intrigued Khalid. After a semester of developing a research proposal, and securing funding through CHM and the Graduate School, he was on a plane to South Asia where he spent two and a half months in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city. The primary goals of the study were to examine the knowledge and attitudes of general practitioners regarding autism and to improve understanding of the way in which they diagnose ASD in Pakistan. Khalid and a research team conducted 353 interviews with physicians. He is currently analyzing the data and a study abstract has been accepted for Unite for Sight; an international health conference at Yale University in April 2008.

■ **Kyle Walsh**, CHM, Block I, has been involved in CHM research throughout his years as a Medical Scholar and now as a medical student. He has worked with **Drs. Brian Mavis, Margaret Holmes-Rovner, Janet Osuch, and Francesca Dwamena** on the "Activated Patient Project" which involved creating a curriculum to teach patients receiving Medicaid how to interact more effectively with their health care providers. He has also worked in the Functional MRI lab of **Dr. Laura Symonds** assisting with data processing. Kyle is currently working with **Dr. Clare Luz** to evaluate a federally funded pilot program, the Adult Abuse and Neglect Prevention Project (AANP), designed to train direct care workers in long-term care on how to identify, report and prevent adult abuse. In addition, Kyle has provided valuable assistance to the CHM Office of Research. He has conducted funding searches for faculty investigators and created databases for new programs and projects including development of the Health Services Research Division and the Clinical Translational Science Center and Geriatric Education Center proposals. Kyle states that being involved in research has broadened his experiences and perspectives beyond simply learning knowledge in class. Conducting research first hand has given him an appreciation for the many challenges that a researcher faces in carrying out a project.

■ **Student Research Interest Group** – Upcoming meetings are scheduled for **Tuesday, October 30** at noon and **Thursday, November 29** at noon. Pizza will be provided. Locations to be announced – watch for postings on the CHM Research listserv. Please RSVP to Maureen Cullen at [cullenm@msu.edu](mailto:cullenm@msu.edu).

The SRIG, sponsored by the CHM Office of Research, provides a forum for students to learn about and discuss research-related issues and opportunities and to network with other students interested in research. October's meeting agenda includes an update from the CHM Research Office, info on how to find a research project, and a report from a student researcher on their ongoing research project. **Michelle Gilmer**, Year 2, SRIG Chair, is recruiting other students to help with coordinating the group. Contact Michelle at [gilmermi@msu.edu](mailto:gilmermi@msu.edu) for more information. Participation from multiple locations may be able to be arranged. Students interested in setting up similar groups at other CHM campuses can contact Clare Luz, PhD, Office of Research, at [luz@msu.edu](mailto:luz@msu.edu).

## student submissions!

Do you or your peers have a research project, poster presentation or other research-related activity that you'd like everyone to know about? Send it to us! Submit any material to [chmresearch@hc.msu.edu](mailto:chmresearch@hc.msu.edu), and we'll feature it in the next edition of the CHM Research Newsletter!



# did you know about...

**The Biomedical Research & Informatics Center (BRIC):** The CHM Office of Research has formed a partnership with BRIC to provide informatics and consulting support to CHM faculty. BRIC was established by the VP for Research & Graduate Studies and is a unit of the Office for Clinical Research. BRIC's mission has two components: (1) to support the development of NIH and other federally funded research by MSU investigators; and (2) to support the execution of clinical research by providing high-level, multifaceted research informatics solutions. BRIC's informatics capabilities include a proprietary software package called RIX that provides HIPAA and GCP class data management support for PHI, study events, clinical and survey data, sample logistics, and molecular or laboratory data generated from the samples. Additional BRIC capabilities include anonymous internet based research and automated voice response (AVR) technologies.

By becoming a core funding partner, the Associate Dean for Research has made available to CHM investigators a finite supply of prepaid informatics user licenses and consulting support. Projects eligible for this support include the development of NIH or other federal grant applications, preliminary studies in support of future applications, and in some cases, funded research requiring an upgrade of the research informatics component to strengthen the research for continuing or expanded funding applications. Interested investigators can obtain a preliminary assessment of project eligibility by contacting BRIC's Director, Dr. Phil Reed ([phil.reed@hc.msu.edu](mailto:phil.reed@hc.msu.edu)).

## ask the research office **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question:** How can faculty obtain research equipment from pharmaceutical companies or others in the health care industry?

**Answer: Pfizer, Inc.** will consider requests for equipment donations from their store of equipment that is no longer in use. Letters of request should be sent to:

Groton Research & Development  
Pfizer, Inc.  
Eastern Point Road  
Groton, CT 06340  
Attn: Facilities

**Merck** suggests that faculty contact their "Asset Recovery" unit at 215-652-1000. **Glaxo-Smith Kline** indicates that they are no longer able to offer retired research equipment to faculty. **Bio-hit**, a manufacturer of liquid handling products (pipettors and tips) has offered one set of the mLINE, single channel pipettor for any researcher on our campus that is interested. This is their newest model and offers many benefits to the researcher. If interested, email Sally Harris ([sally.harris@hc.msu.edu](mailto:sally.harris@hc.msu.edu)), CHM Research Office for contact info.

The Research Office is contacting other companies that manufacture research lab equipment and will report additional sources as we learn about them. If you know of other sources - please send them to Sally Harris and we'll publish them in upcoming newsletters.

**Question:** I'm planning a clinical research project. Do I work with the CHM Office of Research or with the Office of Clinical Research?

**Answer:** For information regarding new clinical research project start-up procedures, please see [www.clinicalresearch.msu.edu](http://www.clinicalresearch.msu.edu). For general assistance, the place to start is with your department resources. If you don't have departmental administrative support, then contact the Office of Clinical Research (OCR) at [clinicalresearch@hc.msu.edu](mailto:clinicalresearch@hc.msu.edu) or call (517) 432-5479. OCR is a MSU core facility established by the VPRGS to provide assistance including serving as the contact point for potential sponsors, linking research opportunities with qualified investigators, assessment of study feasibility, budget development, contract pre-review assistance, assessment of funding mechanisms, ensuring research is conducted in compliance with up-to-date required regulatory and financial guidelines, assisting with the IRB process, and referral to MSU resources. For other assistance such as information about start up or bridging funds, advocacy, statistical support, and questions specific to CHM, contact the CHM Office of Research at (517) 432-4789.

## got a question? ask us!

Do you have a question for the Research Office? Submit any and all research-related queries to [chmresearch@hc.msu.edu](mailto:chmresearch@hc.msu.edu), and we'll do our best to answer them here in the Newsletter!



# presentations

- **Birbeck GL.** Stigma – A Wedge in the Gaps. 27th. International Epilepsy Congress, Singapore, July 8-12, 2007
- **Birbeck GL.** If someone is bewitching you, better he should just kill you: The Experiences of Women Living with Epilepsy in Zambia. International Epilepsy Congress, Singapore, July 8-12, 2007
- **Watson RE.** Management of hypertension in patients with ischemic heart disease. Association of Black Cardiologists Symposium, Shanghai, China, 2007, .
- **Watson RE,** Pereira CN, Li MW, Pervaiz M, Gourineni N, Talbott JD, **Fink GD.** Endothelin-1 content is increased in hypertensive human veins but not arteries compared to normotensives, independent of the presence of diabetes and hyperlipidemia. Tenth International Conference on Endothelin, Bergamo, Italy, 2007.
- **Yang L, Symonds L.** Neural Correlate of Increased Pain Perception during Sadness. Public Education and Communication Committee of the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, November 7 2007,
- Yu H-W, **Watson RE, Al-Shallah Z,** Talbott JD, **Chen AF.** Differential mechanisms of nitric oxide and cyclooxygenases in endothelium-dependent relaxation of human internal mammary artery and saphenous vein as bypass grafts. Annual Experimental Biology meeting, Washington, D.C., 2007

# publications

- Rondelli CM, **Szasz IT,** Kayal A, Thakali K, **Watson RE, Rovner AS,** Eddinger TJ, **Fink GD, Watts SW.** Preferential myosin heavy chain isoform B expression may contribute to the faster velocity of contraction in veins versus arteries. *J Vasc Res* 2007;44:264-272.
- **Watson RE.** Management of hypertension in patients with ischemic heart disease: new guidelines. *J Cardiometabolic Syndr* 2007;2:213-216.
- **Watts SW,** Rondelli C, Thakali K, Li X, **Uhal B,** Pervaiz MH, **Watson RE, Fink GD.** Morphologic and biochemical characterization of remodeling in aorta and vena cava of DOCA-salt hypertensive rats. *Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol* 2007;292:H2438-48.

# grants

- **Fleck, Leonard;** Mongoven, Ann; \$20,000; Neonatal Dried Blood Spots: Ethical and Policy Challenges; Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
- **Hoerr, Sharon;** Food Science and Human Nutrition, **Sigal, Yakov;** Pediatrics and Human Development; \$2190; Nutrition assessment and counseling in well child visits; The Obesity Council
- **Liepman, Michael;** Psychiatry; \$250,000; The Mother's Mind Matters; Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan
- **Omar, Said;** Neonatology, **Ali Attarman** (Epidemiology graduate student), **Rhabar, Hosein;** Epidemiology, **Paneth, Nigel;** Epidemiology; \$100,000; Oxygen and phototherapy as risk factors for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia; NIH
- **Osuch, Janet;** Surgery; \$199,016; Organochlorine and Gene Expression of Sex Steroids in a Multigenerational Cohort; Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- **Paneth, Nigel;** Departments of Epidemiology and Pediatrics and Human Development; \$18,500,000; NCS Study Center ; NIH National Children's Study
- **Velie, Ellen;** Epidemiology; \$2500; Lifetime Energy Balance and Premenopausal Breast Cancer in Black and White women; The Obesity Council
- **Williams, Karen Patricia;** OB-GYN; **Todem, David;** Epidemiology; \$297,995 Examining Trust and Cancer Literacy on Breast Cancer Screening; Susan G. Komen For The Cure



The CHM Research Newsletter is published by the CHM Research Office.

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## We Need Your Help!

This newsletter is still a work in progress - and we need your feedback to progress any further! Please let us know what you think of any part of our newsletter - layout, section formats, readability, anything at all!

Send any comments, suggestions or other feedback to [chmresearch@ht.msu.edu](mailto:chmresearch@ht.msu.edu)

## Publication Schedule and Guidelines

**Deadline:** November 1st

**Publication Date:** November 10th

- Please put "CHM Research Newsletter" in the subject line of your e-mail. E-Mail to [chmresearch@ht.msu.edu](mailto:chmresearch@ht.msu.edu).
- Attach images in a separate file, preferably as a jpeg.
- Submit as many articles as you like.
- We reserve the right to make editorial changes on all submissions. In most cases, contributors will have the opportunity to preview the entry before publication.

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