

# RESEARCH GUIDEBOOK



**Arkansas  
Children's**  
Research Institute

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## Arkansas Children's Research Institute

Advances in pediatric medicine begin with the thought of a future in which all children can grow up to be healthy adults. Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI) researchers share this belief and have devoted their lives to making it a reality. Researchers at ACRI are addressing a broad spectrum of children's health concerns, such as asthma, obesity, food allergy, diabetes-related complications, cancer and other childhood diseases. Their research expertise is diverse, ranging from basic science to clinical and community-based research.

### Mission

We champion children by making them better today and healthier tomorrow

### Vision

To be on the forefront of innovation in child health and life course research by rapidly transforming discoveries into interventions that define and deliver unprecedented child health

### History

ACRI is a not-for-profit corporation owned by Arkansas Children's, Inc. ACRI was created to provide an on-site research environment for UAMS faculty and scientists working on the ACH campus. The ACH Board of Trustees established ACRI in 1989. ACRI officially opened on the ACH campus in Little Rock in 1992.

### Organization

The overall operations of ACRI are managed by its board of directors and executive officers. These leaders are responsible for ensuring that ACRI achieves its mission to improve children's health, development, and well-being.

#### Executive Officers

The President of ACRI has the overall responsibility to ensure the Institute meets its mission and establishes a responsive, investigator-friendly research environment. The President of ACRI reports directly to the ACRI Board of Directors. The Chief Operating Officer of ACRI manages the administrative staff and oversees the day-to-day activities in support of ACRI research activities.

#### Board of Directors

The ACRI Board of Directors is responsible for the leadership and stewardship of the Institute by overseeing and approving policies, procedures, and regulations for the operation of ACRI and for monitoring its financial health, programs, and overall performance.

### Funding

In fiscal year 2021, ACRI researchers received \$26.1 million in grants and contracts from federal, state, and private agencies, industry sponsors, and philanthropic donations. Approximately \$8.5 million was from the National Institutes of Health. ACRI researchers receive the majority of these funds through grant applications and contract arrangements to support their research efforts.

### Facilities

Currently, ACRI has over 196,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of research space. The four-story Research Institute Building is the central location of ACRI administrative offices and houses researcher offices, conference space, laboratories, and ACRI's biomedical animal research facility. The two-story Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center (ACNC) adjoins to the south of the Research Institute Building. Opened in 1997, the ACNC houses a United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) National Human Nutrition Center.

Remaining ACRI research space includes the Pediatric Clinical Research Unit located in the main Arkansas Children's Hospital building two blocks north of the Research Institute Building. In addition, ACRI maintains the Research Pharmacy in the hospital. ACH also affords clinic and unit space for investigators performing their research at the main hospital building. ACRI researchers also have assigned, dedicated office, clinic, and laboratory space on the ACH campus in the Sturgis Building (adjoining the main hospital building and one block north of the Research Institute Building), Professional Building 2 (adjoining the Research Institute Building to the east), and the Dennis Developmental Center (one block south of the Research Institute Building).

## Services

ACRI's research support staff acts as facilitators to ease the administrative burden of sponsored research. At the same time, the staff provides an array of unique services outside the general area of research administration. The administrative staff supports ACRI faculty throughout the grant process providing pre- and post-award assistance. ACRI provides such unique services as an electronic proposal routing system, electronic purchasing and real-time accounting, design and maintenance of institute websites, and assistance with the location of funding opportunities and policy information.

## Principal Investigators

Individuals with the following types of appointments may serve as a Principal Investigator on grants and contracts managed by ACRI:

- Tenured Professors, Associate Professors, or Assistant Professors
- Tenure-track Professors, Associate Professors, or Assistant Professors
- Research Professors, Associate Research Professors, or Assistant Research Professors
- Research Scientists
- Fellows (with a sponsoring mentor)
- Others, as approved by ACRI

In general, it is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to read and become familiar with the agreement/contractual requirements of the project and to:

- Conduct the project according to the approved statement of work or the terms and special conditions published in the award agreement.
- Notify ACRI of any proposed changes in the scope of the project, change or absence of Principal Investigator, changes in budget, period of performance, etc.
- Obtain proper training for himself or herself and other project personnel to work effectively within the IRB/IACUC guidelines.
- Supervise expenditures in conformity with the budget approved by the sponsor.
- Initiate the necessary documents/forms for travel, purchasing, employment, contracted services, extra compensation, etc., in conformity with established business policies and procedures.
- Charge only expenditures that meet sponsor's guidelines.
- Assure that cost-sharing or matching commitments made for the project are fulfilled and reported to ACRI in a timely manner.
- Complete Time and Effort Reports as the reporting of time and effort spent on all sponsored projects is a federal requirement. If a Principal Investigator has cost sharing obligations in the form of employee effort, he or she will need to inform department personnel who complete the Time and Effort Reports to input the appropriate percentage of time spent on the project so they can complete the reports.

- Provide care and maintenance of property procured with project funds, in accordance with the sponsor's guidelines.
- Write and submit progress reports as stipulated by the sponsor in the award agreement.
- Review the online financial reports provided by ACRI and closely monitor the project expenditures. If corrections are needed, he or she must notify the post-award office.
- Complete the final technical report and submit it within the time and in the format specified by the sponsor. Failure to submit timely technical reports can penalize the institution as a whole by possibly making ACRI/UAMS ineligible to receive new awards.
- Submit Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms annually and as requested.
- Acknowledge ACRI and the appropriate funding agencies in their publications, presentations, and media releases related to ACRI projects.
- Forward an electronic copy of published findings to ACRI and notify ACRI of any special honor a publication has received.
- Follow Public Access Policy of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding publications arising from funding from an NIH grant or cooperative agreement. These manuscripts also include publications not authored or co-authored by the Principal Investigator but result from his or her NIH-funded grant or cooperative agreement. Non-compliant papers can result in enforcement actions up to NIH placing special conditions on awards or precluding the awardee or ACRI from obtaining future awards for a specified period.
- Respond in a responsible, timely manner to ACRI requests pertaining to his or her research and career accomplishments as this information is commonly reported to collaborating entities (including potential collaborators), the ACRI Board of Directors (and those of Arkansas Children's and the Arkansas Children's Foundation), Arkansas Children's Strategic Marketing, and Arkansas Children's and ACRI supporters.

An ACRI researcher not fulfilling these obligations may have consideration for further support and funding of his or her research impacted.

## Research Proposals

Individuals wanting to conduct research at ACRI must contact the Administrative offices (364-7373). ACRI can assist in identifying funding opportunities, available resources, and other needs to meet research goals. Investigators responding to a specific funding opportunity must contact the Administrative office so ACRI can verify and address investigator and institutional eligibility, commitments, resources, and other considerations.

### ACRI Pre-Award Support

For its researchers pursuing funding, ACRI offers services such as providing proposal development assistance, acting as liaison between the researcher and the sponsoring agency while ensuring the research complies with the agency guidelines and administrative requirements, assisting with the preparation of appropriate internal and external application forms, and determining the accuracy of proposal budgets.

#### Research Grants Administrator

Researchers who have decided to submit an application for a funding opportunity should contact the Director of Research Grants and Contracts Administration (Phaedra Yount - [YountPA@archildrens.org](mailto:YountPA@archildrens.org); 364-2469). The Director will confirm the eligibility of the researcher and coordinate necessary agency registrations by the researcher and the institute. The Director of Research Grants and Contracts Administration is the Authorized Organizational Representative for applications that must be submitted by ACRI.

### Grant Writing and Budgeting Support

Grant and science writing and editing services are available free of charge to investigators (John Gregan - [GreganJA@archildrens.org](mailto:GreganJA@archildrens.org); 364-6296). The writing staff assists investigators with grant proposal preparation, and the grants specialist provides support for developing a project budget (Anne McMains - [McMainsAM@archildrens.org](mailto:McMainsAM@archildrens.org); 364-5143).

### Regulatory Compliance and Quality Assurance

ACRI provides assistance in developing human research documents and technical help for Institutional Review Board submissions. The Human Research Protections Program Director (Amanda Holloway - [HollowayAG@archildrens.org](mailto:HollowayAG@archildrens.org); 364-2862) and Research Monitoring Specialist (Erica Howard-Dunn - [HowardDunnEN@archildrens.org](mailto:HowardDunnEN@archildrens.org); 364-3120) provide training on human research and study compliance.

### Animal Use

A researcher proposing the use of laboratory animals must contact

Animal Research Operations (Jenny Rollins - [RollinsJ@archildrens.org](mailto:RollinsJ@archildrens.org); 364-2700) before submitting his or her proposal. Animal Research Operations supports researchers with animal use protocol, IACUC submissions, facilities and operations planning and management, and animal orders. They also provide personnel training concerning animal use.

### Contracts Review

Our Assistant General Counsel, Research, (Andrea Dixon - [DixonAW@archildrens.org](mailto:DixonAW@archildrens.org); 364-3571) is available to review and negotiate biomedical research agreements, such as clinical trial agreements and amendments, material transfer agreements, intellectual property concerns, and confidential disclosure agreements.

### Letters of Intent

Researchers must contact the Director of Research Grants and Contracts Administration (Phaedra Yount - [YountPA@archildrens.org](mailto:YountPA@archildrens.org); 364-2469) regarding funding opportunities prior to submitting a letter of intent whether the letter of intent is required or not. ACRI must consider and evaluate the letter and funding opportunity for any commitments made on behalf of the institute or required by the funding agency if an application is invited and an award made.

### Getting Started - Proposals

#### Where can I find funding opportunities?

We provide a summary of federal funding opportunities and post notices of UAMS and ACRI funding opportunities through our *Weekly Research Update* newsletter. If you would like assistance finding other sources of funding, contact a member of the Pre-Award Team (John Gregan - [GreganJA@archildrens.org](mailto:GreganJA@archildrens.org); 364-6296).

#### I have found a funding opportunity. When should I contact you?

Let us know as soon as possible. We can help verify the eligibility and commitments of the investigator and the institution and address any other specific considerations. We can then help you add the proposal to our online system, Project Tracking.

#### When should I give my completed application to ACRI?

Your completed application, as well as administrative approvals, should be provided to ACRI at least 2 business days before the funding agency's deadline. However, you should begin routing the application through Project Tracking at least 10 business days before the funding agency deadline.

#### Do you just assist UAMS faculty?

No, we also assist fellows, residents, clinical staff, and students planning to conduct research on Arkansas Children's campuses.



## Proposal Routing

ACRI provides an electronic proposal routing system Project Tracking. For each proposal, a researcher will create a record to provide pertinent information and documents. The researcher will use Project Tracking to route and follow the progress of his or her proposal for electronic approval, a process that should begin 10 business days prior to the application due date.

### Project Tracking

internal link - <http://acriweb2.archchildrens.org/ProjectTracking/>

external link - <https://secure.archchildrens.org/projecttrackingExternal>

## Human Subjects Research

ACRI researchers have been involved in human subjects research for over 30 years. These studies assure medicines, vaccines, and treatments for children are safe and effective. Most of these studies are industry sponsored, while federal agency (FDA and NIH) and other grant awards support the remaining trials. These research projects include clinical research and community-based studies as well as investigations using patient chart reviews or stored biological samples. ACRI provides specialized staff to support its human subjects researchers in submitting studies to the institutional review board chosen for the study.

### Institutional Review Board

To protect the rights and welfare of subjects involved in the human subjects research at ACRI, its researchers conducting human subjects research must submit their protocols to an Institutional Review Board (IRB). The majority of the human research studies at ACRI are reviewed by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) IRB. Annually, the UAMS IRB has about 1,500 open studies at various locations including UAMS, ACH, and ACRI. The UAMS IRB meets on the first four Tuesdays of each month. At each meeting, one of four review committees it maintains evaluates study protocols. The UAMS IRB also ensures at least one pediatric health representative on each review committee. Researchers use an electronic system (CLARA) to submit protocols for review. The UAMS IRB has been fully accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) since 2005. Other external IRBs can be used for studies taking place on the Arkansas Children's campuses. External IRBs must be accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). Additional approvals are required for external IRB submission. Contact the Director of Clinical Trials for details.

#### **Getting Started – Human Subjects Research**

##### **How do I know if my project is classified as human subjects research?**

Our Human Research Protections Program Director (Amanda Holloway - [HollowayAG@archchildrens.org](mailto:HollowayAG@archchildrens.org); 364-2862) can help you contact our IRB to determine if your project is defined as human subjects research.

##### **How do I obtain pricing for clinical services?**

Contact the Director of Clinical Trials (Janet Storum - [StorumJS@archchildrens.org](mailto:StorumJS@archchildrens.org); 364-2760) to obtain pricing for clinical services your study will use.

##### **What if I need dedicated clinical space or staff to carry out my project?**

Discuss your needs with the Clinical Research Manager (Robin Gibson - [GibsonRobinA@uams.edu](mailto:GibsonRobinA@uams.edu); 364-1542). The Pediatric Clinical Research Unit may serve as a base for clinical research. A pool of clinical trial coordinators is also available and is supervised by the Clinical Research Manager.

 External IRB Policy - <https://archchildrens.policytech.com/docview/?docid=32208>

 UAMS IRB - <http://irb.uams.edu/>

- ☞ CLARA - <https://clara.uams.edu/clara-webapp/login>
- ☞ How to Request a Human Subject Research Determination - <http://irb.uams.edu/clara/request-a-hsr-determination/>
- ☞ Review Preparatory to Research/Privacy Board - <http://achweb.archildrens.org/WebForge/CorporateCompliance/PrivacyBoard/>
- ☞ Research Compliance Department - <http://achweb.archildrens.org/WebForge/ResearchCompliance>

### Clinical Trials Administrator

For human subjects research, the Director of Clinical Trials (Janet Storment - [StormentJS@archildrens.org](mailto:StormentJS@archildrens.org); 364-2760) manages facility, staffing, and fiscal resources for researchers. Support includes overseeing the budget, including the release, monitoring, and closing of project accounts, and managing ACRI's Clinical Trials Management System, an internet-based program with processes including enrollment of trial subjects, release of payment stipends, and verification against the Arkansas Children's billing system.

### Pediatric Clinical Research Unit

Many researchers conduct their clinical trials at ACRI's Pediatric Clinical Research Unit (PCRU) located at ACH's main hospital building. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the PCRU provides a 4,000-ft<sup>2</sup> facility for high-quality clinical pediatric research. The PCRU has 4 semi-private and 2 private beds. It includes a laboratory, kitchen, offices, equipment storage, waiting area, and small conference room. Contact the Clinical Research Manager (Robin Gibson - [GibsonRobinA@uams.edu](mailto:GibsonRobinA@uams.edu); 364-1542) for more information.

- ☞ PCRU - <https://www.archildrens.org/research/resources-for-researchers/pcru>

### Research Pharmacy

ACRI maintains a 1,035-ft<sup>2</sup> Research Pharmacy at ACH in support of inpatient and outpatient trials by ACRI researchers. Its staff of research pharmacists (Jill Hernandez - [HernandezJM@archildrens.org](mailto:HernandezJM@archildrens.org); 364-2596) is accountable for drugs administered from the initiation through the completion of clinical trials at ACRI. They oversee the formulating, dispensing, accounting, blinding, and storing of the drugs and the documentation of these activities. Research Pharmacy staff also provide input on study design and planning. The Research Pharmacy has secure access and segregated storage space for drugs that require ambient temperature, refrigeration, or freezer storage.

### Quality Assurance

The Human Research Protections Program Director (Amanda Holloway - [HollowayAG@archildrens.org](mailto:HollowayAG@archildrens.org); 364-2862) assists with issues of compliance, such as IRB policy, protocol and consent requirements, research training, HIPAA, conflict of interest, and other federal regulations. The Arkansas Children's Research Biosafety Committee reviews research involving interaction with human participants or samples.

### Human Subjects Research Training

ACRI adheres to federal regulations and guidelines and its institutional policies regarding training and education concerning human subjects research. All personnel involved in human subjects research are required to successfully complete the biomedical or behavioral human subjects research modules in Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), an online training program. CITI training must be repeated every 3 years.

🔗 Training in the Protection of Human Subjects in Research Policy - <https://archildrens.policytech.com/docview/?docid=32220>

🔗 CITI - [www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org)

## Vertebrate Animal Research

ACRI has provided support for its researchers conducting biomedical animal research since its beginnings when it provided facilities for large animals that could not be held on the UAMS campus. Since then, ACRI has established a state-of-the-art biomedical animal research facility and program on the ACH campus. ACRI also provides support in animal use protocol development, animal procurement, facilities scheduling, and personnel certification and training.

### ACRI Vivarium

ACRI maintains a 35,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, state-of-the-art biomedical animal research facility housing all animals used in research. Located in the Research Institute Building, the facility provides separate areas designed to provide housing for both large and small animals. The animal facility has surgical suites, wet laboratories, procedure rooms, and pathogen-free containment units. The animal facility is accredited by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC International). It is registered with the USDA and has a fully approved Letter of Assurance on file with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW). ACRI requires animal certification of all investigative faculty and staff using the facility in the use of laboratory animals. Three veterinarians are responsible for veterinary care at ACRI's animal facility through rounds and on call availability.

The Administrative Director of Animal Research (Blake Harrison - [HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu](mailto:HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu); 364-2710) and the Manager of Animal Care and Husbandry (Brandon Fowlkes - [FowlkesBG@archildrens.org](mailto:FowlkesBG@archildrens.org); 364-2759) provide consultation to ACRI investigators and staff concerning animal care and housing, surgical procedures, and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocols.

### Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at ACRI meets monthly to review new animal use protocols, annual renewals, and close protocols. The committee notifies investigators and institutional officials in writing of its decision to approve, require modifications, or withhold approval of reviewed applications and proposals related to the care and use of animals required to secure IACUC approval as set forth in the Animal Welfare Act and PHS policy. In addition, the IACUC reviews and inspects ACRI's vivarium and animal use program twice a year. Post-approval monitoring of animal use protocols is also provided by the compliance team.

#### **Getting Started – Vertebrate Animal Research**

##### **Who do I contact if I want to conduct animal studies?**

Researchers planning to use animals must contact the Administrative Director of Animal Research (Blake Harrison - [HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu](mailto:HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu); 364-2710) to discuss their projects.

##### **When do I need to secure space for animals and what are the per diem rates for animal care?**

As you develop your proposal, contact the Administrative Director of Animal Research (Blake Harrison - [HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu](mailto:HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu); 364-2710) and the Manager of Animal Care and Husbandry (Brandon Fowlkes - [FowlkesBG@archildrens.org](mailto:FowlkesBG@archildrens.org); 364-2759) to plan for animal housing and care upon funding and to obtain prices for study costs

##### **Is there help for developing and submitting animal protocol and other IACUC-related documents?**

The administrative staff of Animal Research Operations (Jenny Rollins - [RollinsJ@archildrens.org](mailto:RollinsJ@archildrens.org); 364-2700) can assist as you develop your protocol and navigate the IACUC submission process.

🔗 IACUC - <https://inside.uams.edu/iacuc/>

### **Vertebrate Animal Research Training**

In regard to training for personnel involved in vertebrate animal research, ACRI adheres to federal regulations and guidelines and its institutional policies. All personnel involved in vertebrate animal research are required to successfully complete requisite animal research modules in Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), an online training program. CITI training must be repeated as required. Anyone working in the biomedical animal research facility is required to obtain animal certification, a class held weekly provided by the Administrative Director of Animal Research (Blake Harrison - [HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu](mailto:HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu); 364-2710).

🔗 CITI - <https://www.citiprogram.org/>

### **Research Cores and Resources**

ACRI maintains core and resource services for its researchers and collaborating institutions.

#### **ACNC/ACRI Physical Activity Core**

The ACNC/ACRI Physical Activity Core operates two in-house facilities: a state-of-the-art ~1,400 ft<sup>2</sup> Laboratory for Active Kids and Families (one of only a handful of dedicated pediatric exercise physiology research labs in the nation) and a fully-outfitted ~2,000 ft<sup>2</sup> Fitness Facility. The Laboratory for Active Kids and Families houses equipment necessary for exercise physiology studies, phlebotomy, and vital signs. There is a clinical room that facilitates minimally to medium-invasive procedures. It is staffed by a full-time certified exercise physiologist, in addition to several research assistants. The Fitness Facility is outfitted with adjustable fitness equipment for resistance exercise that facilitates studies in pregnant women and in children. The facility also has floor space for free play, directed activities, and class activities. Intensity can be closely monitored through heart rate monitors and is staffed by a full-time certified exercise trainer. To request support from the ACNC/ACRI Physical Activity Core, contact its director (Dr. Elisabet Børsheim - [EBorsheim@uams.edu](mailto:EBorsheim@uams.edu); 364-3053).

#### **Arkansas ECHO ISPCTN Site**

The Arkansas ECHO ISPCTN Site (AREIS; UG1OD024945) is a member of the IDeA State Pediatric Clinical Trials Network (ISPCTN). Its primary mission is to engage rural children in Arkansas in innovative clinical trial opportunities. Primary efforts to meet AREIS' mission include providing research expertise and leadership to the ECHO ISPCTN for the development and implementation of robust clinical trials in high priority disease areas, increasing clinical trials competency and leadership skills among AREIS faculty and staff, and leveraging existing resources to implement state-of-the-art community engagement and community partnership approaches that will enhance the participation of rural children in clinical trials. For more information, contact the ARIES Program Directors (Dr. Tamara Perry - [PerryTamaraT@uams.edu](mailto:PerryTamaraT@uams.edu); 364-1060 and Dr. Paul Darden - [PMDarden@uams.edu](mailto:PMDarden@uams.edu); 364-5020)

#### **Arkansas Reproductive Health Monitoring System**

The Arkansas Reproductive Health Monitoring System (ARHMS) is a well-established public health program in birth defect tracking. ARHMS, which is administered within Arkansas Children's, tracks birth defect trends, responds to inquiries from the public, provides the data infrastructure for scientific research, and performs prevention activities aimed at reducing the occurrence of birth defects. ARHMS seeks to identify and to describe patterns of birth defects in Arkansas in order to support scientific research to prevent birth defects among state and global populations. To request

support from ARHMS, contact the ARHMS Research Manager (Karen Smith - [SmithKK@archildrens.org](mailto:SmithKK@archildrens.org); 364-2368).

📄 ARHMS Data Request -

<https://redcapwap.archildrens.org/redcap/surveys/index.php?s=LE84FLWFAE>

## Biostatistics Core

The Biostatistics Core at ACRI provides comprehensive assistance with study design, data analysis, and statistical results interpretation. The core is staffed by two doctoral-level statisticians and a master's-level statistician who are available to support researchers at Arkansas Children's with statistical applications related to basic science, clinical, health outcomes, epidemiologic, and behavioral research. Core statisticians have knowledge and expertise in SAS, open-source R, and SPSS software packages. To request biostatistical support, contact the Biostatistics Core (Dr. Beverly Spray - [SprayBJ@archildrens.org](mailto:SprayBJ@archildrens.org); 364-3184).

## Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence

The NIH Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program funds Centers of Biological Research Excellence (COBRE) awards, grants that create world-class research environments for young faculty who are identified as the next generation of excellence in research. The awards focus on building research in states that have historically had low levels of NIH funding. ACRI has received two of these prestigious awards since August 2016. Both Centers are in the first phase of COBRE funding, lasting five years, with a total of 15 years of funding available through this federal program.

### Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention

In 2016, ACRI received a \$9.4 million COBRE Phase 1 award (P20GM109096) to create a center for the study of childhood obesity. Led by Judy Weber, PhD, RD, the multidisciplinary Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention (CCOP) strengthens ACRI's obesity research capacity and creates mentoring pathways for emerging scientists whose work is focused on pediatric obesity. The Center also serves as an anchor for the development of a comprehensive pediatric obesity program in the Arkansas Children's Health System statewide. The focus of the CCOP is to better understand the origins of pediatric obesity, as well as the behavioral and environmental contributors, and to develop interventions designed to prevent and treat, and ultimately reduce, childhood obesity and its associated complications. CCOP has established two biomedical scientific infrastructure research cores: the Biostatistics Core and the Metabolism and Bioenergetics Core. In 2021, NIH awarded the 5-year Phase 2 of the CCOP which will include the establishment of a third scientific infrastructure core, the Community Engagement Core. For more information, contact the CCOP Director Research Administration (Jami Jones - [JJJones@uams.edu](mailto:JJJones@uams.edu); 364-5113).

### Center for Translational Pediatric Research

In 2017, ACRI received its second COBRE Phase 1 award (P20GM121293) to establish the Center for Translational Pediatric Research (CTPR). Led by Alan Tackett, PhD, the CTPR seeks to investigate how pediatric diseases develop from a systems biology and mechanistic approach, the ultimate goal of which is identifying the intersections of disease and development, producing targets for therapeutic intervention and the development of new treatments for children. Systems biology is an integrated approach examining all events within cells, tissues, and organisms that lead to a particular outcome. By applying a systems biology approach to the study of pediatric diseases, the CTPR hopes to expand existing knowledge of pediatric disease development and contribute to new therapeutic targets. Three cutting-edge core research units—Bioinformatics, Genomics, and Proteomics—provide support to CTPR researchers. The

long-term goal of the CTPR is to build an innovative, multi-disciplinary pediatric research center that utilizes cutting-edge systems biology technologies and state-of-the-art translational research to study pediatric diseases. For more information, contact the CTPR Associate Director (Sonet Weed - [SWeed@uams.edu](mailto:SWeed@uams.edu); 686-6181).

### **Genomics Core**

The ACRI Genomics Resource supports genomics research for the Center for Pediatrics Translational Research (CTPR) Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant (P20GM121293) as well as for researchers on the ACH campus. The genomics team has substantial technical and practical experience in high-throughput sequencing. The resource has made major investments in state-of-the-art instrumentation and has recruited experienced staff to manage it. The Genomics Resource provides researchers with initial consultation for study design and support. To request genomics support, contact the Genomics Research Associate (Chris Randolph - [RandolphChristopherE@uams.edu](mailto:RandolphChristopherE@uams.edu); 364-5330).

### **Informatics Program**

The Informatics Program provides comprehensive database support, from database design through data export for analysis, using the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) system, a secure web application for building and managing online surveys and databases. Services also include data retrieval from the Pediatric Health Information System (PHIS), a comparative pediatric database including clinical and resource utilization data for inpatient, ambulatory surgery, emergency department and observation unit patient encounters for 49 children's hospitals. Informatics supports research, quality improvement, and operational support projects on the Arkansas Children's campus. To request informatics support, contact the Informatics Program Manager (Julie Nick - [NickJA@archchildrens.org](mailto:NickJA@archchildrens.org); 364-1860).

### **Magnetoencephalography Core**

Arkansas Children's Hospital hosts the only one of its kind in the state and latest-generation whole-head magnetoencephalography (MEG) system. The MEG system is located inside of a magnetically shielded room to reduce environmental noise to a level compatible with the brain-signal measurements. The MEG system is equipped with a couch that is used for supine measurements, and a specially designed chair for seated measurements. The MEG laboratory is equipped with an audio-video surveillance and communication system. Additional electronics are available to design specific protocols to record MEG in response to external stimuli used for evoked-response studies. The current laboratory has devices for auditory, visual, and somatosensory studies. The MEG laboratory is equipped with head position indicator coils and digitization system. To request support from the MEG Core, contact the core (Dr. Diana Escalona-Vargas - [DEscalonavargas@uams.edu](mailto:DEscalonavargas@uams.edu); 364-3703).

### **Metabolism and Bioenergetics Core**

The Metabolism and Bioenergetics Core (MBC) of ACRI's Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention focuses on the use of stable isotope technologies and high resolution respirometry to study substrate metabolism and bioenergetics. Services include providing access to instrumentation and expertise to execute studies focused on metabolism and bioenergetics and encompass study design, implementation, biological sample analyses, as well as data analyses and interpretation. Instrumentation includes gas-chromatography-mass spectrometers, isotope ratio mass spectrometer, liquid water isotope analyzer, and other instrumentation for tissue and cellular bioenergetics. These resources allow for measurement of plasma, urine, tissue, breath, saliva, and blood. The core also supports clinical chemistry analyses. For more information, contact the laboratory manager (Matthew Cotter - [CotterM@archchildrens.org](mailto:CotterM@archchildrens.org); 364-3062) to request support.

## Metabolomics Core

The ACRI Metabolomics Core offers complex and high-quality services for metabolic assessment, metabolomics analysis, and biomarker discovery using unique and extremely sensitive HPLC with electrochemical detection and more traditional LC-MS platforms. The Metabolomics Core has extensive collaborative experience with local, national, and international investigators and is recognized as a national and international leader on targeted metabolomics of methionine cycle products. The Metabolomics Core also offers individual workspace, support, and equipment for investigators to gain and enrich practical, applied experience with metabolomics technology. To request support from the Metabolomics Core, contact the Metabolomics Core Director (Dr. Stepan Melnyk - [MelnykSB@archildrens.org](mailto:MelnykSB@archildrens.org); 364-4659).

## Proteomics Core

The Proteomics Core provides a crucial piece of the systems biology puzzle - the large-scale identification and quantification of proteins and protein posttranslational modifications. The Proteomics Core is part of the Center for Pediatrics Translational Research (CTPR) Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant (P20GM121293), which has the overall goal to study how pediatric diseases develop from systems biology and mechanistic standpoints with the ultimate goal of identifying points in the intersection of disease and development which, in turn, will produce targets for intervention and the development of new treatments. The Proteomics Core services are available to the ACRI and UAMS research communities. To request support and costs from the Proteomics Core, contact the Proteomics Core Director (Dr. Sam Macintosh - [IDeAProteomics@uams.edu](mailto:IDeAProteomics@uams.edu); 526-6165).

## Research Informatics

The Research Informatics team at ACRI emphasizes biomedical informatics as an approach in facilitating research projects and in assisting investigators in the daily use of research database systems and clinical/operational support requests. They offer services including data management, project development and associate development and training. The Research Informatics team maintains state-of-the-art research tools and technologies. To request research informatics support, contact the Research Informatics Program Manager (Erin Hathorn - [HathornE@archildrens.org](mailto:HathornE@archildrens.org); 479-747-6712).

## Systems Biology Bioinformatics Core

The ACRI Systems Biology Bioinformatics Core provides investigator support in experimental design, data analysis, data visualization, and highly rigorous interpretation of large, complex data sets. The core maintains state-of-the-art analytical pipelines for the advances of “omics” technologies. The ACRI Systems Biology Bioinformatics Core is supported by the Center for Translational Pediatric Research (P20GM121293) and the Arkansas Biosciences Institute.

📄 Systems Bioinformatics Core Service Request - <https://base.uams.edu/redcap/surveys/index.php?s=ADYFYAJKJ8>

## Post-Award Management

Upon award of funding to an ACRI researcher, the institute provides various research support services including contract review and budget negotiation, support for research accounting, research pricing for many hospital services, and a proprietary system for tracking study subjects to ensure that billing to study accounts is separated from billing for routine clinical care.

## Grant Awards

The Research Account Coordinator (Robyn Graham - [GrahamRM@archildrens.org](mailto:GrahamRM@archildrens.org); 364-6554) is the primary contact for all grants including federal, state, private, and internally-funded awards. Grant expenditures are reviewed prior to payment to ensure budget compliance and timeframe relevance for supplier invoices, travel, and items purchased via a requisition. Supplier invoices include UAMS salary and benefit invoices for UAMS faculty and staff. All grant expenditures are reviewed to ensure compliance to Arkansas Children's system policies, sponsor award policies, and budget.

At a minimum, at least 90 days prior to the end of a grant budget year, an account review with the principal investigator(s) will be performed. This review will provide a reconciliation of the account showing expenses that have been incurred as compared to the budget, projected expenses, and any outstanding items that need to be handled prior to grant closure. A Principal Investigator can request an account review by contacting the Research Account Coordinator.

## Clinical Trial Awards

Clinical Research Specialists (Lanette Nimmer - [NimmerAL@archildrens.org](mailto:NimmerAL@archildrens.org); 364-3577 and Joe Matthews - [MatthewsJR@archildrens.org](mailto:MatthewsJR@archildrens.org); 501-364-2942) are the primary contact for all clinical trials including federal, state, private, and internal awards. Clinical Research Specialists work closely with Research Study Coordinators to identify items to be invoiced to the sponsor based upon the contract, including, but not limited to, study visits, rescue medications, study participant stipends, travel reimbursements, and dry ice. In addition, the Clinical Research Specialists invoice the sponsor, ensure timely collection of invoice payments from the sponsor, and request and coordinate the payment of study-related expenses, such as IRB fees and UAMS Principal Investigator and staff salary recovery.

At a minimum, at the end of a clinical trial budget year, an account review will be performed. Based upon current patient enrollment at that point in time, this review will provide a reconciliation of the account showing study revenues that have been earned (budget), incurred expenses, projected expenses, and projected residuals. A Principal Investigator can request an account review by contacting the Clinical Research Specialists or the Research Accounts Director (Teresa McDuffie - [McDuffieTC@archildrens.org](mailto:McDuffieTC@archildrens.org); 364-6546).

## Recruitment Awards

For researchers that receive ACRI ABI and SAF recruitment funds, the Core Services Manager (Amy Stalls - [StallsAR@archildrens.org](mailto:StallsAR@archildrens.org); 364-3627) provides support for these funding resources. Support includes facilitating the initial account set up, annual release of funds, budget preparation and forecasting assistance, expense monitoring, and reporting assistance, as needed.

In addition, the Core Services Manager will coordinate and attend individual review meetings with the ACRI researcher, ACRI President, and ACRI Chief Operating Officer on an annual basis or as needed. Topics of these meetings generally include the funding forecast, plans for external funding opportunities, publications, challenges faced by the researcher, and how the ACRI administration can further assist in addressing any issues.



## Operations and Facilities Management

ACRI researchers have access to scientific resources and facilities. These assets ease study conduct and institutional preparedness.

### Environmental Services

Environmental Services (Sarah Jones - [JonesSD@archchildrens.org](mailto:JonesSD@archchildrens.org); 364-1911) ensures routine facilities care. The team maintains shared and scientific spaces throughout the ACRI buildings for cleanliness, sanitation, and sterilization.

### Equipment

The Director of Facility Operations (Blake Harrison - [HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu](mailto:HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu); 364-2710) and the Facilities and Equipment Manager (currently vacant, call 364-2710) oversee the maintenance and installation of equipment at ACRI. ACRI also has shared equipment available for its researchers.

### Facilities

The Director of Facility Operations (Blake Harrison - [HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu](mailto:HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu); 364-2710) facilitates the allocation of space at ACRI. The Facilities and Equipment Manager (currently vacant, call 364-2710) assists with the maintenance, relocation, and renovation of research space at ACRI.

### Safety

The Arkansas Children's Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) coordinates planning and activities concerning issues regarding laboratory and equipment safety. ACRI engages a Safety Coordinator to assist with EHS.

## Security

ACRI is considered a secured, restricted area and access is allowed only to authorized persons. ACH appropriately staffs a Security department for the hospital campus including ACRI. Security measures at all entry points include monitored cameras and card readers. The ACH Security department maintains camera recordings and card entries. Additional monitored cameras and card readers are located at key locations throughout ACRI. ACH's Building Automation department continually monitors security, fire, and equipment alarms for ACRI. Upon an alarm, Building Automation immediately notifies appropriate ACH and ACRI personnel. ACRI has building-wide intercom systems to notify personnel during emergencies.

### Badges

Arkansas Children's Security issues Arkansas Children's badges to Arkansas Children's employees and UAMS employees located on the ACH campus. While on the ACH campus, all ACRI personnel must wear their badges in an upright, readable position on the outermost layer of clothing (including lab coats or sweaters), and the badge photo must be visible. Badges must be worn in the shoulder area or on lanyard. No stickers, pins, or other markings should be on badges. Badges should never be loaned to anybody. A lost badge must be immediately reported to Arkansas Children's Security (364-4444), who will issue a replacement badge.

### Access

Each Arkansas Children's badge is individually coded to allow approved door and room access. Persons must not allow others to "piggyback" through a doorway or into a room behind them; persons should use their badge to enter any area. Requests to modify access are made through Arkansas Children's Access Portal and granted only upon approval by the Director of Facility Operations (Blake Harrison - [HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu](mailto:HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu); 364-2710).

🔗 Arkansas Children's Access Portal - <https://apps.archildrens.org/acap/cap/default.aspx>

## Parking

All ACRI personnel must display an appropriate ACH parking sticker in the lower left of their vehicle's rear window. ACH Security (364-4444) will issue a new sticker if required. Parking is available throughout the ACH campus for ACRI personnel in designated areas. Parking in the ACNC lot is reserved. Call boxes and security cameras with 360° vision are present and operating in parking areas. Drivers should stay alert, pay attention, and reduce speed while navigating the ACH campus and parking lots and remain in the correct lane of traffic, as many families, patients, and co-workers walk through the lots throughout the day.

## Shuttle Service and Security Escort

ACH Security (364-4444) provides shuttle service and security escort.

## Vendors

All routine vendors conducting routine business at ACRI must receive authorization through the Director of Facility Operations (Blake Harrison - [HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu](mailto:HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu); 364-2710). Upon approval, the vendor will be issued a vendor's badge. Vendors that infrequently conduct business at ACRI must call their ACRI contact for admittance to ACRI.

## Visitors

All visitors (including visiting scientists, academic visitors, volunteers, and minors) to ACRI must be escorted and supervised.

🔗 Visitors Policy - <https://archildrens.policytech.com/docview/?docid=39614>

## Recognition Programs

ACRI acknowledges the potential and importance of its researchers' work through competitive intramural grant programs and an annual research achievement award.

## Intramural Awards

ACRI offers intramural competitive grant programs for its research community. The grant programs assist and encourage researchers of all levels of experience from beginning researchers to experienced researchers. Each program has specific research goals, eligibility requirements, and funding support.

🔗 Intramural Grant Programs - <https://www.archildrens.org/research/resources-for-researchers/intramural-grant-overview>

### ACRI/Arkansas Biosciences Institute Grant Program

Arkansas Children's is one of five member organizations of the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI), created as the major research component of the Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act of 2000. ABI research focuses on agriculture and basic and clinical scientific research that will lead to health improvement, especially in the area of tobacco-related diseases. To comply with the enabling legislation, ACRI established the ACRI/ABI Competitive Research Grant Program to provide support to a wide range of ACRI researchers among various award categories.

#### *ACRI/ABI Investigator-Initiated Research Grants*

The ACRI/ABI Investigator-Initiated Research grant program encourages exploratory/developmental research by providing support for the early and conceptual stages of project development. Grant applications must focus upon novel, original research

that is directly relevant to the development and/or health of infants, children, or adolescents. The two-year awards are a maximum of \$75,000 total (\$37,500 per year).

#### ***ACRI/ABI Postgraduate Research Grants***

The ACRI/ABI Postgraduate grant program supports investigator-initiated, hypothesis-driven research directed by trainees conducting pediatric research. Grant applications must focus upon research that is directly relevant to the development and/or health of infants, children, or adolescents. Eligible candidates include those with MD, PhD, MD/PhD, PharmD, or PharmD/PhD degree who have completed their first year of postgraduate training by the award date. All trainees must apply with a faculty mentor(s) and scholarly oversight committee. The two-year awards are a maximum of \$30,000 total (\$15,000 per year); successful awardees will have the opportunity to apply for an additional \$20,000, 12-month, administrative supplement at the end of year 2.

#### ***ACRI/ABI Nursing and Allied Health Research Grants***

The Nursing and Allied Health Research Award intramural grant mechanism supports investigator-initiated, hypothesis-driven or goal-directed (in the case of qualitative studies) research directed by nurses and allied health professionals who are full time employees of an institution in the Arkansas Children's Health System. Eligible candidates include those with a terminal professional degree required for their discipline. If the applicant is pursuing a graduate degree, that applicant must include a detailed mentoring plan and a mentoring statement by an ACH staff member. Awards are a maximum of \$5,000 for up to two years.

#### ***Marion B. Lyon New Scientist Development Program***

A generous gift from a private donor endows the Marion B. Lyon New Scientist Development Program. The award promotes the career development of young investigators who are initiating independent research careers, but have not yet received NIH funding. Each year, two awards in the amount of \$75,000 (up to two years) are available on a competitive basis.

#### ***Arkansas Children's Catalyst Program***

Arkansas Children's sponsors this grant program that is intended to provide entrepreneurial mentorship and seed funding to Arkansas Children's scientists and innovators for developing promising ideas. The focus of proposals should be on the development of therapeutics, diagnostics, medical devices, digital health, and biological tools related to improving child health outcomes. Awards are a maximum of \$50,000 for up to two years.

#### ***ACRI Limited Grant Programs***

ACRI occasionally offers competitive grant programs that are limited in availability, scope, or funding. Announcements will be made to the ACRI research community. Past programs include Magnetoencephalography (MEG) Pilot Study Research Awards and COVID-19 Pilot Project Awards.

#### ***Fiser Research Achievement Award***

In 2013, Arkansas Children's added the Fiser Research Achievement Award to the recognitions presented at its signature recognition ceremony, the Ruth Olive Beall and Betty A. Lowe, MD, Awards. At the annual event, the award is presented to an ACRI research scientist who has distinguished himself or herself through extraordinary scientific research that will have lasting impact on the health, development, and well-being of children and their families. Nominations for the Fiser Research Achievement Award are accepted in the fall, and it is presented in the spring at the annual banquet.

ACRI's research achievement award is named in honor of the late Dr. Robert H. Fiser, Jr. Dr. Fiser was a true visionary who dedicated his life's work to the children of Arkansas. As UAMS Department of Pediatrics Chairman from 1975 to 1994, his leadership was instrumental in laying the foundation for the current success of ACRI.

## Summer Science Program

The Summer Science Program at Arkansas Children's Hospital, a program co-sponsored by the UAMS Department of Pediatrics and ACRI, gives outstanding sophomore-, junior-, and senior-level college students the experience of a career in academic medicine—in both the clinical and the research aspects. The students spend 8 weeks through June and July shadowing physicians, attending rounds and clinics, and touring different hospital units, as well as participating in a mentored research project involving children's health. The Summer Science Program Director (Jenny Kubacak - [KubacakJ@archildrens.org](mailto:KubacakJ@archildrens.org); 364-6527) organizes faculty members from various pediatric subspecialties to teach basic science and clinical research techniques and help the students gain exposure to clinical medicine.

🔗 Summer Science Program - <https://www.archildrens.org/research/summer-science-program/summer-science-program>

## ACRI Communications

ACRI communicates to its research community by many means. An intranet site is available through ACH's on-campus network for internal communication, and an internet site provides information to ACRI researchers, supporters, and anyone interested in our research endeavors, successes, and accomplishments. ACRI hosts meetings and conferences for our researchers to keep them up to date on ACRI and research activities. In addition, ACRI uses traditional and social media and other outlets to inform the public about the institute.

### Websites

ACRI provides two websites: an intranet site accessible on the ACH campus and networks with content for its research personnel and an internet site accessible to all with content for researchers and the public.

#### Intranet Site

ACRI maintains an intranet site for its researchers and staff. Researchers and staff can use the site to share documents for grant application preparation and for institute committees.

🔗 ACRI Intranet Site - <https://pedpoint.peds.ad.uams.edu/SitePages/Home.aspx>

#### ACRI Website

ACRI maintains a website that provides information about its history and mission, profiles of ACRI researchers, resources for its researchers, and an administrative staff directory. The ACRI website provides an overview of clinical trials research for the general public, maintains list of currently enrolling clinical trials, and an electronic form to enroll in the participant database. The website also presents an overview of the Summer Science Program.

🔗 ACRI Website - <https://www.archildrens.org/research>

### Weekly Research Update

ACRI notifies its researchers and research staff of pressing news, meetings, training sessions, funding opportunities, and other urgent announcements through a weekly email, *Weekly Research Update*. To receive *Weekly Research Update*, email [ResearchUpdate@archildrens.org](mailto:ResearchUpdate@archildrens.org).

## Social Media

ACRI uses social media to share research news and to recruit clinical trial participants.

### Facebook

Through Arkansas Children's Facebook page, ACRI manages posts, announcements, and news concerning pediatric research and clinical trials participation. Posts relating to specific clinical trials are IRB approved. Generally, ACRI posts twice a week to the ACH Facebook page. The ACH Facebook page has over 150,000 fans.

📱 Arkansas Children's on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ArkansasChildrens/>

### Text Messaging

ACRI uses text messaging to contact subscribers about currently enrolling clinical trials. Trial-specific messages are IRB approved. To subscribe to this service, text RESEARCH to 411247 (message and data rates may apply).

### Twitter

ACRI releases approximately two tweets weekly through Arkansas Children's Twitter account. The tweets encourage enrollment in ACRI's clinical trials participant database or highlight a currently enrolling clinical trial. Tweets relating to specific clinical trials are IRB approved. Arkansas Children's Twitter account has over 17,000 followers.

📱 Arkansas Children's on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/archildrens>

### YouTube

Arkansas Children's maintains a YouTube channel that provides information to the public on topics including research at ACRI.

📱 Arkansas Children's on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/archildrens>

## Media Releases

ACRI's Research Communications Director (Phaedra Yount - [YountPA@archildrens.org](mailto:YountPA@archildrens.org); 364-2469) coordinates the creation and distribution of news releases pertaining to ACRI and its researchers with Arkansas Children's Strategic Marketing and the UAMS Office of Communications & Marketing.

## Photography

The ACRI communications office can provide basic photography services or assist in acquiring outside photographic services.

## Outside Media Inquiries

Researchers may be contacted by media other than the Arkansas Children's Strategic Marketing. In these cases, please refer the inquiry to Arkansas Children's Strategic Marketing (364-6445). Arkansas Children's Strategic Marketing will coordinate responses to these inquiries in conjunction with appropriate entities, such as UAMS and funding agencies. Arkansas Children's policy does not allow the use of Arkansas Children's and ACRI resources or facilities for media purposes or activities outside of Arkansas Children's and ACRI without prior approval.

## Collaborating Institutions

ACRI collaborates with major institutions within the state of Arkansas.

### Arkansas Children's, Inc.

Arkansas Children's, Inc. is the only healthcare system in the state solely dedicated to caring for Arkansas' more than 700,000 children. The private, non-profit organization includes two pediatric hospitals, a pediatric research institute and USDA nutrition center, a philanthropic foundation, regional alliances and clinics, and telemedicine and statewide outreach programs—all focused on fulfilling a promise to define and deliver unprecedented child health. Generous philanthropic and volunteer engagement has sustained Arkansas Children's since it began as an orphanage in 1912 and today ensures the state's only pediatric health system can deliver on its promise of unprecedented child health.

🔗 Arkansas Children's - <http://www.archildrens.org/>

### Arkansas Children's Hospital

Established in 1910, Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) is a 336-bed, private, non-profit hospital with an active medical staff of more than 500. ACH is the only health care facility in Arkansas dedicated exclusively to children and one of the largest pediatric hospitals in the nation. Located in Little Rock in the center of the state, it serves a population base of approximately 5 million people in Arkansas and surrounding states. ACH is dedicated to offering medical services to all children regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, or ability to pay

The ACH campus covers 32 city blocks over 64 acres and has a floor space totaling over 2,050,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Inpatient specialty units include cardiovascular, newborn, and pediatric intensive care units; orthopedics; hematology/oncology; renal dialysis; extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and many others.

ACH serves as a teaching hospital for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and is home to the UAMS Department of Pediatrics. Medical students, residents, and other health-related professionals receive their primary pediatric training at ACH. UAMS faculty composes most of the over 500 physicians on the ACH staff.

### Arkansas Children's Northwest

Opened in 2018, Arkansas Children's Northwest (ACNW) is the first and only pediatric hospital in the Northwest Arkansas region. It is a Level IV pediatric trauma center. Located in Springdale, ACNW operates a 24-bed inpatient unit, a surgical unit with five operating rooms, outpatient clinics offering over 20 subspecialties, diagnostic services, imaging capabilities, occupational therapy services, and Northwest Arkansas' only pediatric emergency department, equipped with 30 exam rooms.

### University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) provides the only state-sponsored medical and pharmaceutical education in Arkansas. Located less than two miles from the ACH campus, it is the state's largest, most comprehensive facility for medical treatment and biomedical research. UAMS is the state's largest basic and applied research institution, with more than \$107 million in annual research funding, grants and contracts and internationally renowned programs in multiple myeloma, aging, cancer and other areas. The Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Health Related Professions as well as the Graduate School and regional programs are located at UAMS. UAMS employs more than 5,000 health professionals and graduates nearly 600 MDs, PhDs, nurses, pharmacists, and allied health professionals each year.

The Department of Pediatrics is the largest department of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine in Little Rock, Arkansas. The main offices of the Department are located on the campus of Arkansas Children's Hospital, a long-time clinical and teaching affiliate of UAMS. The two institutions coordinate clinical service, educational programs and research initiatives among pediatrics faculty and other university faculty. Pediatrics faculty are also assigned to selected areas within University Hospital and physicians from the department provide clinical services on a regular basis to regional clinics around the state. Pediatrics staffing totals more than 1,200 employees, including more than 265 faculty members and 950 professionals, paraprofessionals, and support staff working in 24 sections within the department.

🔗 UAMS - <http://www.uams.edu/>

🔗 Department of Pediatrics - <https://pediatrics.uams.edu/>

### Arkansas Biosciences Institute

The vision for the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI) emerged during a statewide planning process for use of the state's share of the 1998 nationwide tobacco settlement. Health care leaders across the state spoke out in favor of dedicating a portion of the tobacco settlement funds to innovative research that could help reduce or prevent smoking-related illnesses.

Arkansas voters eventually endorsed the proposed Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act of 2000 by 64% in a referendum in November 2000. The Arkansas General Assembly enacted the provisions of that proposal as Acts 1569 through 1580 of 2001. Part of that legislation established ABI as a consortium of five research institutions: Arkansas Children's; Arkansas State University; the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture; the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The legislation designated the president of the University of Arkansas System to chair the ABI Board of Directors, with the board to include the senior executive of each member institution as well as two members appointed by the Governor.

🔗 Arkansas Biosciences Institute - <http://arbiosciences.org/>

### Technology Transfer

UAMS Arkansas BioVentures and its Technology Licensing Office were established as a formal outgrowth of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences' (UAMS) interest in translating its research into products that benefit human health. The UAMS College of Medicine established UAMS BioVentures to maximize global, industrial interaction with the University of Arkansas faculty, as well as to facilitate technology transfer, the creation of startup companies that are based on UAMS technology invention disclosure, and contributions to Arkansas's economic development. UAMS BioVentures links the research minds at UAMS to global markets in order to advance Arkansas's scientific and economic development.

The mission of Technology Licensing Office is to translate UAMS' publicly funded research into products that benefit human healthcare by supporting the faculty investigators in identifying, disclosing, patenting, and licensing their inventions, as well as participation in Arkansas startup companies and developing strong Arkansas Research Alliances with other research institutions, specifically, the University of Arkansas System, Arkansas State University, the FDA's National Center for Toxicology Research, and the USDA's Aquaculture Station Stuttgart and the medical and biotechnology companies in the Mid-south Region, and creating an infrastructure to support both technology transfer and startup company development.

UAMS BioVentures works to convert Arkansas's medical and biotechnology research into new companies and high wage jobs for Arkansans by operating UAMS' startup company incubator program under the guidance of the UAMS Arkansas BioVentures Advisory Board, and developing an interactive network between UAMS, Arkansas Children's, the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System and global industries, and supporting a state-of-the-art education and training programs that promote Arkansas's medical and biotechnology development.

🔗 UAMS BioVentures - <http://bioventures.uams.edu/>

## Philanthropy

Throughout its history, ACRI has been the beneficiary of philanthropic individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations. The institute's foremost partner in its philanthropic successes is the Arkansas Children's Foundation. The Foundation is the fundraising arm of Arkansas Children's. The foundation has been a partner with ACRI from the time it was just a dream of what might be. In the 30-year period that has followed, the Arkansas Children's Foundation has helped donors with a keen interest in research connect with ACRI, giving researchers additional resources with which to continue seeking more answers to childhood illnesses and injuries. These forward-thinking philanthropists are an important part of the past, present, and future of ACRI.

Because research revenue alone is not enough to fully support the enterprise, ongoing operational support is critical to help fill in the gaps not covered by project-based grant funding. Among those who give to ACRI for day-to-day, annual support are two Arkansas Children's volunteer organizations, the Arkansas Children's Auxiliary and Circle of Friends chapters, understand the need for unrestricted annual support and for many years have designated a portion of their fundraising proceeds to support the day-to-day work of research.

🔗 Arkansas Children's Foundation - <https://www.archildrens.org/giving/>



## ACRI Staff Directory

A directory of ACRI's administrative staff is available on the ACRI website.

🔗 Administrative Staff Directory - <https://www.archildrens.org/research/about-acri/contact-us>

ACRI's main office number is (501) 364-7373.

### Research Executive Staff

Peter Mourani, MD, ACRI President (501-364-3091, [MouraniP@archildrens.org](mailto:MouraniP@archildrens.org))

Barry Brady, FACHE, CRA, ACRI Chief Operating Officer (501-364-6517, [BradyB@archildrens.org](mailto:BradyB@archildrens.org))

Jenny Kubacak, Administrative Services Director (501-364-6527, [KubacakJ@archildrens.org](mailto:KubacakJ@archildrens.org))

Peggy Bailey, Administrative Assistant (501-364-7373, [BaileyPJ@archildrens.org](mailto:BaileyPJ@archildrens.org))

### Research Administrative Staff

Andrea Dixon, Assistant General Counsel, Research (501-364-3571, [DixonAW@archildrens.org](mailto:DixonAW@archildrens.org))

Brandon Fowlkes, Manager of Animal Care and Husbandry (501-364-2759, [FowlkesBG@archildrens.org](mailto:FowlkesBG@archildrens.org))

Robin Gibson, Clinical Research Manager (501-364-1542, [GibsonRobinA@uams.edu](mailto:GibsonRobinA@uams.edu))

Robyn Graham, Research Account Coordinator (501-364-6554, [GrahamRM@archildrens.org](mailto:GrahamRM@archildrens.org))

John Gregan, Science Writer/Editor (501-364-6296, [GreganJA@archildrens.org](mailto:GreganJA@archildrens.org))

Blake Harrison, Administrative Director of Animal Research and Director of Facility Operations (501-364-2710, [HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu](mailto:HarrisonBlakeT@uams.edu))

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