

School News MEDICINE

Recovery Act Funds Support Research at WVU

Seven WVU faculty members will share in more than \$3 million in economic stimulus support over the next two years under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provided the largest share of the grants, funding seven of the nine projects, totaling \$2.3 million.

Among the projects:

Bing-Hua Jiang, PhD, of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Cell Biology and the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, was awarded three separate stimulus grants totaling more than \$1.1 million over two years.

Dr. Jiang's grants will fund a study to determine the mechanism by which arsenic exposure leads to cancer and a summer research program for science educators at small colleges that will

allow them to spend time working in the Cancer Center laboratories and participate in ongoing prostate cancer research.

Bernard Schreurs, PhD, of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute, was awarded \$402,854 by NIH to study the changes that take place in individual cells in an animal brain as learning takes place. The study builds on earlier work in Schreurs' lab that used a virus to trace the path from muscle cells into the specific brain cells that are associated with the use of that particular muscle.

John Barnett, PhD, of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Cell Biology, was awarded \$402,875 by NIH to continue his laboratory studies on the lifelong immune system impact of prenatal exposure to the herbicide atrazine. More than 70 million pounds

of the herbicide are used in the US each year, largely on corn and sugar cane crops, and it is the most common herbicide contaminating groundwater.

Mary Carter, PhD, of the Department of Community Medicine and the Center on Aging, will analyze the health records of thousands of senior citizens to measure the impact of adverse medical events on the long-term health of older patients. She was awarded \$329,214 by NIH to determine which seniors in a large survey of Medicare beneficiaries have suffered injuries due to medical treatment — including drug reactions, medical errors, and other events — and trace their medical care after the event through billing records.

The work is being carried out in cooperation with the WVU Injury Control Research Center, and is expected to support five jobs, including faculty researchers and graduate assistants.



Robert Carlisle, MD, of the WVU Department of Family Medicine accepts the award in Denver from Daniel Ostergaard, MD, AAFP vice president of professional activities.

SoM Again Earns Top 10 Recognition

For the second year in a row, The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) has named WVU School of Medicine one of the nation's Top 10 medical schools for producing graduates choosing careers in family medicine.

WVU tied for third place with two other schools — including Marshall University — by channeling an average of 16.8 percent of medical school graduates into an accredited family medicine residency program annually. That number is up from 15.5 percent at WVU last year.

“We have worked very hard to increase

our student interest in primary care,” said Norman D. Ferrari III, MD, senior associate dean for medical education at WVU. “Our partnership with the residents of West Virginia to make this happen has increased along with our work in the Rural Health Education Partnerships program, which places residents and students in training with family physicians around the state. We are proud to be in the top ten for the second year in row.”

The award was presented in Denver during the 2009 Society of Teachers of Family Medicine conference.