



the ANGELS REPORT



ANTENATAL & NEONATAL GUIDELINES, EDUCATION AND LEARNING SYSTEM

SUMMER 2009

UAMS Awarded Nearly \$20 Million for Clinical and Translational Research

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) has been awarded nearly \$20 million – its largest ever research grant – by the National

Institutes of Health (NIH). The

Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Center for Research Resources of the NIH is a highly sought-after grant among institutions that aim to translate basic science discoveries into speedier treatments and cures for patients. This \$19.9 million grant will boost the UAMS Center for Clinical and Translational Research, which received prioritized funding from Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson in May 2008. The center will occupy 24,000 square feet in the old UAMS hospital building that became available when the \$198.4 million, 540,000-square-foot new hospital opened in January.

Curtis Lowery, M.D., chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UAMS, was the lead investigator on the CTSA proposal and is the director of the UAMS Center for Clinical and Translational Research. This role would be in addition to his existing roles: professor and chair, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology; executive director of the Center for Distance Health; and the director of the Antenatal and Neonatal Guidelines, Education and Learning System (ANGELS) program.

“We are looking forward to the challenge of streamlining our existing infrastructure, energizing our research programs and integrating UAMS research into clinical use,” Lowery said. “Having an institution earn this award is something all Arkansans can take pride in. Earning this award was a group effort and could not have happened without a strong, cohesive group of leaders at UAMS.”

Lowery said the award will strengthen research collaborations with UAMS partners such as Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock’s Department of Information Sciences, Arkansas Department of Health, the National Center for Toxicological Research and other institutions within the University of Arkansas System. Several other state and private agencies will also be involved.

“The severity and advanced state of health problems in Arkansas, combined with the central location of UAMS and its existing strengths, increase the potential value and health benefits of our Center for Clinical and Translational Research,” Lowery said. “With UAMS as the leader in translational methodologies in a predominately rural state, we will play a critical role in the CTSA consortium as it addresses the country’s diverse health problems. Joining this group is also a portal to open up further funding and projects to UAMS.”

As part of the consortium, UAMS is now able to funnel projects and funding to the other member institutions as well as participate in projects and receive funding from other member institutions. The ultimate goal of the CTSA consortium will be to work towards commercializing scientific discoveries and creating partnerships with private and public health care organizations, including pharmaceutical companies and business incubators, to turn basic scientific advances into immediate use.



Curtis Lowery, M.D., chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UAMS and lead investigator on the CTSA proposal.

Telemedicine Update

by Rosalyn Perkins



Telemedicine is continually providing healthcare services across the great state of Arkansas with the expertise of an excellent healthcare team. Please join me in welcoming Lynn Tate, Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer and Lori

Heil, Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer! Together Lynn and Lori will bring 27 years of experience to our team.

Lynn Tate is presently providing sonography services for OB targeted ultrasound in the Hot Springs telemedicine clinic at National Park Hospital. In the near future, she will expand her services to more clinics across the southern portion of the state.

Lori Heil is presently providing instruction to telemedicine sonographers across the state on fetal cardiac anatomy. This will enable our healthcare team to capture better fetal heart images and facilitate appropriate fetal echocardiogram referrals. By September 2009, Lori will be operating the first telemedicine fetal echocardiogram clinics in the state of Arkansas. Stay tuned!

New and Improved ANGEL Eye

ANGEL Eye has recently been revitalized through a \$31,750 grant from the Gertrude E. Skelly Foundation. The new cameras will be mounted and easier for the NICU staff to utilize. ANGEL Eye is a one-way, real-time video feed broadcast from the bedside to a password-protected Web site accessible to families and selected hospital staff. This service is aimed to support families separated from their hospitalized newborn. The new cameras will be installed in the NICU by Fall 2009.



Pediatric Update

by Julie Hall-Barrow



Telemedicine continues to make great strides in the pediatric arena. In conjunction with ANGELS and the Center for Distance Health (CDH), a new and exciting program for rural hospital Emergency Rooms began Aug. 1, 2009.

Dr. Beth Storm is leading this project that will provide pediatric emergency consults to hospitals that have clinical telemedicine units located in their ER's! Utilizing the CDH tele-stroke units, physicians at Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) will be able to visualize a pediatric patient that may need services of ACH.

Tele-nursery rounds are still impacting nurseries across the state. We continue this morning exchange with 15 sites. The newest members to the tele-nursery rounds include National Park Medical Center, Hot Springs and Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Pine Bluff.

A new grant with the Department of Human Services is increasing the presence of ANGELS in hospitals. This "TOUCH" grant brings telemedicine to the labor and delivery units of nine hospitals within the state. Dr. Sam Greenfield will lead OB virtual rounds and will oversee consults that are requested from our participating sites!

COMING SOON

ANGELS is working closely with the Pediatric Cardiology Department to bring fetal and neonatal echos to the state through telemedicine. Watch for new telemedicine sites in your area!

NEED ECHO Training?

Lori Heil is crossing our state to educate OB providers on "best views" for hearts during an ultra-sound. If your practice is interested in participating please call the ANGELS Call Center at 1-866-273-3835 and ask for Lori Heil.

Upcoming Education Events

September 24

Febrile Seizures (pediatric guidelines)

October 1

What is NEW with Immunizations

October 8

Radiation Dose Reduction in CT

October 15

Neonatal Topic -
Newborn Heart Defects



To sign on for these interactive video conferences, please call 501-686-8666 or e-mail CDHVideoConfScheduling@uams.edu

ANGELS Call Center is on the grow again!

by Donna Williams



July 1 started a new chapter for the Call Center as new programs and collaborations began.

The Psychiatry Telehealth Liaison & Consult Program (TLC) will assist the Psychiatric Research Institute (PRI) in increasing access to psychiatric care for Arkansas children and adolescents ages 2-12 years of age.

The ANGELS Call Center will facilitate telephone consults between Child Psychiatrists and referring physicians. The Call Center nurse will assist with appointment recommendations, telemedicine appointment recommendations, direct admit or transfer to PRI.

The ANGELS Call Center will facilitate telephone consults between Child Psychiatrists and referring physicians for

children ages 2-12. The call outcome may be a telephone consult only, or recommendation by the Child Psychiatrist for the patient to be seen for psychiatric evaluation and treatment at a local facility or at PRI; via: Telemedicine consultation, outpatient appointment or inpatient hospitalization depending on patient need. The ANGELS Call Center will facilitate call outcomes.

Also on the horizon for the Tele Nursery project is providing 24-hour technical support for Arkansas Medicaid recipients needing to communicate via email with the physicians at eDoc.arkansas to ask questions about their health but do not have access to a computer.

Even the Call Center itself has grown. We have expanded our space to occupy three rooms on the fifth floor of the Shorey building. Come visit the ANGELS Call Center and see how much we have grown!

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FAIM – Fetal Anomaly Interdisciplinary Management Teleconference—The name says it all!

by Barbara Smith



Come join specialists from UAMS and Arkansas Children's Hospital along with providers across the state at 7:30 a.m. on the fourth Friday of every

month for an interactive video teleconference about fetal anomalies. Each interdisciplinary conference discusses a specific fetal anomaly, as well as management post-delivery. Sample topics of discussion have included congenital heart defects, spina bifida, and facial clefting.

FAIM is gearing up for another great academic year! Typically, normal and abnormal prenatal ultrasound/MRI findings are reviewed, diagnoses refined and improved management plans established. Leaders in the



FAIM Team: Shannon Lewis, R.N.P., Nafisa Dajani, M.D., and Shannon Barringer, M.S.

field discuss recurrence risks and prognosis and/or prevention. New medical technologies are discussed that may aid in the overall care of these babies. In addition, psychosocial needs of such affected families are discussed.

FAIM is gearing up for another great academic year!

For more information about these interactive video conferences, please call 501-686-8666 or e-mail cdhealth@uams.edu



The Powerful Effect of Outreach

by Michael Manley



It recently hit home with me the true impact that Outreach has for ANGELS, the Center for Distance Health and UAMS overall.

Within two days, we made an appointment to start Fetal Heart Echos with the AHEC in Pine Bluff, hosted two individuals from Washington University in St. Louis, received a national multi-million dollar CTSA Consortium grant AND reviewed 20 applications from all around the world to come to our Training Center to learn about TeleHealth. Not a bad 48 hours.

This experience left me with not only knowing how important it is to communicate our mission and expertise outside UAMS, but within our own ranks as well. Every person, 24 hours a day is doing some sort of outreach for ANGELS or CDH. Every visitor, every phone call, every letter or phone inquiry we respond to is a part of our

outreach. It is tremendously important that we stay as vigilant as possible to communicate with each other within CDH and ANGELS. This newsletter is just one tool that we use. We need to use every tool possible to help others “stay in touch.” That even includes face-to-face time!

“Every visitor, every phone call, every letter or phone inquiry we respond to is a part of our outreach.”

Remember, you don't have to have all the answers when it comes to every facet of what we do. What's important is that you know you can go to someone to find the answer you need. Daily I use the term, “I don't know the answer to that, but let me find you someone that does.” I want to thank you all for making Outreach a team effort.