



Office of Research News

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Office of Research
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First Word

Welcome to the first issue of the Office of Research News. Unlike hardcover first edition books, it's not likely this inaugural issue will ever improve in cash value with age. But, we do believe that in time the information contained in the OoR newsletter will be of practical value to our main audience, the SOM's research faculty and staff.

The OoR provides support for startup packages for new faculty hires, retention packages for current faculty, Core Research Facilities, and



*Terry Magnuson, Ph.D.
Vice Dean for Research*

applications for new research equipment and training grants. And while these functions continue, the primary OoR mission is to develop and implement a strategic plan for SOM research. This involves the consideration of several...

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Nota Bene

As it says in Latin, this column will carry announcements, reminders and other items of importance to take note of, to "note well." Here are several for your calendar:

N.B. Bridge Funds – Faculty with RO1 grants or who are part of a Program Project now have until April 4, 2011 to apply for “bridge” funding to help fill the financial gap that often occurs between the end of a grant’s funding period and its renewal.

N.B. Training Grants – Faculty PIs for training grants who must apply for renewal in May 2011 should be working on their applications now. This is a reminder that training grants take 6 weeks minimum (more like 2-3 months) to pull all the material together.

N.B. NCBC grants – Deadline dates for two North Carolina Biotechnology Center grants are coming up: July 29, 2011 for a multidisciplinary grant; and September 1, 2011 for an equipment grant. 

Cheers,
Dede Corvinus

*Serving the UNC School
of Medicine research
community*

*Terry Magnuson, PhD, Vice Dean
for Research
Dede Corvinus, PhD, Director,
Office of Research
Bob Duronio, PhD, Assistant Dean
for Research
Kathleen Caron, PhD, Assistant
Dean for Research
Mike Topal, PhD, Assistant Dean
for Core Technologies
Virginia Miller, PhD, Assistant
Dean for Graduate education
Gene Bober, Assistant Dean for
Resource Analysis
Carolyn Marlow, Director of
Sponsored Programs*

Faculty at Large

*Miriam Braunstein, PhD,
Microbiology & Immunology
Mohanish Deshmukh, PhD
Cell & Developmental Biology
Henrik Dohlman, PhD
Biochemistry & Biophysics
Janet Rubin, MD
Department of Medicine
Anna Spagnoli, MD
Department of Pediatrics*

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important areas, chief among these: investment in new, high-impact research proposals; new long-term research directions at the SOM including large animal research; proposals for utilization of existing research space; proposals for new core facilities.

The OoR now meets regularly with basic science chairs and with center directors individually for an overview of their areas, including concerns and needs. In that regard, we've assembled a team of people whose focus is on specific areas. In this issue of OoR News we introduce two new assistant

deans for research and special projects, Kathleen Caron and Bob Duronio, and Mike Topal, assistant dean for core technologies.

We also have five Faculty-at-Large members who meet monthly with the OoR team. The FaL serve for two years. Currently they are: Miriam Braunstein [Microbiology & Immunology], Mohanish Deshmukh [Cell & Developmental Biology], Henrik Dohlman [Biochemistry & Biophysics], Janet Rubin [Medicine], and Anna Spagnoli [Pediatrics].

For further details, see our

Organizational Chart

<http://www.med.unc.edu/oor/admin> and/or the People page at <http://www.med.unc.edu/oor> for more specific information and for whom to contact with questions.

Please feel free to contact any of these people and, of course, your department chair or center director, if there are issues, concerns, or recommendations you would like to share with the OoR.

And do join us at our open forums during which you can interact with us directly. 📧

Best wishes,
Terry

Core Facilities Report

Mike Topal, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, is assistant dean for core facilities. This is his introductory report on UNC cores. Subsequent columns will focus on individual core facilities.

There are more than 70 core facilities at UNC, most of which are available for use by all faculty on a fee-for-service basis. The cores can be found mainly in the medical school but also in the School of Public Health, School of Pharmacy and in the main campus, as well. That's largely because they developed as need arose. The first place to go for information about the cores is our developing Web portal: <http://www.med.unc.edu/ott/core-facilities>.

The core facilities web portal, for the first time, lists all of our cores in one place. It not only lists the cores but offers descriptions, links to their websites, provides the ability to search by subject and by keyword, and to search the instrumentation and technology that are available at the cores.

We are continuing to develop introductory educational information for this portal. Our goal is that soon the interested researcher will be able to go to the portal, learn how to access information in the portal, find the cores that can impact their research,

find the appropriate services, find the people to talk to and become educated about the technologies all through the core facilities portal.

Another way to find out more about the cores is through an educational series built around different core-related themes. There are monthly workshops and seminars throughout the academic year. There you'll learn about the cores, their technologies, and examples of the types of research using these technologies. For information about the educational events, either go to the TraCS website (<http://tracs.unc.edu/>) and click on the calendar or watch for e-mails and posters around the medical campus announcing these events. The events currently take place in 219 Brinkhouse-Bullitt Building, but we will be moving them to Lineberger Building in the near future.

We have this wonderful set of core facilities in which the school of medicine and university have invested heavily. It's a major part of the research enterprise at UNC and a wonderful resource for our scientists and clinicians. Our core facilities are well organized and function superbly. And they're here for you, the researcher. 📧

-Mike Topal

OoR Who's Who

In this issue: Kathleen M. Caron, Dede Corvinus, Robert Duronio, Michael Topal

Kathleen M. Caron

Kathleen M. Caron, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Cell & Molecular Physiology and Genetics at the UNC-CH. Dr. Caron graduated from Emory University with a BS in Biology and a BA in Philosophy. For her graduate work, she trained with Dr. Keith L. Parker in the Department of Cell Biology at Duke University where she elucidated the role of steroidogenesis in regulating sexual determination and adrenal and gonadal development using genetic mouse models. To gain more experience in gene targeting approaches, Dr. Caron pursued her postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Dr. Oliver Smithies at UNC-CH, where she was the first to discover the essential role of adrenomedullin peptide for embryonic survival. Her laboratory currently uses sophisticated gene targeting approaches to model human disease in mice. With a special emphasis on vascular biology, the Caron laboratory has gained valuable insights into the genetic basis and pathophysiology of lymphatic vascular disease, preeclampsia and gender-dependent cardiovascular disease. Dr. Caron has received numerous awards including a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award in the Biomedical Sciences, an Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association and a Jefferson Pilot Award in Biomedical Sciences. 



Kathleen M. Caron, Ph.D.

Dede Corvinus

Dede Corvinus, Ph.D., received her degree in Geology in 1982 from the University of South Carolina. She then completed an MFA in Acting in 1985 from the University of Washington. She came to UNC-Chapel Hill in 1987 as an Instructor in the Department of Dramatic Art. In 1997 she joined the newly created Office of Research in the School of Medicine, becoming Director in 1999. During the past 13 years she worked closely with Drs. Bill Marzluff, the Executive Associate Dean for Research, and Eugene Orringer, the Executive Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs. With the appointment of Dr. Terry Magnuson as the Vice Dean for Research, the Office of Research team has expanded. The office works to facilitate all aspects of the School of Medicine's research enterprise, including: preparation of multidisciplinary grants, allocation of School resources dedicated to research, support for the technology vital to the research endeavors and facilitation of communication between the administration and investigators. 



Dede Corvinus, Ph.D.

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Robert Duronio

Robert Duronio, Ph.D., received a B.S. in Biology in 1986 from MIT and his doctorate in 1991 from Washington University, where he worked with Jeffrey Gordon studying protein acylation and was the first to clone and characterize N-myristoyl transferase genes from eukaryotes. Bob was a postdoctoral fellow with Patrick O'Farrell at the University of California San Francisco where he studied cell cycle regulation in *Drosophila* embryos. In 1996 he joined the faculty at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he is currently a Professor of Biology and a Professor of Genetics and serves as Director of the Curriculum in Genetics and Molecular Biology Ph.D. program. His laboratory studies how the regulation of gene expression provides mechanisms for cell cycle control during animal development. [i](#)



Robert Duronio, Ph.D.

Michael Topal

Michael Topal received a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from New York University in 1973, studying nucleic-acid base stacking interactions in DNA model systems with Myron Warshaw. He was an NIH postdoctoral fellow with Jacques Fresco at Princeton University where he studied non-Watson-Crick base pairs in DNA and RNA double helices and published a model for the occurrence of transversion mutations. In 1977, he joined the department of pathology and laboratory medicine at UNC and was named a Scholar of the Leukemia Society of America, 1983 – 1988. He is currently professor in the department of pathology and laboratory medicine and member of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is faculty director of the Genomics and Mammalian Genetics Core Facilities and was appointed assistant dean for core technologies in 2008 and director of the TraCS Institute Translational Technologies Core in 2010. Topal's research studies focus on DNA instability. Topal lives with his wife Lilly in Chapel Hill where they raised two sons. Dr. Topal collects early North Carolina Pottery and, as a former boy-scout leader, he enjoys hiking and camping in the North Carolina Mountains. [i](#)



Michael Topal, Ph.D.