



**V P R NEWSLETTER**

*Translating today's discoveries into tomorrow's cures...*

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

<http://research.uthscsa.edu> 210-567-0397

JUNE 25, 2009

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) & South Texas Research Facility (STRF)**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Update**

The recent ARRA legislation provides an unprecedented level of funding (\$8.2 billion in extramural funding) to the NIH to help stimulate the US economy through the support and advancement of scientific research. The aim of the ARRA funding is to support projects that will stimulate the economy, create or retain jobs, and have the potential for making scientific progress in 2 years.

As of June 19 the Health Science Center has requested \$166,976,396 in ARRA funds. The amount of JIT requests is \$29,927,082. The awarded total currently is \$3,352,398 and total funding committed to date is \$4,473,111. The 13 awards at this time include 3 supplements, 2- R01 awards, 5- R21 awards, and 3 other awards. The HSC award total falls in the middle compared to other similar Texas institutions.

**ARRA Reporting Requirements**

In addition to normal reporting requirements (annual, final progress; final financial), the Office of Sponsored Programs must also provide quarterly reporting to a federal reporting portal. The portal should become available in August. Data elements for this report include:

- project description
- project status to completion
- jobs created
- jobs retained
- expenditures
- also report for subawardees

Other requirements for ARRA funds include:

- each award is accounted for separately (in HSC system, separate project ids)

- funds draw down by individual award
- the State of Texas requires weekly reporting of activity
- federal audits of these funds are likely

More information on grant funding opportunities supported by ARRA can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/>

**The South Texas Research Facility (STRF)**

The STRF is beginning to take shape on the HSC's Greehey Campus. The building is on schedule to be opened in the spring of 2011.

The current target funding for the building is \$150 million which will provide completion of 50% of the building. The Health Science Center has submitted a grant to the Extramural Research Facilities Improvement Program (C06) in the amount of \$15 million to complete the rest of the facility. The C06 program supports efforts to make major alterations and renovations to existing buildings, add to existing buildings, complete uninhabitable shell space in existing buildings, or construct new facilities including research and animal facilities.

If the grant is successful the Office of the Vice President for Research will facilitate the relocation process by bringing

together deans, department chairs and original planning groups to determine which research groups will move into the STRF. The groups will be centered around the programmatic themes chosen for the facility including adult cancer, neuroscience, metabolic biology, healthy aging and regenerative medicine.

The STRF labs on the second floor of the building are designed with bench space, office space, storage, conference room space, and undesignated space for specialized equipment needs of the occupants. The building design includes a single long corridor and break space at the end of the corridor that are meant to encourage interaction between groups. The overall design is based on the desire to increase the synergies between the disciplines that will occupy the building.

Vivarium space for the Greehey Campus will also be expanded in the STRF. This new vivarium space will house small animals and will be easily accessible by research groups in both the STRF and the Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute (GCCRI).

Plans for future expansion include a conference center and food court between the STRF and the GCCRI.

HSC Activity Proposals by Major Programs		
S-10 (Equipment)	8	9,109,455
Administrative Supplements	105	29,927,082
RC-1 (Challenge)	105	41,910,680
RC-2 (Grand Opportunities)	15	52,858,087
P30 (Faculty Recruitment)	7	8,781,506
Type 2 (Competitive Revisions)	12	4,921,333
C06 (Facilities)	2	17,659,058



**AAHRPP Accreditation**

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio has earned full accreditation from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). Only 42 percent of academic health centers nationwide have received this three-year accreditation, which ensures higher-than-federal standards of protection for research participants.

“This is important for San Antonio because it reassures our community that if the best treatment option is to participate in a clinical research study, we do everything possible to ensure the safety of participants and protect their rights,” said Jenice N. Longfield, M.D., M.P.H., assistant vice president for research operations at the UT Health Science Center and chair of its Human Research Protection Program

committee.

Accreditation also assures the same protections to people who might be willing to serve as normal volunteers in research to help advance medical science, Dr. Longfield said.

Protections include:

- Proper, scientific design of clinical research studies;
- Recruiting and consenting procedures that ensure subjects are informed of potential risks and benefits and have their privacy and confidentiality protected;
- Appropriate monitoring of the safety of subjects during research trials.

“This accreditation reflects our commitment to the public that, as we seek the discovery of new knowledge to ease human suffering from diseases, we take every precaution to safeguard the

well-being of those who assist us in this pursuit,” said William L. Henrich, M.D., M.A.C.P., sole finalist for president of the UT Health Science Center.

In 2008, the Health Science Center conducted 1,119 active clinical research studies. Each one was approved by the Health Science Center’s Institutional Review Board, a multidisciplinary committee that ensures federal guidelines are met or exceeded. The board members, research investigators and staff contribute on a daily basis to the Human Research Protection Program.

Brian Herman, Ph.D., vice president for research, is the Health Science Center’s institutional official responsible for establishing, maintaining and advancing the Human Research Protection Program. The mission of the program is to protect the rights and welfare of participants who take part in Health Science Center research.

The South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio and The University of



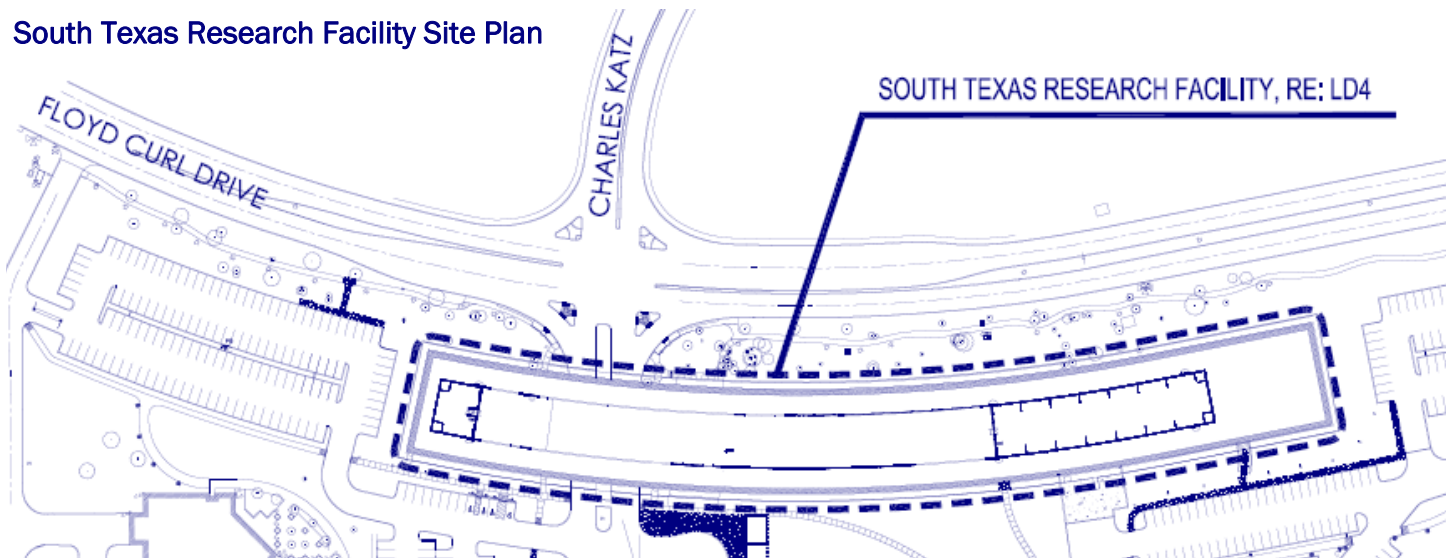
Jenice N. Longfield, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Vice President for Research Operations

Texas Health Science Center at Houston also earned full accreditation. AAHRPP has accredited 188 organizations since its formation. One of those is The University of Texas at Austin.

This is the first AAHRPP accreditation for the Health Science Center. AAHRPP was formed in 2001 to address research participant protection issues. For more information see

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

**South Texas Research Facility Site Plan**



[Click here to view this town hall](#)