



## **NETWORK UPDATE** **February 2009**

### **Note from the Communications Director**

Now that the NETWORK UPDATE is in its fourth month, we are eager to receive input from the entire RCMI community regarding its usefulness. The Communications division is working diligently to keep you informed about activities occurring across RTRN. We are sharing information from the Network's PIs and DTCC; but most importantly, we want to share information about your centers. Through this report, we are disseminating information about RTRN to hundreds of scientists, research personnel and supporting agencies, and we feel it's vital to highlight the wonderful work of the Network's 18 participating RCMI sites.

We are requesting each RCMI site:

- To submit its news and information by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month to be included in the upcoming issue of the NETWORK UPDATE, and
- To identify a communications contact to be responsible for forwarding updates to RTRN.

*The requested information should be forwarded to the Communications Division at [communications@rtrn.net](mailto:communications@rtrn.net).*

### **Pilot Study – Effects of Vitamin D3 [25(OH)D3] on Vascular Function and Cardiovascular Risk Factors**

On January 26, 2009, Version 2.0 of the Vitamin D3 Protocol was submitted for approval by the Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB). Their comments were provided to study teams on February 6, 2009; response to their report will be submitted on February 17, 2009. Then, the IRBs at Morehouse, Charles Drew and Jackson State will review for approval. The Case Report Forms (CRFs) are in final review, awaiting approval by the PIs and Biostatistician. The Investigator's Meeting is tentatively scheduled for March.

### **Steering Committee and Subcommittees**

Audio from the RTRN Steering Committee meeting held on November 30, 2008, is posted behind the secure Portal in the Steering Committee folder, accessible through the RTRN web site.

The *Translational Informatics subcommittee* is in the process of identifying committee leadership.

*Ethics and Regulatory subcommittee* has submitted an abstract to the Association of University Technology Managers Conference ([www.AUTM.net](http://www.AUTM.net)) for presentation at their upcoming June regional Meeting, "GOING GLOBAL: INNOVATION WITHOUT BORDERS".

## Working Groups

The Biostatistics working group will host a meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 3:00pm. The meeting will take place immediately following the Biostatistics Webinar featuring Dr. Jimmy Efird, University of Hawaii, who will discuss computing power and sample size. Please contact Dr. Jae Eun Lee at 601.979.0337 or via e-mail at [jae.lee@rtrn.net](mailto:jae.lee@rtrn.net) for details about the Working Group meeting. Additional information about the Biostatistics Webinar is available at [http://www.rtrn.net/news/special\\_announcements.htm](http://www.rtrn.net/news/special_announcements.htm).

## Distinguished Lecture Series

In 2008, RTRN established real estate on the network's web site to highlight the notable speakers presenting at the RCMI institutions. We are encouraging all the RCMI sites to forward details about their upcoming speaking engagements. We are interested in knowing about the invited guests as well as any RCMI scientists who will be presenting at the institutions. Announcements will be posted under the **DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES** on the RTRN web site and distributed throughout the RTRN community.

We are asking **EACH RCMI CENTER** to submit information on **1 - 3 speaker events** that will take place at your institution between February – July 2009. Please provide:

- Featured Speaker/Presenter
- Title/name of the event
- Date and Time
- Location
- Method of Delivery (i.e., on-site, webinar, videoconference)
- Contact person

For added convenience, complete the electronic Announcement form on the RTRN web site by accessing the link, <http://dtccweb.rtrn.net/SubmitAnnouncements/>.

## DTCC Activities

- Based on recommendations from NCCR's Drs. Shelia McClure, Fred Taylor and Michael Sayre, DTCC's Clinical Data Services and Informatics Director, M. Theresa Perry, participated in the Clinical and Translational Informatics Networking (CTIN) Meeting on February 4-5, 2009, in Scottsdale, Arizona. During the two-day event, Perry participated in discussions focused on unifying IDeA, CTSA and RTRN and pooling the networks' resources.
- The DTCC Biostatistical division will host its second webinar in the BIostatistics Seminar Series on February 18, 2009 at 2pm CST. The presenter, Dr. Jimmy Efird, University of Hawaii, will discuss computing power and sample size. Additional information is available at [http://www.rtrn.net/news/special\\_announcements.htm](http://www.rtrn.net/news/special_announcements.htm).

## RTRN Web site

Work on the RTRN web site continues as we regularly update the site with the latest information and announcements from the RCMI institutions as well as provide improved functionalities for the network's members.

Here are a few of the updates to the RTRN web site:

- A centralized link to electronic forms to request specific RTRN services is located on the homepage under "RTRN Research Collaborations." If you have any problems accessing these forms, please contact us via e-mail at [communications@rtrn.net](mailto:communications@rtrn.net).
- A page for important announcements, upcoming events and funding opportunities can be accessed from the homepage under "News & Communications, Special Announcements."
- A link to information about the newly formed Translational Informatics Research subcommittee has been posted under the "Subcommittees" button accessible from the homepage.
- Two updated databases are available to the RTRN community:

The **CLUSTER PARTICIPANTS DATABASE** is a searchable directory of all the members of the RTRN Translational Clusters. Persons who have completed an on-line cluster participation form or expressed interest in joining a cluster at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual RCMI Symposium are included in this database.

A new comprehensive directory of the numerous RCMI researchers and personnel will be catalogued in the **RCMI SCIENTISTS DIRECTORY**. An electronic profile form which allows any RCMI researcher to add a new profile to the directory is available on-line at <http://dtccweb.rtrn.net/ClusterSearch/AddProfile.aspx>. The researcher can use this form to create a password and user ID that will allow him/her to securely update the published profile.

We will continue to work on the site to ensure it becomes more dynamic and resourceful. We welcome your comments and suggestions pertaining to the RTRN website, [www.rtrn.net](http://www.rtrn.net).

This Network Update has been prepared for the RTRN community to keep you abreast of network milestones and the numerous activities of the RCMI centers. We will distribute these updates on a monthly basis. **Please provide comments and/or suggestions to [communications@rtrn.net](mailto:communications@rtrn.net)**. Continue to visit [www.rtrn.net](http://www.rtrn.net) for additional news and information.