



University of California, San Diego

# News

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## Fabulous fundraising feats

### San Diego HIV Golf Classic

More than 60 golfers climbed into their carts on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, and began the first of what we hope will be an annual tradition.

The first San Diego HIV Golf Classic, held at the prestigious Crosby at Rancho Santa Fe, raised more than \$10,000. Proceeds were shared between the ARI and Christie's Place, a local service organization for families affected by HIV.

"During these difficult economic times, we are so grateful to have received this support," said Liz Brosnan, Executive Director of Christie's Place. "Now more than ever we depend on San Diegans to help us achieve our respective missions."

"We are very appreciative of the generosity of the golfers, donors and sponsors, and the San Diego community," said Kim Schafer, Administrative Director of the ARI.

Proclamations honoring Christie's Place and the AIDS Research Institute were presented by Supervisor Ron Roberts on behalf of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and by Councilmember Todd Gloria for the San Diego City Council.

Plans are underway now for the 2011 Golf Classic. Get those clubs ready!



The San Diego HIV Golf Classic was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, at the exquisite Crosby at Rancho Santa Fe. More than \$10,000 was raised and shared between the ARI and Christie's Place. Plans are underway now for 2011!

### Annual Dance Concerts

The second annual ARI benefit dance concert, the Red Ribbon Dance Project, is set for Thursday, October 7, 2010, at the historic Abbey in Hillcrest. Online registration will be available in August.

Performances for this year's event will be choreographed by the Butterworth Dance Company, La Diego Dance Theatre, Michael Mizerany, and Anjanette Maraya-Ramey. Additional dances may be added soon.

The first of these annual concerts was held on October 1, 2009. This date was declared UC San Diego AIDS Research Institute Day by the San Diego City Council. Councilmembers Sherry Lightner and Carl DeMaio presented the signed proclamation.

These benefit concerts were conceived by Traves Butterworth, founder and principal choreographer of Butterworth Dance. "As dance artists, our greatest accomplishment is knowing that we have fully shared our spirits," says Butterworth.

Mark your calendars on October 7 and make sure you become part of the Red Ribbon Dance Project!



2009 dance concert benefits the ARI: San Diego City Council members Carl DeMaio (R) and Sherry Lightner present Dr. Douglas Richman, ARI Director, with a proclamation declaring October 1, 2009, UCSD AIDS Research Institute Day.

### How you can help

If you would like to contribute to the AIDS Research Institute, please visit us online at <http://ari.ucsd.edu> and go to our donations page. There are several easy and affordable ways to make a vital contribution to the ARI's education and outreach services.

If you have an idea for a fundraising event, please contact Kim Schafer, ARI Administrative Director, at 858-534-5545 or [kschafer@ucsd.edu](mailto:kschafer@ucsd.edu).

## ARI-openers

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*Contributors to this issue: Jennifer Church, Jack Degnan, Sara Ortiz*



Douglas D. Richman, MD  
Director, UC San Diego  
AIDS Research Institute



Dr. Richard (Rick) Mitchell passed away in a tragic accident in 2009. The Mitchell Family and the ARI honor his memory through the Mitchell Memorial Lecture Series.

## Your donations at work

The AIDS Research Institute was the grateful recipient of several donations in 2009-2010, totaling \$26,420.

In addition, we are grateful to the James B. Pendleton Charitable Trust for their generous donation of \$164,011 for much-needed equipment for our local laboratories and international research efforts.

We would like to thank Gen-Probe, Inc., Gilead Sciences, Inc., Tibotec Therapeutics, and Abbott for their ongoing support of the ARI Seminar Series.

Other donations supported the purchase of a new video monitor for the Owen Clinic waiting room.

And, finally, we would like to thank those of you who chose to remember Dr. Richard (Rick) Mitchell through a donation to the Mitchell Memorial Lecture Series. Before his untimely passing in 2009, Dr. Mitchell worked in the laboratory of ARI member Dr. John Guatelli.

Dr. Mitchell's family requested that donations be used to support an annual Michell Memorial Lecture, the first of which is scheduled on August 13, 2010.

The ARI provides research connections, community service, education, and outreach. We serve UC San Diego faculty and staff involved with HIV/AIDS research, and we serve the San Diego community. Your donations make our work possible.

As the umbrella organization for HIV/AIDS research at UC San Diego, the ARI raises funds for items that are not covered by federal grants. See our current list of essential needs at <http://ari.ucsd.edu/donations>.

We welcome your suggestions and comments. Please write to us at [ari@ucsd.edu](mailto:ari@ucsd.edu).

## Translational Methamphetamine Research Center

The Translational Methamphetamine AIDS Research Center (TMARC) was funded in 2009 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and is one of UC San Diego's newest translational research centers. The Center, the first of its kind in the United States, is undertaking a series of interrelated studies to examine the combined effects of methamphetamine and HIV infection on brain structure and function.

The TMARC studies have considerable local public health relevance. Roughly 40% of HIV-infected individuals in San Diego County report histories of methamphetamine abuse or dependence.

HIV-positive persons who actively use methamphetamine are less likely to be on antiretroviral therapy or to comply with their treatment regimen. Those still engaging in risky behavior, such as drug use, are more likely to spread HIV to others.

Methamphetamine may compound brain injury from HIV by increasing inflammation, thereby increasing movement of HIV across the blood-brain barrier. The drug may also

enhance processes that release harmful brain chemicals, such as reactive oxygen species.

TMARC will examine these issues through four cores and five primary projects. The cores provide structures and processes to characterize the study sample, offer leadership and guidance, and provide opportunities for pilot research. The projects seek to define the behavioral and biological effects of HIV and methamphetamine through preclinical and clinical investigations.

This research will greatly enhance our scientific understanding of HIV patients with histories of methamphetamine use and will guide improvements in clinical diagnosis and treatment.

TMARC is directed by Igor Grant, MD, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center (HNRC). TMARC and the HNRC are located at 220 Dickinson Street, near the UC San Diego Medical Center. For more information, please visit <http://tmarc.hivresearch.ucsd.edu> or call 619-543-5000.



The Translational Methamphetamine Research Center is in the Gildred Center at 220 Dickinson Street, Suite B, across from the UC San Diego Medical Center.

## Treatment, service, and history at the Antiviral Research Center

The UC San Diego Antiviral Research Center (AVRC) has been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS research for more than 20 years and is one of UC San Diego's translational research centers.

The AVRC has a four-part mission:

- ◆ Develop new antiretroviral agents and approaches to drug treatments
- ◆ Engage in new research of primary HIV infection
- ◆ Treat drug resistance and co-infections like Hepatitis C and tuberculosis
- ◆ Collaborate with HIV prevention networks locally and across the globe

In keeping with its mission, the AVRC manages a range of clinical trials (see box below) designed to treat and prevent transmission of HIV and other infections.

In addition to its ongoing studies, the AVRC supports the community with free testing, education at its facility and at public events, and collaboration with local health and support groups.

AVRC researchers have also established partnerships with healthcare providers in Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, and Romania to train doctors and other medical professionals to improve primary care, to research the challenges and possible solutions to regional variations in the disease and patient care, and to determine how best to fight HIV in resource-limited settings.

The AVRC is located at 220 Dickinson Street, Suite A, near the UC San Diego Medical Center. Please visit <http://avrctrials.org> or call 619-543-8080 if you have questions about our studies and services.



The Antiviral Research Center is in the Gildred Center at 220 Dickinson Street, Suite A, across from the UC San Diego Medical Center.

### Ongoing studies at the UC San Diego Antiviral Research Center

**ACTG 5257** seeks to develop alternative initial antiviral regimens for those who may not be good candidates for Atripla or other NNRTIs (non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors). The study is currently recruiting HIV-positive, treatment-naïve women and men.

Another study targeting women, **ACTG 5240**, tests the efficacy of the HPV (human papilloma virus) recombinant vaccine, Gardasil, in treating HIV-positive women.

**CCTG 592** is an internet-based intervention for HIV-positive men who have sex with men. The intervention is intended to reduce the risk of acquiring sexually transmitted diseases and transmitting HIV. All participants

take an online survey developed specifically for this study to assess risk behaviors. Half the participants are randomly assigned to receive feedback on how to change their behavior and thus reduce their risk. The study will measure reductions in newly transmitted infections and in risk behaviors following the intervention.

Current treatments of **HIV/Hepatitis C co-infection** require weekly injections. Side effects include neutropenia, anemia, and neuropsychiatric complications, all especially hard to tolerate for HIV-positive persons. The protease inhibitors Boceprevir (from Shering-Plough) and Telaprevir (from Vertex) are being tested at the AVRC to determine whether they can reach sustained virologic response rates.

**PML, or progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy**, is a degenerative disease caused by the JC virus in patients whose immune systems are severely compromised by HIV or other diseases. Antiretroviral drug therapy can suppress the disease, but the immune response is occasionally so vigorous that progressive neurological deterioration results. While there is no specific treatment for PML, a new Biogen study combines a well-established anti-malarial medication, Mefloquine, with local standard treatment to test the drug's efficacy in fighting PML.

These are just some of the ongoing studies at the UC San Diego Antiviral Research Center (AVRC). For more information, please call 619-543-8080.

**ARI Benefactors**

- Abbott Laboratories
- Rob Benzon Foundation
- Birch Aquarium at Scripps
- Boehringer-Ingelheim
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Café Japengo
- EMD Serono
- Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa
- Gen-Probe, Inc.
- Georges at the Cove
- Gilead Sciences
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Hillcrest Pharmacy
- Hornblower Cruises
- Jai by Wolfgang Puck
- James B. Pendleton Charitable Trust
- La Jolla Playhouse
- MV99 Designs
- Pfizer, Inc.
- Roche Pharmaceuticals
- Sea World of San Diego
- Sempra Energy Employees
- Southwest Airlines
- Tibotec Therapeutics
- Kathy Wright & Company

## ARI wish list: how you can help

Your donations are critical to the ARI's annual operations. Unrestricted donations allow us to direct your gift to areas of greatest need. You may also designate your gift to one or more of the following priorities:

**Laboratory equipment:** New technologies require new equipment, some of which is quite expensive and ineligible for federal grant funding. For example, the James B. Pendleton Charitable Trust donated half the cost of a new \$450,000 flow cytometry machine in 2008 and in 2009 donated \$164,011 for additional laboratory equipment here and at international research sites.

**Furniture for patient care areas:** Our clinical staff care for more than 2600 HIV-positive individuals through UCSD's Owen Clinic.

In addition, our research clinic, the UC San Diego Antiviral Research Center, provides services to hundreds of persons each year.

Both clinics need furniture for examination rooms, including beds, chairs, desks, and storage shelves.

**International research:** ARI investigators are involved in research on almost every continent. Numerous opportunities are available to foster research, training, and scientific exchange with our international partners.

**Education and assistance programs:** Our education and assistance programs serve local, national, and international communities. Your gift toward this area could fund activities such as the following:

- Educational newsletters and Web sites;
- Community programs for patients, physicians, nurses, and clinic staff;
- Advanced training for our own nurses and clinic staff.

Please complete the form below and mail it with your donation.

Call us at 858-534-5545 if you have any questions, or e-mail [ari@ucsd.edu](mailto:ari@ucsd.edu). Thanks!



**Cars 4 Causes®**



The UC San Diego AIDS Research Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We depend on community support to provide equipment and supplies for our labs and patient care areas.

Here are three easy ways you can help us:

- Select the UC San Diego ARI as the beneficiary of

the Ralphs' Community Contribution Program ([ralphs.com](http://ralphs.com)). Whenever you use your Ralphs card, the ARI will receive a percentage of your purchase.

- Donate your old car to Cars 4 Causes ([cars4causes.net](http://cars4causes.net)) and choose the UC San Diego ARI as the beneficiary. Cars 4 Causes will pick up your car, give

you a receipt, sell the car at auction, and donate part of the proceeds to the ARI.

- Join us at one or more of our fundraising events. Check the ARI Web site (<http://ari.ucsd.edu>) for information about our next fundraiser, the Red Ribbon Dance Project. If you'd like to suggest an event, please contact Kim Schafer at [kschafer@ucsd.edu](mailto:kschafer@ucsd.edu).



## Support the ARI today

YES! I want to support the research, seminars, and scientific programs of the UC San Diego AIDS Research Institute, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, tax ID 95-2872494.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of

\_\_\_ \$10    \_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_ \$50

\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_ \$250    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the UC San Diego Foundation and mail to:

UC San Diego AIDS Research Institute  
9500 Gilman Drive, Mail Code 0716  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0716