

# Research News

*Newsletter of*  
**The University of Kansas Medical Center**  
**Department of Pediatrics**



## **A Note From Our Chair**

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to each of you for your hard work over the past many years. You can be proud of your commitment to excellence in teaching and education. Many of you also have scholarly accomplishments that we need to recognize and applaud. Research News is an excellent forum to highlight your accomplishments, new grants and publications, and facilitate research, including interdisciplinary endeavors. I have asked the Research Committee, under Mike Rapoff's leadership, to take a fresh look at how Research News can be of value to the faculty, to look at department policies that exist or could be developed to encourage and reward research, and to draft a Pediatrics Department research incentive plan. Please give Mike and Ann and the Pediatric Research Committee your support and encouragement as they assist us all with increasing and improving Pediatrics Department research activities.

Sincerely,

Chet Johnson, MD  
Professor and Interim Chair  
Department of Pediatrics

## **Research Tips: Your Research Project and Your Friendly Statistician**

**John Belmont, Ph.D.**  
**Behavioral Sciences**

There are excellent reasons for paying a call on your friendly statistician *before* undertaking to write a grant application or to begin a research project.

Granting agencies draw comfort from seeing a statistician listed on the research team, especially when the agency requires you to provide a formal "sample-size determination" (also sometimes called a "power analysis"). And whether it's a grant application or the study itself, statisticians will perk right up if you ask them to sit in on planning conferences, early enough to comment on the data collection plan, including such

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things as the number and types of measures that might be taken per subject, the construction of experimental groups, randomization schedules for assignment of subjects to treatments, and data-entry formats. The formats are very important because, if you expect the statistician to analyze the data, you will need to supply them in a format that is friendly to the chosen statistical program.

The number of different measures (variables) that are taken per subject has many implications, statistical and non-statistical. More measures mean more time, more expense, and...more subjects. How's that? Yes, generally speaking, you will probably find yourself paying for at least 10 to 15 subjects for each additional measure that you intend to analyze together. It is not uncommon to run multivariate analyses including *demographics* like age, birthweight, mother's age; and *clinical values* like temperature, WBC, length-of-stay. Count them up, that's six variables right there, and you might hardly have begun listing what you think should be measured. Yet, if you intend to use those six variables for predicting an outcome, you're probably already talking a minimum of 60 subjects.

The other big influence on the number of subjects is the sample-size determination. The granting agencies (and more and more journals) are asking investigators to justify the number of subjects included in the proposal or in the finished study. The agency wants to know that it is paying for enough but not too many subjects; and the agency and the journal want to know that there are enough subjects in the study to allow it to obtain results that are not only statistically significant but also clinically or theoretically important. The statistician will work you pretty hard to obtain the estimates needed to do the sample-size determination, but it'll be worth it when the reviews come back praising the project's attention to statistical details.

## Grants 101:

The Grant Institute's Grants 101 Course is an intensive and detailed introduction to the process, structure, and skill of professional proposal writing. This course is characterized by its ability to act as a thorough overview, introduction, and refresher at the same time. In this course, participants will learn the entire proposal writing process and complete the course with a solid understanding of not only the ideal proposal structure, but a holistic understanding of the essential factors, which determine whether or not a program gets funded. Through the completion of interactive exercises and activities, participants will complement expert lectures by putting proven techniques into practice.

This course is designed for both the beginner looking for a thorough introduction and the intermediate looking for a refresher course that will strengthen their grant acquisition skills. This class, simply put, is designed to get results by creating professional grant proposal writers.

Participants will become competent program planning and proposal writing professionals after successful completion of the Grants 101 course. In three active and informative days, students will be exposed to the art of successful grant writing practices, and led on a journey that ends with a masterful grant proposal.

Grants 101 consists of three (3) courses that will be completed during the three-day workshop.

For more information call (888) 824-4424 or visit The Grant Institute website at <http://www.thegrantinstitute.com>.

## Current Pediatric Grants

Ahluwalia, J. (PI), & Kaur, H. (Co-Investigator)  
"Helping African-American Light Smokers Quit"  
NIH/ NCI - Total direct costs: \$1,604,016

08/01 - 06/05

**Casey, J. (PI), Delrosario, G. (Co-PI)** 02/21/02-12/31/05  
"Endocrinology Metabology"  
Genet-Internal

**Cocjin, J. (PI)** 7/1/03-12/31/04  
"The use of Amitriptyline in Children"  
KU Pediatric Foundation - Total direct costs: \$10,000

**Huang TTK & Kaur, H. (Co-Investigator)** 7/1/03 - 6/30/05  
"Monitoring University Students Tackling Diabetes and Obesity (MUST DO)"  
American Heart Association (Heartland Affiliate) - Total direct costs: \$100,000

**Johnson, C. (PI), Richman, D.** 07/00 - 06/05  
"Leadership education in neurodevelopmental disabilities."  
Maternal and Child Health Bureau - Total costs: \$2,675,000

**Li, C & Kaur, H. (Co-Investigator)** 1/1/04 - 12/31/05  
"Influences of Fetal Environment & Growth in Childhood on the Onset of Overweight in Adolescence"  
American Heart Association (Heartland Affiliate) – Total direct costs: \$143,000

**McGrath, A. (PI)** 7/1/03 - 12/31/04  
"Development of a Videotape Coding Scheme for Evaluation of Pediatric Residents in Cardiology"  
KU Pediatric Foundation - Total direct costs: \$10,000

**McGrath, A. (PI)** 3/1/04 - 2/28/05  
"Using TeleMedicine to Assess Pediatric Obesity Rates and Treatment Barriers Among Rural Children in the State of Kansas"  
KUMC Telemed Department – Total direct costs: \$25,000

**Nelson, E. (PI)** 09/03 - 08/04  
"Development of an eHealth Provider-Patient Communication Measure"  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - Total costs: \$95,538

**Poston, C. (PI), Kaur, H. (PI on KU Subcontract)** 06/03 - 05/08  
"An Analysis of Environmental Risk Factors for Obesity"  
NIH/ NIDDK - Total direct costs: \$2,489,343

**Rapoff, M. (PI), Belmont, J. & Knobler, S. (Co-Investigators)** 07/04 – 06/07  
"Headstrong Intervention for Recurrent Pediatric Headache"  
R01, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke-Total Costs: \$563,090

**Sahgal, N. (PI)** 04/02 - 03/07  
"Fetal Regulation of Placental Biology"  
NICHD : K08 HD 42171

Voziyian, P. (PI), **Scheinman, J. (Co-Investigator)**, **Belmont, J. (Consultant)** 08/02 - 07/04  
“Development of a New Treatment of Urinary Stone Disease”  
NIH - STTR Grant - Direct Costs \$100,000

## Recent Pediatric Publications

Finney, J.W. & **Rapoff, M.A.** (2003). Treatment adherence-medical. In T. H. Ollendick & C.S. Schroeder (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of clinical child and pediatric psychology* (pp. 680-681). New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum.

Varni, J.W., Burwinkle, T.M., **Rapoff, M.A.**, Kamps, J.L., & Olson, N. (2004). The PedsQL™ in pediatric asthma: Reliability and validity of the Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory™ generic core scales and asthma module. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 27, 297-318.

## **Human Subjects Committee Information**

<b>Deadline**</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
July 2	July 13
July 19	July 27
August 2	August 10
August 16	August 24
September 3	September 14
September 20	September 28
October 4	October 12

\*\*all deadlines are at **noon\*\***

\* **Office is G006 Sudler.** \*

**Hours:** The Human Subjects Office/Research Compliance Division are 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, effective Monday, April 5, 2004.

For more information, go to

[http://www2.kumc.edu/researchcompliance/forms/HS\\_C\\_MeetingDates\\_2004.pdf](http://www2.kumc.edu/researchcompliance/forms/HS_C_MeetingDates_2004.pdf) or call 913-588-1240

## Other Pediatric Research News

**Dr. Lisa Gilmer** is making great strides as part of the Sunflower Clinical Scholars Program. Here is an update from her.....

“I presented a brief talk on our upcoming video recording evaluation project as part of the **Sunflower Clinical Scholars Program** entitled Evaluating Clinical Competency Among Pediatric Residents in Continuity Clinic. We are in the process of purchasing and having the digital video equipment installed into two rooms in the clinic. I am working on the video scoring checklists right now and plan to work with the faculty later this summer to get all faculty who do continuity clinic comfortable with this new method of evaluation and feedback. Also related to the Sunflower Clinical Scholars Fellowship, we are entering the second two year during which time I will be working on a Certificate of Medical Education through the School of Nursing.” Exciting news!

**Dr. Joseph Hallowell** also sent in an update showing his progress on many fronts....

“I worked with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities/ CDC and the American Thyroid Association (ATA) to coordinate an **invitational workshop** that was held January 12-13, 2004 in Atlanta. The meeting entitled, "The Impact of Maternal Thyroid diseases on the Developing Fetus: Implications for Diagnosis, Treatment, and Screening," was attended by scientists from Europe and North America. I have authored the workshop's proceedings, which will be published later this year in **Thyroid**. I also submitted 2 abstracts for the September meeting of the ATA. I presume that those upcoming presentations and articles in press should be submitted upon your next request. Finally, I also participated on a **planning committee** for a similar meeting that was held in Alexandria, VA April 2, 2004. The program entitled, "Impact of Maternal Thyroid Status on Pregnancy and Fetal and Childhood Development," was sponsored by ATA and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.”

Finally, **Dr. Michael Rapoff** was named the Chair of Study Section D of the **American College of Rheumatology (ACR)**, Research and Education Foundation (REF).