



**National Center for
Research Resources**

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

**Summary of the Eighth Comparative
Medicine Resource Directors Meeting
May 10 – 11, 2010**

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Introduction

The Eighth Comparative Medicine (CM) Resource Directors Meeting was held May 10 – 11, 2010, at the Doubletree Hotel in Bethesda, Md. Principal Investigators were invited to attend if they held resource-related grants or contracts from the [Division of Comparative Medicine](#) (DCM), National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Health and Human Services. This biannual meeting provided a forum to exchange information among grantees and extramural program staff members from many NIH ICs and all four divisions of NCRR, and to highlight activities of the DCM-supported resource centers. At this meeting, 33 presentations and 32 posters highlighted aspects of Translational Medicine, High-Throughput Technologies, and Reinvigorating and Empowering the Biomedical Community. Eighty resource grant representatives and trans-NIH staff attended. Forty-three resources were represented. The attendees included the Principal Investigators of NCRR-supported centers funded by contracts, P40, U24 and U42 grant mechanisms, as well as grantees that have resource-related projects funded via the R24 mechanism.

Meeting Agenda

Drs. John Critser and Lela Riley welcomed the attendees to Bethesda. Dr. Franziska Grieder, director of the DCM, NCRR, NIH, provided opening remarks and introduced the DCM staff members.

Dr. Louise Ramm, deputy director of NCRR, presented the opening address entitled "**Update on Clinical and Translational Research.**"

Session 1: "Translational Medicine" was moderated by Dr. Christian Abee, of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and included these individual presentations:

- **Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs): Update for Comparative Medicine Resource Directors** (Dr. Anthony Hayward, Division of Clinical Research Resources [DCRR], NCRR)
- **Division of Research Infrastructure: IDeA and RCMI Centers and Networks** (Dr. Michael Sayre, Division of Research Infrastructure, NCRR)
- **Division of Biomedical Technology: Informatics** (Dr. Olga Brazhnik, Division of Biomedical Technology, NCRR)
- **Clinical and Translational Science Awards: Training Updates** (Dr. Anthony Hayward, DCRR NCRR)
- **Collaborations with CTSAs** (Dr. Lela Riley)

Session 2: "High Throughput Technologies" was moderated by Dr. Ray O'Neill, DCM, NCRR, and included these individual presentations:

- **Systems Biology and Animal Models: STRIDE** (Dr. Michael Katze, University of Washington)

- **SEPA, RePORT, i2iConnect, CTSA IP Directory** (Dr. Ray O'Neill, DCM, NCRR)
- **Enabling National Networking of Scientists and Resource Discovery** (VIVO and eagle-i) (Dr. Elaine Collier, Office of the Director, NCRR)

Session 3: "Reinvigorating and Empowering the Biomedical Community" was moderated by Dr. William Watson, DCM, NCRR, and included these individual presentations:

- **Educating Veterinarians in Laboratory Animal Medicine (LAM): Addressing a National Shortage** (Dr. William Watson, DCM, NCRR)
- **Summer American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 Supplement** (Dr. John Perez, Texas A&M U, Kingsville)
- **National Resource Service Awards: T and K Grants for Veterinarians** (Dr. Manuel Moro, DCM, NCRR)

Session 4: "Administrative Changes at NIH, NCRR and DCM" was moderated by Dr. Franziska Grieder, DCM, NCRR, and included these individual presentations:

- **NCRR and ARRA** (Dr. Gregory Farber, Office of Extramural Activities, NCRR)
- **NCRR Office of Communications: Overview** (Cindy McConnell, Office of Communications, NCRR)
- **Q&A on Comparative Medicine Grants Management Issues** (Irene Grissom, Office of Grants Management, NCRR)
- **Enhancing Peer Review at NIH** (Dr. Bonnie Dunn, Office of Review NCRR)
- **Resource Applications to DCM** (Dr. Franziska Grieder, DCM, NCRR)

Session 5: "Report and Discussion of Previous and New Workshops" was moderated by Dr. John Harding, DCM, NCRR. Reports concerning several of these events are available on the [Meeting Summaries & Reports](#) page of the NCRR website. The session included these individual presentations:

- **KOMP Phenotyping: The Users' Perspective** (Dr. K.C. Kent Lloyd, University of California, Davis)
- **4th International Conference on Primate Genomics: Systems Biology & Translational Research** (Dr. John Harding, DCM, NCRR)
- **Detection, Impact and Control of Specific Pathogens in Animal Resource Facilities Workshop** (Dr. Manuel Moro, DCM, NCRR)
- **Use of Neotropical Primates in Biomedical Research Workshop** (Dr. Manuel Moro, DCM, NCRR)

Posters from representative NCRR-supported resources allowed the opportunity for the attendees to have individual and detailed discussions with resource directors from scientific fields that differed from their own fields. There were multiple detailed examples of translational research being conducted at the DCM-funded resources.

The **Keynote Address** was presented by Dr. Jeff Everitt of GlaxoSmithKline.

Session 6: "New Resources & NIH Initiatives" was moderated by Dr. John Critser, U of Missouri. DCM-funded resources are described in the [Comparative Medicine Research Resources Directory](#). NCRR maintains a comprehensive list of [News and Events](#) relevant to all four NCRR divisions. In addition, Twitter-fed "News, Events, and Funding Updates" and *PubMed*, NCRR-supported research "Results" are available on <https://www.ctsacental.org/>. Furthermore, selected resources are periodically highlighted in the *NCRR Reporter*. The session included these individual presentations:

- **LAMHDI: The Initiative to Link Animal Models to Human Disease** (Judith Turner, Turner Consulting Group)
- **Primate Portal Update** (Dr. Joseph Kemnitz, University of Wisconsin)
- **Xenopus Resource Center: A New Stock and Training Center** (Dr. Robert Grainger, Marine Biological Laboratories and University of Virginia)
- **Mutant Mouse Research Modeling Human Disease & Health** (Collaborative Cross) (Dr. Virginia Godfrey, University of North Carolina)
- **NPRC Consortium DNA and Pathology Projects** (John Nylander, NCRR NPRC Consortium)
- **NIH's Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network** (OppNet) (Dr. Andrea Sawczuk, DCRR, NCRR)

A talk entitled "**SBIR/STTR and Tech Transfer Update**" was delivered by Lili Portilla, Office of the Director, NCRR.

Finally, an **Open Discussion** was moderated by Drs. Franziska Grieder and John Critser. Topics included the following:

- **Accelerating Translational Research**
- **Funding Strategies for Individual Centers to Improve Animal Resources**
- **Needs of the Biomedical Community**
- **Evaluation of 2010 Meeting**
- **Planning for 2012 Meeting**

The main meeting concluded with a discussion of potential plans for improving the 2012 Ninth Comparative Medicine Resource Directors Meeting. Comments included:

- Because the participation of staff from NCRR (including members from outside DCM) and other NIH Institutes has been very productive, a location proximal to NCRR and other NIH Institute staff is preferred. Additional extramural NIH staff should be invited (possibly as speakers); they could be identified by canvassing the resource directors when planning the next meeting.

- It also would be interesting for many resource directors to visit NIH animal resources or facilities. The feasibility of such visits would need to be evaluated.
- The poster session could be longer in the future, and short scientific vignettes showing research advances could be added as posters and/or oral presentations. In general, increasing the emphasis on science was mentioned repeatedly. Suggestions included developing short vignettes that focus on a common theme, covering multiple themes or topics, and organizing break-out sessions. These comments also support the notion of sharing information on and accelerating translational research.
- As has been done in the past, CDs with commonly formatted updates from each DCM-funded resource could be distributed to attendees. This will require coordination from DCM/NCRR staff and the resource directors as well as their willingness to submit the requested summaries in a timely fashion.
- The general themes of informatics, financial sustainability, effective communications to varied interested partners, and activities to encourage public-private partnerships continue to be of interest to most attendees.
- Potential inclusion of representatives from Comparative Medicine groups in industry was a topic of interest mentioned by some attendees.

Overall, the resource directors as a group gained additional insight into accelerating translational biomedical research. Additional feedback from the DCM community should be communicated to Dr. Franziska Grieder, director of DCM, NCRR.