Statistical Support

The Clinical Research Center will be offering statistical support in the CRC starting September 1. A statistician will be available in the CRC four hours a week to review any questions you may have. This is being offered in cooperation with Preventive and Societal Medicine to make it easier to meet with a statistician. Appointments can be made on Tuesdays from 3-5PM and on Fridays from 9-11AM by calling 9-7685. You are welcome to drop in but appointments will be honored first.

Research Symposium

The Clinical Research Symposium dates have been set for this year, they are October 16-20, 2000 and January 12-8, 2001. The first week focuses on writing a protocol, while the second week focuses on writing an IRB application and consent form. Participants actually write a protocol, IRB application and consent form during this time. Statistics, ethics, budgets, library searches etc are discussed. To view last year's curriculum go to our web site: www.unmc.edu/crc. This year's curriculum will be very similar. To sign up call 9-7685 or e-mail: llarson@unmc.edu.

Just-In-Time

On May 1, 2000, the NIH released a new policy allowing a clinical research application to be submitted to the NIH without prior IRB approval. Since less than half of all applications are funded it is hoped that this will reduce the burden on IRB's.

This change will be in effect for the January 2001 Council round (those applications submitted for the June/July 2000 receipt dates).

The applicant and the institutional business official who sign the application will be notified of their score. If the application falls within a "fundable range", IRB application can then be made. More information can be found on the NIH web page: www.nih.gov

NIH K-Wizard Has Arrived

By Nancy Schlesiger

One of the most common questions I hear from beginning researchers is, "What NIH grant is right for me?" NIH has attempted to answer this question by developing the "K Wizard," an electronic kiosk of information for NIH research career development awards. In a few mouse clicks, the applicant is directed towards an appropriate award mechanism, depending on level of education and type of experience. For example, if an applicant has a health professional degree, no independent research funding, and seeks an experience in patient-oriented research, a series of questions leads the applicant to the K23 Mentor Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award. The applicant is then directed to the appropriate NIH Center for specific information. To visit the K Wizard, go to http://grants.nih.gov/training/kwizard/index.htm

We're on the Web!

www.unmc.edu/crc
Correction:
In the Rain article featured in the last newsletter it was stated that the drug regime was the #3 triple drug combination used in the US and Europe. It is actually has the #1 designation.

Coordinators’ Corner

The committee has been established to develop the new mentor/orientation program for new coordinators. The committee includes Rob Bayer, Mary Beth Hohenstein, Gail Paulsen, and LuAnn Larson. The first meeting was in May and plans were made to have two arms, one for new coordinators and one for coordinators that may need help with a certain area of the research process that they are not familiar with. We will post the curriculum as soon as it is established and will then take comments as to how we can improve upon it. Call the CRC (9-8555) if you are a new coordinator or if you need some help in an area that you have not explored before.

Web Space Available

If you do not have a web page and would like to post current studies to a website, give us a call. The Clinical Research Centers’ web page now has space available for any UNMC protocol to be posted. We hope this will help with recruitment efforts. You will need to submit the name of the study, PI, coordinator, phone #, IRB #, some of the main inclusion/exclusion criteria and an end date. The study will be removed from the web page on, or soon after, that end date. If the study should continue you would have to call and change the end date. If you have questions please call LuAnn Larson at 9-8555.

Submit research news items, announcements, recruitment ads and comments to the CRC at 9-8555 or e-mail llarson@unmc.edu

Mailing List

If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter, please e-mail llarson@unmc.edu. We will no longer be sending the newsletter out to everyone on the faculty list unless we hear from you directly. The newsletter will be sent to departments for posting and the CRC mailing list.

Alzheimer’s Clinical Trial

The Psychopharmacology Research Center in the Department of Psychiatry was developed to investigate pharmacologic approaches to the treatment of mental disorders. Under the direction of Dr. William Burke, the Center is a very active research site involving nine faculty, six clinical staff and several administrative staff. The Center works in conjunction with pharmaceutical companies in Phase II, III, and IV studies of agents being developed for the treatment of wide range of disorders in children and adults. Areas of testing currently involve depression, anxiety disorders, ADD/hyperactivity disorder and Alzheimer’s disease.

A current study with etanercept (Enbrel®) has exciting potential for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. The only currently FDA approved medications for treatment of Alzheimer’s are acetylcholinesterase inhibitors. These agents are helpful but additional strategies are needed. A new approach being tested at UNMC involves the use of an anti-inflammatory agent (etanercept) to attempt to alter the degenerative process of Alzheimer’s.

Dr. Burke is the PI on this study which is currently in the recruitment stage. Twenty subjects and care givers are needed for this 28 week study. Neuropsychological testing, biochemical markers using radiologic techniques (MRS) and blood tests for inflammatory markers are being assayed in collaboration with the Center for Neurovirology and Neurodegenerative Disease.

For information on clinical trials at the Psychopharmacology Research Center see their web site at www.unmc.edu/prc. For additional information about the above studies for Alzheimer’s Disease or to refer potential subjects, please call 559-5056.