

# Allied Health Sciences Research Quarterly Newsletter

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Department of Allied Health Sciences, UNC Chapel Hill  
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<http://www.alliedhealth.unc.edu/>

## From the Office of the Associate Chair

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*This newsletter can also be downloaded at any time from the following link:  
<http://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/for-faculty-staff/research-support-services>*

This second issue of the Research Quarterly newsletter is an opportunity to share the many accomplishments of our faculty this quarter, provide updates on current activities of this office, and inform you of upcoming events that may be of particular interest to faculty engaged in research. I am excited to start working with our Research Advisory Committee to identify goals and priorities for the future, and to begin to implement strategies to strengthen our research culture and capacity. Stay-tuned for a brief survey coming your way, designed to identify faculty research interests and needs.

Also, we will be launching a new Research Forum that will provide monthly opportunities for scholarly discourse and information-sharing across disciplines and divisions. Interdisciplinary collaborations among researchers, as well as those between practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders, are becoming increasingly important in today's funding climate and with health care's growing emphasis on translational research. We can learn much from each other's successes and challenges in research, find ways to leverage our strengths, and build new partnerships. We have myriad strengths across our divisions, and we look forward to your participation in these events.



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*Grace Baranek, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, is the Associate Chair for Research for Allied Health Sciences*

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## Research News

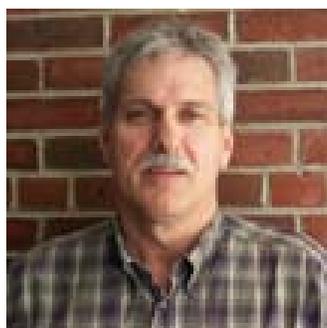
### Research Advisory Committee Convenes & Develops Faculty Survey

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) will begin monthly meetings to

further the research goals of the Department of Allied Health Sciences (DAHS). Members will serve a three-year term in an advisory capacity to the Associate Chair for Research. Among the many functions of the RAC, members will contribute to the development of a research agenda to promote high caliber research and scholarship, facilitate educational opportunities and access to resources to support research, establish interdisciplinary partnerships, and raise the visibility of DAHS research and scholarship locally and nationally. The RAC welcomes your input - please contact Wesley Winkelman at [wwinkelm@med.unc.edu](mailto:wwinkelm@med.unc.edu) if you have items for the committee to discuss.

As faculty in the Department of Allied Health Sciences, it is important that you receive the support you need to conduct scholarly research that can move the field forward through contribution to peer-reviewed literature and that has the potential to positively impact practice. Due to the interdisciplinary and complex nature of the work in our department, we recognize that the support needs are likely to vary greatly across faculty. To this end the Office of Research together with the DAHS Research Advisory Committee, will be conducting a survey of faculty in the spring semester. The purpose of this survey is to identify the area of greatest need in terms of research support so that we can be strategic in our placement of resources to support faculty in their research endeavors. The survey questions will not overlap with recent surveys done through the Center for Faculty Excellence, but we hope that through this survey we will be able to better tailor activities to support the needs of faculty pursuing research pilot studies, grants, and contracts. The survey will use Qualtrics, a web-based survey program available to the campus through the Odum Institute for Research in the Social Sciences. So keep your eyes open for it and please send in your responses!

#### *Annual Consortium of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Educators Symposium at Carolina*



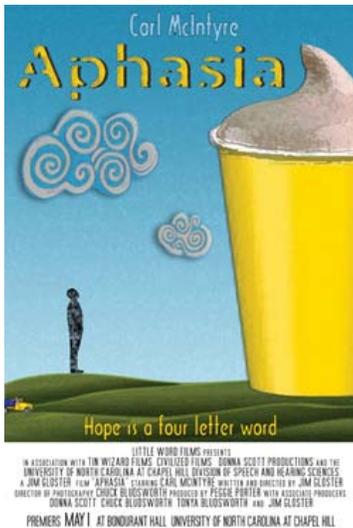
Charles Bernacchio, Ed.D., CRC and the UNC Division of Rehabilitation Counseling & Psychology Program hosted the Consortium of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Educators National Symposium from October 15 -17, 2010. The 2-day event was held in Bondurant Hall which was attended by postsecondary psychiatric rehabilitation educators from around the nation including faculty from University of Maryland, Boston University, University of Medicine & Dentistry in New Jersey, Springfield College, San Diego State University, Center on Community Inclusion/University of Massachusetts-Boston, Drexel University and UNC-Chapel Hill. The Symposium program included several presentations from UNC faculty and associates including:

- David Penn, PhD: Social Cognition Integration Training (SCIT)
- Bebe Smith, MSW, Co-Director of the Center for Excellence/UNC Psychiatry- Outreach and Support Intervention Services (OASIS): Early identification of psychosis program
- Dan Bradford, MD, Director- Durham VAMC PRRC Model Fellowship Training Program

In addition to formal research presentations participants had the chance to demonstrate online teaching resources and techniques, use of web-based links (podcasts, videos, YouTube library, Davidson resources), offer mentoring and support as well as collaborative scholarship among other things. Participants gave high marks to quality presentations at Carolina. The visiting faculty raved about the Franklin Hotel accommodations and all the wonderful area sights around greater Chapel Hill! Overall, the Division's hosting of this year's Symposium was a big success!

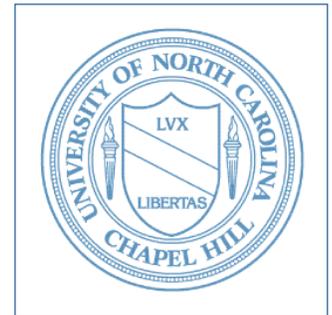
## Upcoming Events

### Aphasia Film Screening set for March 1st



The UNC-Chapel Hill [Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders](#) is delighted to announce a screening of the acclaimed short film “Aphasia” on March 1 at 7 p.m. in the Carolina Union Auditorium. Following the film, the starring actor, Carl McIntyre, will give an interactive presentation about the production of the film and his experiences as a man with aphasia. All students, staff, and faculty with a UNC One Card are welcome to attend. Please help us spread the word and prepare for an unforgettable evening! For more information about the event and the film, please visit here:

<http://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/uploads/cknca.aphasiafil.pdf>




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*As of February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has received \$577,902,381 in research funding for the 2010-11 fiscal year.*

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### DAHS Research Forum Announced

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new series of monthly Research Forums. The purpose of the DAHS Research Forum is to create opportunities for more scholarly interaction among faculty across all divisions, and to share information about resources that have potential to build research capacity, collaborations, and grant funding success. Upcoming topics:

- NC TraCS Research Navigators- developing successful translational research proposals (Monday, Jan. 24 at 11:30).
- Obtaining funding from federal agencies: Success stories from DAHS faculty (March 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
- Developing proposals targeted to private foundations (TBA)
- An insider’s view of the NIH Peer Review Process (TBA)

We welcome ideas for future topics that would be of interest to you!

## Excellence in Scholarship



### Karen Erickson Recognized at Faculty Engaged Scholars Ceremony

Karen Erickson, PhD, Director of the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, Yoder Distinguished Professor, and

Professor in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, was one of seven scholars recently recognized at the graduation ceremony for members of the Carolina Center for Public Service's Faculty Engaged Scholars Program.

Erickson and the other scholars, who represented various disciplines from across campus, received cords and certificates during the ceremony at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education.

The [Faculty Engaged Scholars Program](#) is an initiative to advance faculty involvement in the scholarship of engagement. Such scholarship, while fully grounded as disciplined inquiry according to the highest academic standards, also strengthens university-community relationships and contributes to the common good. The seven scholars recognized at the recent graduation ceremony had worked during the two-year program to strengthen their community partnerships and their connections to their research.

"Participating in the Faculty Engaged Scholars Program gave me a language to use in describing the scholarship that has been integral to my career," Erickson said. "It has also been invaluable in helping me connect with colleagues across campus and throughout North Carolina who value research that comes from and is sustained by the community."

In November 2008, Erickson began implementing Jim Cunningham's Whole-to-Part reading model in grades three to five in Orange County's Efland-Cheeks Elementary School. After 10 weeks of daily intervention, students in the model showed growth in their area of need and district level administrators decided to adopt the intervention throughout the district, grades three to eight for the 2009-10 school year. Currently, 800 students are being served district-wide by interventionists. The project, supported in part by the UNC School of Medicine, represents the true mission of Carolina as a research University serving the people of North Carolina.

For more information about the graduates and the program, visit the [Carolina Center for Public Service Web site](#).

#### Enhancing Rehabilitation Research In the South (ERRIS) Workshop

Sadye Errickson, MSPT, PhD, MPH and Chinyu Wu, PhD, OTR/L were selected to attend the Enhancing Rehabilitation Research In the South (ERRIS) workshop in January.

Under the direction of Dr. James A. Blackman, MD, MPH of the University of Virginia, Enhancing Rehabilitation Research in the South (ERRIS) is designed to provide an infrastructure that will increase the quality and quantity of rehabilitation research in the region as one of four [research networks](#) funded by the [National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research](#) (NCMRR). All etiologies and age groups are included although there is a relative focus on central nervous system injury and pediatric through young adult populations.

Please stay tuned for the next issue where more details about the workshop experience will be given!

### Rosenberg and Baranek selected for UNC's Departmental strategies Collaborative

Angela Rosenberg (PT, DPH) and Grace Baranek, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA were selected to participate in UNC's Departmental Strategies Collaborative (DSC). This DSC, facilitated by Dr. David Kiel at the Center for Faculty Excellence (<http://cfe.unc.edu/index.html>) will focus on improvement projects at the departmental and inter-departmental levels. Eight members were chosen to be part of this inaugural campus-wide initiative, and will meet monthly for one year. Participants will have the opportunity to learn and apply a variety of strategic planning and change management frameworks, develop strategies and visions, problem-solve challenging barriers to achieving goals, identify and connect with organizations on campus, link to faculty leaders, and get feedback on proposals and strategies toward departmental improvement efforts consistent with their goals.




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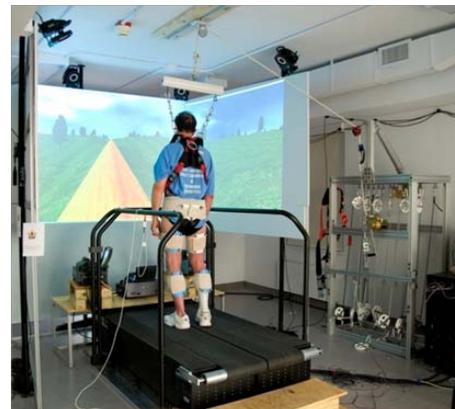
*Allied Health Sciences has received \$2,205,512 of external grant funding between October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010*

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## Spotlight on Inter-Professional Research Collaborations

### Immersive Virtual Environment and Rehabilitation Treadmill (IVERT)

Clinical researchers in the Division of Physical Therapy have teamed with researchers in the Department of Computer Science to develop a novel form of walking retraining for individuals with chronic stroke. Together, the team of Michael Lewek (Division of Physical Therapy), Mary Whitton (Computer Science), Fred Brooks (Computer Science), and Jeff Feasel (Computer Science) have developed the Immersive



Virtual Environment and Rehabilitation Treadmill (IVERT). The purpose of the IVERT system is to provide appropriate feedback about walking in real-time, in a manner that is engaging and easy to understand. We believe that this technique will be helpful for eliciting faster, more symmetric gait following stroke. This is important because walking is often difficult after stroke, characterized as slow, energy inefficient, and asymmetric between limbs. Even with aggressive therapy, walking speeds remain slower than age matched controls, and between-limb asymmetries persist. The use of the immersive virtual environment provides individuals with stroke with 'optic flow'. Optic flow is the sense of motion that we have as we walk around overground; however optic flow is lost when walking on a treadmill. The

provision of optic flow for patients with stroke will provide patients with a sense of motion to encourage faster walking during training. Concurrently, the virtual environment provides real-time feedback of the interlimb movement asymmetries to allow for self-correction. In addition to the use of the virtual environment, the co-investigators in Computer Science have programmed the treadmill to be self-paced. In this way, the treadmill responds to the patients stepping and can go faster or slower, simply by altering the way that you walk.

Currently, these investigators are testing the within-session changes that occur during training, and have embarked on a 6-week training program with individuals post-stroke. The first patient to complete training with the IVERT system has made dramatic improvements providing hope that we may see beneficial changes in others as we continue.

The IVERT web site can be found at the following address:

<http://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/physical/programs/hmsc/interdisciplinary-human-movement-science-lab>

## Workshops and Seminars

The UNC School of Nursing is offering the following summer courses for the 2011 year and are now available for registration:

- Qualitative Analysis 1: Empirical/Analytical Methods
- 16th Annual Institute in Qualitative Research: Mixed-Methods Research
- Qualitative Analysis 2: Phenomenological and Narrative/Discourse Methods
- Developing Competitive Intervention Studies
- Writing Research Grants
- Family Research: Conceptual and Methodological Issues
- Outcomes Measurement
- Researching Health Policies to Advocate for Change
- Instrumentation: Development, Testing and Revision

For more information on all courses, please visit the UNC School of Nursing website at <http://nursing.cll.unc.edu/> or call the Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL) at (919) 966-3638.

## Agency Updates

### NIH Extramural Nexus

The National Institutes of Health has launched a new blog called the Extramural Nexus. This blog is frequently updated with tips and news items relating to the NIH and research in general. Some of the items covered in this blog include help for unfunded NIH applications, new funding opportunities and policy updates.

The blog can be found at the following link:

<http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/nexus-by-date/>

### NIH Policies Related to Parental Leave and Child Care

NIH has updated their policies regarding parental leave and child care for principal investigators and other staff paid off an NIH grant.

The new policies can be found here:

[http://grants.nih.gov/training/faq\\_childcare.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/training/faq_childcare.htm)

## Grants Submitted (Oct. 2010 – Dec. 2010)

*Preventive Home Visits for At-risk Older Adults: A Randomized Controlled Trial*  
Malcolm Cutchin, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

*Auditory masking effects on speech fluency in aphasia: Identification of neural and behavioral predictors of responders*  
Adam Jacks, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

*The Time is Now in PreK: An Early Reading First Subcontract with Richmond County Schools*  
Karen Erickson, Richmond County Schools

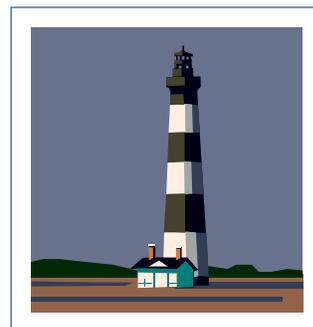
*The Assessment of Military Multitasking Performance: Validation of a Dual-Task and Multitask Protocol to Inform Return-to-Duty Decision-Making after Mild Traumatic Brain Injury*  
Karen McCulloch, Sister Kenny Research Institute

*Spinal Circuits and the Musculoskeletal System*  
Richard Segal, Emory University

## New Grants Awarded (Oct. 2010 – Dec. 2010)

January 2011 - December 2014 (PI: Elizabeth Crais) *Preparing Professionals for Leadership Roles in Translational Research Focused on Children with Disabilities Including High Need Children.* US Department of Education. (\$1,180,090)

January 2011 - December 2014 (PIs: Jackson Roush, Melody Harrison) *Preparation of Pediatric Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists to Serve Infants, Toddlers, and School-Age Children with Hearing Loss,* US Department of Education. (\$1,025,422)



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*Allied Health Sciences submits proposals to a wide variety of sponsors, with 16 different agencies submitted to so far in FY10-11 alone.*

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## Publications

LeGrys VA, McColley S, Zhui L, Farrell P: The Need for Quality Improvement in Sweat Testing Infants Following Newborn Screening for Cystic Fibrosis. *J Pediatr* . 2010 Dec;157(6):1035-7

Evon, D., Burker, E, Galanko, J., Dedert, E., & Egan, T. (2010). Depressive Symptoms and Mortality in Lung Transplant, *Clinical Transplantation*, 24: E201-206:10.1111/j.1399-0012.2010.01236x.

## Honors

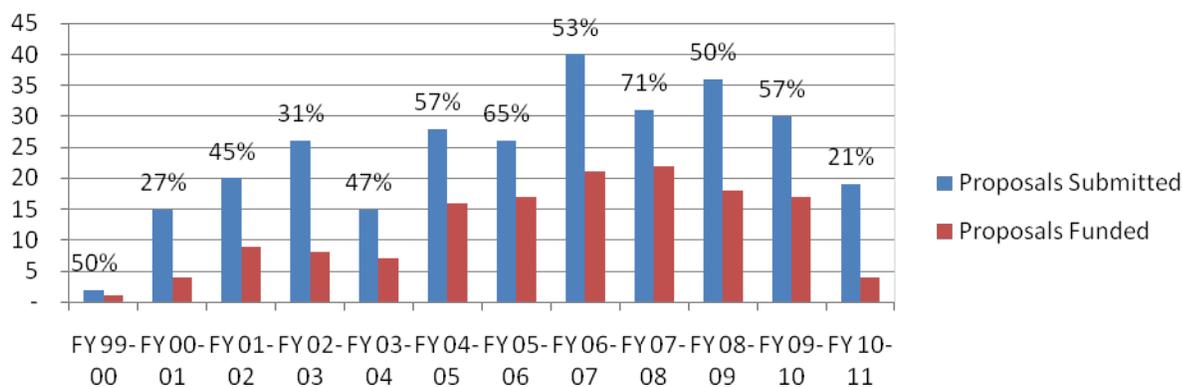
University of Florida, College of Public Health and Health Related Professions, Department of Physical Therapy, Outstanding Alumni Award 2010 - received in October (Karen McCulloch)

## Promotions

Our congratulations to Malcolm Cutchin, PhD for his promotion to Professor and to Linn Wakeford, MS, OTR/L for her promotion to Associate Professor!

## Did You Know...

The success rate for proposals submitted from Allied Health Sciences is actually quite high? The chart below outlines the number of funded proposals in relation to submission attempts over the past 11 years:



## Contacts

Please contact Wesley Winkelman, Contracts and Grants Manager, for any items you would like to see published in the next newsletter, feedback, or any questions or concerns.

He can be reached at [wwinkel@med.unc.edu](mailto:wwinkel@med.unc.edu) or by phone at 919-966-9471.