



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

M&M Conference
Thursday, March 23, 2006, 12:00 Noon
Clinic Auditorium

William E. Mitch, MD
Gordon A. Cain Chair in Nephrology
Director, Division of Nephrology
Baylor College of Medicine

Benefits of treating the patient with chronic kidney disease

FROM DIVISIONS

- "[Aspirin, Statins, or Both Drugs for the Primary Prevention of Coronary Heart Disease Events in Men: A Cost-Utility Analysis](#)" published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Lead author **Michael Pignone**, MD, MPH.
- Request for applications from the UNC Program in Translational Science, created to enhance the breadth of translational research in the SOM. Detailed information is available [online](#), special emphasis on junior investigators. Applications due to Dr. Gene Orringer by April 14.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [2006 Developmental Biology Symposium](#), March 31. Featuring Marc Tessier-Lavigne, PhD of Genentech, Inc, UNC faculty members, and poster session.
- The Thurston Arthritis Research Center presents "Therapeutic Advances in Lupus." April 8-9 at the Friday Center. [Registration](#) and [information](#) online.
- Next Grand Rounds - April 13, 2006. No Grand Rounds on March 30 or April 6.
- 30th Annual Internal Medicine Conference, April 5-7, at the Friday Center. [Brochure](#) and [Registration](#) online.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

This week I thought you'd like to hear about two new prestigious grants that have come to the School of Medicine that are of potential interest to all of us doing research. The first is from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). HHMI has awarded UNC with a grant of \$800,000 focused on providing graduate students in the basic sciences with more clinical course work and experience during their time in graduate school. The second is an NIH award of \$150,000 for two years. The NIH award will provide graduate students and postdoctoral fellows a month of intensive translational training. Both programs seek to encourage scientists to pursue translational research careers in which basic laboratory discoveries are very rapidly translated into clinical research and practice.

In addition to pointing out the potential opportunities related to these awards, I thought I would take some time to discuss the continuing trend of funding agencies to support true translational research. In previous newsletters I've updated you on NIH Roadmap grants. Nationally, UNC has been one of the most successful institutions in obtaining Roadmap grants. You know if you've been involved with or read about one of these applications that our success has come from our ability to put together research from many different disciplines, all oriented towards a scientific problem of clinical importance.

The shift in emphasis signaled by the Roadmap grants and these new awards make it clear that we must think about what opportunities we have to position our research programs in alignment with funding availability in order to maintain our research competitiveness and funding levels. While this emphasis on a more directed approach to funding research is greater than it has been in the past, it is not something new. I see it as an extension of the RFA process, the SCOR grants that have been around for many years, and the larger, more discipline-specific awards like the Comprehensive Cancer Center grants.

So why the emphasis? Because I truly believe it is important for all investigators, for our department, for all research-oriented departments and centers, and for UNC, to be responsive to these changes in funding. There is no department better suited to foster translational research than ours, so I will do everything I can to let you know about these opportunities and I hope you will take advantage of them.

Questions or submissions, contact katie_obrien@med.unc.edu.