

# Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

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www.sibcr.org

## Feature



William Banks, MD

William A. Banks, MD, is Associate Director of Research in the Geriatrics Research Education and Clinical Center at the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System and Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Banks is co-author on over 400 non-abstract scientific publications and PI on grants from Veterans Affairs Merit Review, National Institutes on Aging, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and Friends of Alzheimer's Research. He is on 10 editorial boards, including being editor-in-chief of Current Pharmaceutical Design.

- Dr. Banks' research relates to the blood-brain barrier (BBB), a term which refers to the specially modified blood vessels of the brain. His research has mainly focused on the control by the BBB of the exchange of regulatory molecules between the blood and the brain. Such an exchange links the regulatory systems of the peripheral tissues to the brain and by controlling that exchange, the BBB is a pivotal part of brain-body axes. As an example, Dr. Banks has demonstrated that the hormone leptin, which is produced by fat cells, informs the brain of one's caloric reserves. When leptin transport across the BBB is impaired, obesity results. In another example, the BBB normally transports a substance termed amyloid beta protein out of the brain. Accumulation of this substance by the brain is believed by many to be an immediate cause of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Banks and others have shown that failure of the BBB allows amyloid beta protein to build up in the brain with resulting impairments in memory.
- Dr. Banks is also involved in development of drugs that can cross the BBB and so treat diseases of the brain. He has collaborated with individuals and with industry to develop drugs for the treatment of obesity, anorexia, stroke, and Alzheimer's disease.
- Dr. Banks became a member of SIBCR on March 1, 2010. We are very happy to have him as part of SIBCR and look forward to managing his growing grant portfolio.

### VWR

SIBCR has a new agreement with VWR allowing significant savings over list prices, available to all SIBCR investigators on laboratory supplies, equipment, life science tools, chemicals, media, safety, and many other products. This includes VWR products, and those from other suppliers including Thermo Scientific, Promega, EMD Biosciences and many others.

This excellent pricing is available to SIBCR through a new agreement referred to as the "BIO Contract" which is a national agreement between the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) and VWR International. SIBCR has joined the local BIO group Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (WBBA) that allows our organization to participate in the BIO Contract.

If you need more information, please stop by SIBCR 1/522 or email [dao.tran@sibcr.org](mailto:dao.tran@sibcr.org).

### Grants Administration

If you have upcoming grant submissions, please contact SIBCR at least 4 weeks prior to the sponsor deadline. If a question remains about whether the grant is to be administered by SIBCR or the University of Washington, we would like to emphasize the importance of contacting us in advance so that we may assist in making the appropriate determination.

### SIBCR Moving

The SIBCR move to Met Park is anticipated for November 2010. More information to follow.

### Welcome to New Employees

Mercades Diaz, Shonn Devory, Virginia Donald, Caitlin Forsyth, Anna Franklin, Haley Huston, Dawn Jones-Pfaff, Sara Kath, Nicole Myr, Greg Pithan, Linda Robinson, Patrick Sylvers, and Michael Willcockson.

A special welcome to the newest member of SIBCR's Grants Management team, Kirise Kramer, Grants and Contracts Coordinator.