

CENTER ON AGING RESEARCH RESOURCES

Cancer and Aging Program (CAP) Specialized Core Resources

In 2003, NIH/NCI/NIA awarded a grant, *Integrating Cancer and Aging Research in NCI-designated Cancer Centers*, (1P20 CA0103672-01), to Robert Wallace, M.D., PI, David Lubaroff, Ph.D., Co-PI. Building on strengths of the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center and the University of Iowa Center on Aging, this planning and development grant will foster basic and clinical research that addresses issues uniquely associated with cancer in the elderly. Specifically, the CAP focuses on, but is not limited to, interdisciplinary research in 3 thematic areas: biology of aging and cancer; effects of comorbidity; and treatment efficacy and tolerance. Other areas of research interest are patterns of care; prevention, risk assessment and screening; psychosocial issues and medical effects; palliative care, end-of-life care, and pain relief.

The CAP plans to expand shared research resources on campus by supporting the development of two specialized core resources integral to cancer and aging research. The Analytical Pharmacology Laboratory Core will provide expertise in the complex techniques required to investigate the efficacy and tolerance of pharmacological agents in the elderly. The Population-Based Cancer Treatment and Outcome Databases Core will provide expertise in the use of large databases for studies of comorbidity, cancer care and outcomes among older cancer patients. These facilities will assist investigators in the development and conduct of research studies at the interface of cancer and aging.

The Analytical Pharmacology Laboratory Core is directed by Raymond Hohl, MD, PhD, UI professor of internal medicine and pharmacology. The facility is located adjacent to Dr. Hohl's laboratory on the 5th floor of the Holden Cancer Research Laboratories and includes 800 square feet of laboratory space.

The Analytical Pharmacology Laboratory contains high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) capabilities, and consists of two sets of System Gold (Beckman) systems including two sets of 126 solvent modules, one 168 detector, and one 508 autosampler. There is also a HP 1090 liquid chromatograph system. The GC-MS system is a HP5890 GC with HP 5970B MSD detector. There is a HP 7673 auto-injector with this system. Other equipment includes: FP-920 intelligent Fluorescence detector (JACBO, Japan), Spectroflow 757 UV/vis variable wavelength detector (KRATOS), 165 variable wavelength detector (System Gold, Beckman), 235 column heater (System Gold, Beckman), 231 post column reactor (System Gold, Beckman), AG 204 digital Balance (Mettler Toledo), 5417R benchtop centrifuge (Eppendorf), and a Isotemp Oven (Fisher scientific). Personal computer systems are also available.

For more information about this Core and its services contact Dr. Huaxiang Tong, Associate Research Scientist, by e-mail at huaxiang-tong@uiowa.edu or by telephone at 335-8272.

The Population-Based Cancer Treatment and Outcome Databases Core is directed by Elizabeth Chrischilles, PhD, UI professor of epidemiology and clinical and administrative pharmacy. Core facilities are located within the Health Effectiveness Research Center (HERCe) (www.public-health.uiowa.edu/herce/). Center space on the 2nd floor of Westlawn includes over 1,500 square feet with staff offices, meeting areas, and resources for data collection, storage and analyses.

The Database Core provides the infrastructure and expertise necessary to conduct state-of-the-art cancer control research relevant to the elderly, including studies that address issues such as disparities in health care for the aged, cost of cancer treatment, and the influence of pre-existing comorbidities on treatment decisions and outcome. Administrative claims databases, cancer registry databases, and longitudinal survey databases afford a rich data source for such research. Data holdings available to CAP investigators include multiple years of: Iowa Medicaid claims data, Iowa Medicare claims data, SEER-Medicare linked databases, Healthcare Cost and Utilization (HCUP) Project's State Inpatient Data, and the Area Resource File. These data and associated database management and analytic techniques are inherently complex. Database documentation, data dictionaries, variable creation instructions, and data management and analysis programs are maintained for use across projects. Computer workstations capable of analyzing these large databases are available and maintained for affiliated faculty, staff and CAP investigators. A wide variety of software packages and analytical methodologies are also available and supported. In addition, the Westlawn facility includes a data security room with workstations for use with confidential data and storage for original data tapes and back up media.

For more information about this Core and its services contact Dr. Margaret Voelker, Assistant Research Scientist, by e-mail at margaret-voelker@uiowa.edu or by telephone at 335-9751.

CAP Listserv and Website

The CAP Listserv is designed to provide timely announcements to investigators interested in cancer and aging research. Information includes research funding opportunities, basic and clinical research findings, and educational opportunities on cancer and aging topics. To subscribe to this free listserv, please send a message to Victoria Struzynski Olson (Victoria-struzynski-olson@uiowa.edu). You may unsubscribe at any time.

The CAP Website (<http://www.cancerandaging.uiowa.edu>) is expected to be available mid-July 2004, and will include information about the grant's goals, resources, research opportunities and progress.