

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AT THE A. T. STILL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FROM JULY 2003-DECEMBER 2003

A. RESEARCH

Clinical researchers have been actively engaged in research activities during the past six months. In addition to traveling to numerous conferences to present papers and participate in national professional discussions of the future of osteopathic research, **five primary tracks of research** have continued to evolve:

1. The Multi-Center Osteopathic Pneumonia Study in the Elderly (MOPSE) and The Efficacy of Osteopathic Manipulation in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
2. The Investigation of Biochemical Markers for the Effect of OMT
3. The Correlation between Degenerative Disc Disease (DDD), Bone Mineral Density (BMD), and Somatic Dysfunction (SD) in People with Chronic Low Back Pain/The Effect of OMT on Bone Mineral Density
4. Developing Instrumentation for Objectifying Interexaminer Reliability
5. Participation in a multi-center trial to investigate the Efficacy of Osteopathic Manipulation in Otitis Media.

Three focal areas have been initiated:

1. The Academic Administrative Units in Primary Care Infrastructure Development Grant
2. Patient-Reported Outcomes of Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment: An Epidemiologic Perspective
3. ElderLynk-- A Coordinated System for Mental Wellness Outreach to Rural Senior Citizens

Pilot Projects Initiated:

1. Evaluating the Efficacy of a Simple Osteopathic Treatment Approach in Dysmenorrhea
2. The Short-Term Effect of Lymphatic and Splenic Pump on White Blood Cell Counts in Nursing Home Residents
3. Correlating Somatic Dysfunction and Neonate Sucking
4. Intrarater reliability of cranial somatic dysfunction
5. Irritable bowel syndrome at Yale

The Academic Administrative Units in Primary Care Grant will be outlined in Section B because it supports and facilitates so many of the research institute's activities. The remaining research grants have been outlined in detail in previous EBSC reports, and will be briefly summarized, along with current status, in Section B, subsection b of this report.

B. TRAINING AND EDUCATION GRANTS

1. AAU GRANT

TITLE: Academic Administrative Units in Primary Care

PRINCIPAL/CO-INVESTIGATORS:

- Margaret A. Wilson, DO, Project Director; Division Chairperson and Professor, Family Medicine, Preventive Medicine, and Community Health
- Brian F. Degenhardt, DO/C-SPOMM, Director of the A. T. Still Research Institute, Assistant Vice President for Osteopathic Research, Center Director, Still Osteopathic Research Center, Associate Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM)

FUNDING SOURCE: Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$439,781

DATES: September 1, 2002, to August 31, 2005

a. Objectives

The Academic Administrative Units in Primary Care Grant (AAU grant) is the **primary source of funding** for the research institute, and **will continue to be for the next 18 months**. The AAU grant **specifically focuses on mentoring and training** family medicine physicians in both clinical and practice-based research, as well as to provide targeted family medicine investigators with the necessary tools and support to initiate scientifically-sound primary care research projects. The grant objectives are:

1. To **enhance the capacity and infrastructure** of the A. T. Still Research Institute for the purpose of increasing family medicine (FM) and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) commitment to and involvement in primary care research.
2. To **implement a research development program** targeted at family medicine investigators for the purpose of increasing research production, especially in the areas of high-risk population, *Healthy People 2010* objectives, and health disparities.
3. To **offer a menu of research training and mentoring options** to novice family medicine investigators as well as to KCOM medical students and OPTIK-sponsored interns and residents in family medicine programs.

b. Highlights of Activities from June to December 2003

June 2003: **Clinical Research Workshop**

The Clinical Research Workshop Series finished its first round of presentations in June 2003. Residents in the Family Medicine and combined OMM departments are finalizing their capstone

research projects through monthly meetings with Jane Johnson, MA (Director of Research Support).

The next Clinical Research Workshop series is slated to begin **Summer 2004** with greater emphasis on producing resident level research. Jennifer Creer, MA (Assistant Director of Operations for the institute) and Jane Johnson will hold **weekly appointments** with the next cohort of residents to discuss research design and writing to keep residents on schedule.

July 2003:

EBSC Retreat

Members of the Administrative Team met with the External Board of Scientific Counselors (EBSC) in Chicago for a full-day meeting.

August 2003

New Administrative Structure

Brian F. Degenhardt, DO, C-SPOMM, was named Director of the A. T. Still Research Institute.

Jennifer Creer, MA, was named Assistant Director of Operations for the A. T. Still Research Institute and works closely with Dr. Degenhardt and the Administrative Team to tend institute on a daily basis.

Manual of Operations

Jennifer Creer and Jane Johnson, MA, (Director of Research Support), continued to work on the Manual of Operations and Procedures for the Multi-Center Osteopathic Study of Pneumonia in the Elderly with Donald R. Noll, DO, FACOI (the Primary Investigator) and Selina Burt, MS, Research Coordinator.

Travel and Education

In August 2003, Jane Johnson traveled to ATSU's Arizona School of Health Sciences (ASHS) in Mesa, Arizona, to present a **one-day intensive course** on medical statistics to third- and fourth-year medical students on rotation in the Arizona region

Sept. 2003

Brian F. Degenhardt, DO, C-SPOMM, moved in September, 2003, to Ouray, Colorado, to join an integrative medicine practice in hope of establishing another satellite clinical research center for the Institute. In addition to teleconferences and regular communications with the center and its researchers, he returns to Kirksville monthly to continue his research activities.

Manuscript Preparation in Conjunction with the Allied Health

Grant

Jennifer Creer and Susan Job traveled to ASHS September 29-October 3, 2003, to **provide training** to Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy faculty on **manuscript preparation**, designed to provide two outcomes:

- The **faculty** in Arizona will now be able to **train** their students.
- The presentation provided a **template** for manuscript preparation training of family medicine residents, interns, and faculty at KCOM.

As a result of the Fall visit, Creer has edited **eight manuscripts** (**four** of which have been **submitted for publication**) and maintains an on-going mentoring relationship with the ASHS faculty.

Parkinson's Research

Members of the Administrative Team participated in preliminary conversations with Dr. Cynthia Holmes at the University of Arizona about complementary medicine applied to Parkinson's Disease. Holmes will not be prepared to conduct research until 2005.

Biomedical Research Design Course

Jane Johnson began teaching the Research Design course for the Masters in Biomedical Science Program.

Oct. 2003

MOPSE Meeting

Members of the Multi-Center Osteopathic Pneumonia Study in the Elderly (MOPSE) convened in New Orleans, LA, on the eve of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Conference, to discuss MOPSE contracts, the Manual of Operations and Procedures (MOP), the project timeline, etc.

MOPSE IRB's

Internal Review Boards for each geographical region of the MOPSE study met to approve the Manual of Operations and Procedures (MOP). Revisions were suggested.

Annual Scientific Meeting for the American Academy of Osteopathy

Chris Caldwell, D.O. and Don Noll, DO presented posters at the conference. Also Brian Degehardt, DO was a speaker for the conference presenting his work on interexaminer reliability.

Research Directors of the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (RDCOM) Annual Meeting

The national meeting of the RDCOM together with the research directors for the Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institute (OPTI) was hosted by A.T. Still University of Health Sciences on Monday, October 13, 2003, in New Orleans, Louisiana, as part of the Annual Scientific Research Conference of the AOA. John Heard, PhD, Gaylah Sublette, and Norine Eitel set the agenda and conducted the meeting of these national representatives. This

group's function is to discuss research issues of interest to all of the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine across the nation as well as their post-graduate training programs.

North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG)

Jane Johnson, MA, Jennifer Creer, MA and Rene McGovern, PhD, attended the **North American Primary Care Research Group Conference (NAPCRG)** in Banff, Canada, October 25-28, 2003. Creer conducted a manuscript preparation workshop, and McGovern presented a poster.

Annals of Family Medicine

Creer was asked by editors from the Annals of Family Medicine to review essays for the journal, as a result of her NAPCRG workshop. Creer has reviewed two essays to date, one of which was revised and accepted due to her suggestions.

Nov. 2003

Washington University

The Administrative Team identified researchers at Washington University (Wash U) whose areas of expertise matched the four areas of research the institute is currently pursuing:

- 1) low back pain
- 2) bone mineral density
- 3) inter-examiner reliability
- 4) blood markers

John Heard, PhD, Vice President of Research, Grants and Information Systems and James McGovern, PhD, President of ATSU met with Larry J. Shapiro, M.D. Executive Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs, Washington University—St. Louis Dean, Washington University School of Medicine to discuss these research possibilities.

Although the Administrative Team has decided not to pursue the N-CCAM application, we are pursuing relationships at Washington University for future research collaboration.

Mayo Clinic

Brian Degenhardt, D.O. began discussions with Ralph Gay, MD, whose research interests including upper extremity rehabilitation, spine rehabilitation, and manual medicine, to look at collaborative research opportunities in the area of test reliability.

University of Iowa

Dr. Degenhardt reinitiated discussion with Kathleen Sluka, PhD, PT to establish research collaboration. Dr. Sluka studies the effects of manipulation on cerebral spinal fluid neurotransmitters which may be compatible with the biomarkers research being done by Brian

Degenhardt, DO, C-SPOMM, Nissar Darmani, PhD, and Lex Towns, PhD.

Osteopathic Center for Children

The Administrative Team finalized contracts with the Osteopathic Center for Children (OCC) in San Diego, and anticipates assisting the center with manuscript preparation in Spring 2004. The OCC is particularly interested in developing a research project in the area of plagiocephaly, so a literature review is underway.

HRSA

Creer completed the 2003 progress report to Health Resources and Service Administration about the Academic Administrative Units in Primary Care Grant.

Dec. 2003

Otitis Media Meeting

A.T. Still Research Institute has been identified as a **participatory center** for a Texas Osteopathic Research Center study on otitis media. Primary Investigator is Karen Steele, DO, Associate Dean of West Virginia University, and Co-Investigator is Jane Carriaro, from the University of New England. Brian Degenhardt represented the institute at the planning meeting and is anticipated to be the site PI for the institute. It is anticipated that the institute will coordinate study sites in both Missouri and Colorado. The anticipated submission date is **June 1, 2004**.

EBSC

Contracts with EBSC members finalized for 2004. We welcome Michael Pierschbacher, PhD, and Maureen Simmonds, PT, PhD, and Jay Triano, DC, PhD, and look forward to their comments and discussion in the coming year.

Research Communications I

Jennifer Creer, MA began team teaching the Research Communications course with Neil Sargentini, PhD, for the Masters in Biomedical Science Program.