



# UW-GCRC Update

UW-Madison: General Clinical Research Center

July 2005

Volume 1, Issue 5

## 2005 GCRC Protocol Submission Deadlines

Deadlines for submitting protocols are listed below. See the UW-GCRC website, <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/uwgcrc/index.html> for more information.

- Thursday July 28
- Thursday September 1
- Thursday September 29
- Thursday November 3

(email completed forms to [dgale@biostat.wisc.edu](mailto:dgale@biostat.wisc.edu))

Cover Photo: Philip M. Farrell, MD, PhD, GCRC Principal Investigator, Dean of UW Medical School

## Processing Lab Helps GCRC Studies

The UW-General Clinical Research Center (UW-GCRC) offers a Sample Processing Laboratory for research studies that take place on its D6/6 unit in the Clinical Science Center. Sample processing is free to NIH-supported studies, while industry studies and non-NIH, investigator-initiated studies pay the discounted fee as obtained through the Office of Clinical Trials budget database.

Karen Maki is the GCRC laboratory technician who covers the lab from Monday through Friday. However, the laboratory is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, since the GCRC research nurses do processing when Karen is not on duty. Karen has been with the GCRC for three years. Previously, she was laboratory

coordinator for many years with the Jackson Foundation, the research arm of the Jackson Clinic before it became Physicians Plus and then UW-Health.

### Processing Lab

In 2004, the UW-GCRC laboratory processed 23,365 tests for 69 separate research projects. The laboratory equipment used included the biological

safety cabinet, a -20 degree C freezer, a refrigerator, a -70 degree C freezer, two refrigerated centrifuges, and one standard centrifuge. The GCRC equipment also includes two YSI 2300 stat glucose-lactate monitoring systems.



Karen Maki — GCRC laboratory technician

(Continued on page 2)

## You Should Know...

- **James E. Gern, MD, has been named Acting Director of the UW-GCRC by Dean Philip M. Farrell, MD, PhD, who is also the Principal Investigator of the GCRC.** As of July 1, 2005, Dr. Gern serves until the Dean names a new Program Director to replace William W. Busse, MD, who resigned to become Chair of the Department of Medicine. A Search Committee has completed interviews and has sent names of recommended candidates to the Dean. A second round of interviews is now under way.
- **All clinical research studies that incur University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics (UWHC) and/or UW Medical Foundation (UWMF) charges must be entered into the on-line budget database maintained by the Office of Clinical Trials (OCT).** Before enrolling, set up the billing process with help from the OCT. You will receive a Red Card for research billing, as well as a Research Billing Slip that indicates research charges. The UWHC and UWMF offer discounts to researchers who complete the OCT process. If GCRC is paying for all study visits and procedures, you may not need a Red Card and Billing Slip, but the study information should be entered in the OCT budget database.
- **Ancillary support for all GCRC category A studies will be at the same level in the second 6 months of the grant year as in the first 6 months.** The second half of the grant year runs from June 1, 2005–November 30, 2005. Category A studies are research only studies, NIH-funded, for

(Continued on page 2)

## Processing Lab *(Continued from page 1)*

“We’re able to focus on each sample and its individual processing needs,” says Karen. “Basically, the processing is done immediately, since we are dedicated to getting samples processed as soon as possible.”

### GCRC Support for Lab Tests

The UW-GCRC, despite a reduction in funding from its federal grant in 2004-05, still pays for many laboratory tests for studies with NIH grants. Nationally, the GCRCs were created to provide sites and some support for ancillary tests for clinical studies with NIH support. This year, the GCRC pays \$33 per outpatient visit and \$100 per inpatient day for laboratory tests, e.g., blood tests, urine tests, and x-rays. Through the federal grant, the GCRC pays a discounted rate for most tests, so the

\$33 or \$100 supports several tests. In addition, of course, the UW-GCRC covers the cost for the hospital room and nursing.

The UW-GCRC on D6/6, due to the research expectations, has all RN, or RN/BSN degreed nurses. Among their duties is drawing blood, often at scheduled time points for pharmacokinetic research studies. After processing, the blood can be stored or sent to the UWHC laboratory for analysis.

*If you have questions about the GCRC laboratory capabilities, please call the GCRC Nursing Unit at 263-7174 for further information.*

## More to Know... *(Continued from page 1)*

which the GCRC pays all room and nursing costs, and a portion of ancillary charges (e.g., blood tests, urine tests, X-rays). Because of the reduced NIH funding, the GCRC is able to cover a maximum of \$33 in ancillaries for each outpatient visit, and \$100 for each inpatient day. This \$33/\$100 coverage is at the GCRC’s discounted research rate, so often a number of tests will be covered. This \$33/\$100 limit will also be applied in the June-November 2005 period, with reassessment for the new grant year that begins Dec. 1, 2005.

### PLEASE CITE THE UW-GCRC IN PUBLICATIONS

Remember to acknowledge the UW-General Clinical Research Center when you have received support from us. Please state: "Supported by grant M01 RR03186 from the General Clinical Research Centers Program of the National Center for Research Resources, National Institutes of Health."

## UW-GCRC Spotlight...Nancy Sloan

Nancy Sloan, RN, one of the “veterans” on the UW-GCRC, finds clinical research an exciting nursing specialty, because it’s the “beginning of some treatments that might really go somewhere—and make a difference to many people.”

She came to the GCRC 12 years ago, when it was located in what is now the UW Hospital and Clinics Care Initiation Unit. Before her move to the GCRC, Nancy worked for three years in the TLC and 12 years on B6/6 in what was then the hematology, bone marrow transplant, and endocrine unit.

“I had both the experience of giving chemotherapy as well as experience in the TLC,” she remembers. “It was a good match for the variety of research studies we have here on the GCRC.”

Nancy is an Alternate Team Leader on the GCRC, which means she takes over when both Team Leaders Mary Gillitzer or Linda Carr are off or on vacation. She handles reservations for research subjects, checks staffing for the next

three shifts, makes assignment changes for sick calls, works with study coordinators, and assists staff in problem solving.

“As a group, we work very well together and are very close,” she says of the GCRC nursing team. “You’re never on your own.

Plus, there are a huge variety of studies, not limited to one specialty. We go from working with healthy volunteers to helping people trying experimental treatments to prolong their lives.”

Nancy’s special areas are working with oncology protocols, especially complicated studies; sleep studies, and Alzheimer’s studies. However, she has worked on such a variety of GCRC studies over the years that she feels comfortable in most research areas.

“One of the most exciting research areas is in Phase I drugs,” Nancy says. “As an example, cancer drugs previously attacked the whole

body, such as the entire GI tract, but now new drugs attack only the tumor’s vasculature. It’s a whole new world in research and in fighting diseases.”



Nancy Sloan, RN—“Veteran” UW-GCRC nurse