

Outstanding Contribution Awards

Seventeen individuals have been singled out for their outstanding contributions on behalf of ACRIN clinical trial research. These awards are made particularly meaningful by the fact that they are based on nominations by fellow ACRIN colleagues who work side by side with the nominees and, therefore, have firsthand knowledge of their efforts and abilities. Mitchel Schnall, ACRIN Network Chair, conveyed his personal appreciation for the commendable way in which these researchers and staff have carried out their professional responsibilities and for their integral role in ACRIN's success.

Special Recognition Awards

Hal Kundel, MD

As the first chair of the ACRIN Advisory Panel, Hal has organized, developed, and led a multidisciplinary committee that has provided insightful commentary and guidance to ACRIN leadership since the panel's inception. The committees' recommendations have been objective, realistic in creating expectations, and representative of the interests of the broader scientific community. The support of the Advisory Panel was instrumental to ACRIN's preparations for renewal during the last grant renewal cycle and it continues to play a critical role as a result of Hal's stewardship.

Barbara LeStage

The Chair of the Patient Advocates Committee, Barbara is recognized for her exemplary leadership in fostering the development of Project IMPACT, a nationally recognized innovative model for advocate involvement in clinical research. Her efforts have ensured that the voice of the patient is heard in the review of new ACRIN research concepts and results in study designs that ensure the patient remains the focus. As a member of the ACRIN leadership team, Barbara has consistently provided valuable perspective and has made significant contributions toward creating and refining the strategic direction of the organization.

Trial Investigators and Chairs

Gerald (Chip) Dodd, MD

Chip has served as Principal Investigator (PI) for ACRIN 6673 (*Multicenter Feasibility of Percutaneous Radiofrequency Ablation of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Cirrhotic Patients*), a trial plagued by challenges that might have deterred other investigators. However, his 7 year dedication to obtaining approvals and adapting as needed to address study design considerations ultimately led the trial to a successful completion, including a recent central reader study, and data analysis is in progress. Chip's leadership clearly demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment to the treatment of patients with advanced HCC and defining the role of radiofrequency ablation in treating a population otherwise facing poor prognosis. Presentation of results at the next meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) is highly anticipated.

Mark Rosen, MD, PhD

Mark is recognized for his role in leading ACRIN's efforts to advance the imaging core laboratory capabilities in MR/CT and in personally helping to define the role and methodology of dynamic contrast-enhanced (DCE) MRI in the context of clinical research efforts. He has served as PI for ACRIN 6676 and ACRIN 4002, which have produced invaluable experience to guide future efforts in DCE MRI, and for the imaging component of ECOG E1208, which is in the process of examining various quantitative methods for assessing disease progression. Mark's activities with the imaging core lab have been instrumental in developing standards for imaging analysis and in fostering collaboration with other cooperative groups and consortiums to disseminate standards across the imaging community.

Barry Siegel, MD

Barry is recognized for his many diverse roles within ACRIN, including providing valuable counsel as deputy chair, leading core lab initiatives (including advances in quantitative imaging assessment in PET and development of imaging standards for PET), leading and guiding numerous clinical research trials, and directing the National Oncology PET Registry (NOPR) to reach over 160,000 participants. His support, expertise, and leadership have been critical to enabling continued scientific assessment and redirection for ACRIN 6668 and ACRIN 6678 and developing a series of clinical trials intended to clarify PET's role as an imaging biomarker. By bringing in new researchers and fostering a team approach, Barry has advanced the growth and development of ACRIN's scientific team and directly helped to ensure a healthy future for the organization.

Study Coordinators/Researchers

Pam Allen, Jewish Hospital

Since becoming the lead RA at Jewish Hospital during a time of transition 5 years ago, Pam has provided outstanding leadership while focusing on data quality, productivity, and compassion for participants. She has worked effectively with staff to increase data submission by over 15%, quickly rectify all audit issues that occurred prior to her tenure, and clean data with a review of 100% of study charts at a site that accrued over 1,900 participants. Pam has developed a method of review that provides for continual process improvement and a higher measure of quality control—all while gaining a reputation for being one of the kindest, most respectful, relationship building, and trustworthy people ACRIN could have as an RA.

Jennifer Frye, Washington University

Jennifer's role as research associate for ACRIN 6678 at Washington University in St. Louis has been critical to Washington University's success as one of the two top accruing sites for the trial. Her ability to work across the departmental boundaries between the fields of radiology and oncology and her incredible commitment of time and effort in support of this trial have produced consistently superior accrual results. She has generously shared ideas with ACRIN staff in an

effort to identify possible tools and processes to help bolster accrual at other trial sites and to develop solutions for studies increasingly relying on collaborations with other medical specialties.

Connie Sathre, Mayo Clinic Rochester

As research coordinator of the National Lung Screening Trial (NLST) at Mayo Clinic Rochester, Connie has inspired her team to achieve a high degree of excellence in their work. They never miss a deadline and are always compliant and timely in responding to data queries, forms due reports, procurement of death certificates, and requests for medical records for abstraction and endpoint verification process (EVP). Mayo Clinic Rochester has maintained a remarkable retention rate, with $\geq 95\%$ of their ~ 1180 participants having “known follow-up” status and $< 1\%$ having an unknown vital status.

Pat Shwartz and Deb Chewar, Mayo Clinic Jacksonville

Pat and Deb have been outstanding in their roles as primary RAs at the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville NLST site. Their team has always been responsive to data queries, forms due reports, procurement of death certificates, and requests for medical records for abstraction and EVP, maintaining a rate of $\geq 96\%$ of their ~ 290 participants with “known follow-up” status. The efforts of Pat and Deb and their team to build personal relationships with their participants is reflected in 99% of Mayo Jacksonville’s participants having a documented vital status, which sets the benchmark for other NLST sites.

Biostatistics and Data Management Center Staff

Lindsey Dymond, Data Management Center

The research site nominating her reported that, “Lindsey has demonstrated professionalism, dedication, and teamwork with all interactions we’ve had. Lindsey is always prompt to respond to questions that may arise and on the rare occasion that she does not immediately have an answer, she goes above and beyond to find the answer and respond to us as quickly as possible. She was particularly helpful to us in resolving the results of our last audit, saving us time and effort. Lindsey has always provided us with reports promptly and consistently gives us praise and encouragement for our accomplishments, even taking the time to send us a handwritten “thank you” and sharing our accomplishments with our supervisor.”

Glenna Gabrielli, Data Management Center

The PI for ACRIN 6666 has noted that Glenna has consistently worked “with a gentle touch and an eye for detail, [and] has been instrumental in working with the 20 sites in ACRIN 6666 to resolve all queries and achieve extremely high rates of follow-up over the 4 years of data collection needed on each participant. In addition, she was able to construct all the needed forms and documents for a reader study of cancers in 6666 in a two month time frame, and to monitor the study personally. Glenna always gives 2000% effort and does so cheerfully and capably.” In

a true testimony to the value Glenna has brought to this study, the PI called her “one of the most competent people I’ve ever worked with.”

Lucy Hanna, Biostatistics Center

Lucy’s contributions to ACRIN, beginning with the original grant submission that gave birth to the network, have included the establishment of reporting guidelines, SOPs, and training programs as well as serving as the lead biostatistician for all studies to which she contributed and recently working with the Brown Institutional Research Board (IRB) to keep the Biostatistics Center approved and operational. Lucy’s consistent “get-it-done” attitude has meant meeting deadlines sometimes at great personal inconvenience. It seems only fitting that we celebrate someone who embodies ACRIN’s ideals, who received one of the first outstanding contribution awards, and who has been making significant contributions to its success for 10 years.

Helga Marques, Biostatistics Center

Helga is lead biostatistician or primary analyst for three of the five protocols she currently supports. Her clear, well-documented, easy to follow, and (to statisticians) often beautiful analytic reports have been quickly translated into manuscripts, abstracts, and results presentations for ACRIN 6652, 6657, and 6666 in the past year alone. As a result of her ability to respond efficiently and effectively to short deadlines with accuracy, she is often relied upon to perform high-profile, last-minute analysis for submissions. Helga is a model biostatistician who truly embodies the spirit that “the difficult is done immediately; the impossible takes a little longer.”

Brad Snyder, Biostatistics Center

Brad’s thorough attention to detail has provided critical guidance and input to ACRIN 6660, especially in helping direct the reader study to a successful completion despite the incredible complexity and need for close coordination between BDMC and imaging core lab staff. In addition, he has been instrumental in the development of process refinements that directly translated into data quality improvements. Brad’s tireless contributions to assessing the data from the central reads are directly related to the ability to produce a manuscript for this study on a timely basis.

Tina Taylor, Data Management Center

Tina is recognized for her consistent above expectations performance, including her work on the National CT Colonography Trial (ACRIN 6664) to ensure the database locked within the strict timelines for publication, which resulted in the acquisition of complete data for 97% of participants and a definitive article in the New England Journal of Medicine. In addition, her tireless work to make the reader portion of ACRIN 6673 a success allowed for the incorporation of 11th- hour modifications to the forms, the creation of data pockets for readers, and the scrutinization of data. Tina’s hard work and professionalism have earned her the praise of the readers and her coworkers alike.

ACRIN Headquarters Staff

Donna Hartfeil

Without Donna's help and guidance, the Experimental Imaging Sciences Committee (EISC) would not have been able to germinate and grow into a fully functioning, protocol-generating ACRIN Committee. Her numerous talents are well known to those who have worked with her—from expert generation of concepts, protocols, and guidance documents to efficient organization of Committee calls and meetings, as well as compassionate guidance of a very green committee chair new to ACRIN. Even under the extreme pressure of federal ARRA deadlines, Donna works with efficiency, grace, and joy and infuses the organization with her sense of energy and intellectual excitement.

Adam Opanowski

Since joining the ACRIN imaging core lab just over a year ago, where he immediately became responsible for anything with “PET” in the title, Adam has demonstrated an extraordinary level of initiative and enthusiasm while trying valiantly to keep up with Barry Siegel and Dave Mankoff. He has supported numerous clinical trials, including several rapidly developed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)-funded studies, helped to develop an interactive data language (IDL) extension for automated standardized uptake value (SUV) tracking and measurement for use on ACRIN 6678 and ACRIN 6668, and facilitated the ongoing development and improvement of PET standard procedures. Adam's tireless efforts to prepare images and data, development of analytical tools, and advance preparation with the investigators have been instrumental to the design and conduct of a successful initial reader study of the ACRIN 6678 images.