

# Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

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www.sibcr.org

## Feature



Ann O'Hare, MD

**A**nn O'Hare, MD recently joined us from the University of California and VA Medical Center, San Francisco as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington and Staff Physician in Nephrology at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System. She is also a core investigator in our HSR&D Center of Excellence.

Dr. O'Hare's research centers on chronic kidney disease (CKD) in the elderly. Her research has focused on characterizing the epidemiology and clinical implications of CKD among patients of different ages. The VA provides a rich resource for studying CKD in the elderly both because of the older demographic structure of the veteran population and the advanced and unique national data resources available to researchers within the VA. Her group has

pioneered the use of national laboratory data available through the VA's decision support system database to study CKD among veterans nationally. This research has shown that the prevalence of CKD in older veterans is extremely high. For example, at least one in three veterans 75 years and one in two veterans 85 and older meet the definition of CKD. By studying what happens to patients with CKD of different ages, her group has been able to demonstrate that age is a major "effect modifier" in CKD. In older veterans, this condition is often stable for long periods of time and the majority of older patients with CKD will die before they ever reach the point of needing dialysis. In younger veterans, CKD tends to progress more often to the point of requiring chronic dialysis compared with their older counterparts with similar levels of renal function.

Dr. O'Hare's research funding has included a fellowship grant from the National Kidney Foundation and a VA HSR&D career development award. She currently holds a Beeson Career Development award from the National Institute of Aging. Dr. O'Hare is also the Principal Investigator on a CDC contract to study the natural history of CKD in veterans.

Dr. O'Hare was awarded support by SIBCR under the newly instituted Intramural Funds Program. The Intramural Funds Committee recommendation to the Board of Directors described Dr. O'Hare as an ideal candidate for support. She fills a critical clinical need at the medical center and brings research strengths that are expected to enhance the research program in the nephrology section. The Board enthusiastically approved funding this support.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ★ The fringe benefit rate has changed and is now 30.3%.
- ★ For more information on the Intramural Funds Policy and Procedures, please see <http://www.sibcr.org/policies/PolicyManualChapter10.html>.
- ★ For the R&D Research Colloquium on November 14, 2007, Tony Blau, MD will be presenting a seminar on "Pharmacologically Regulated Cell Therapy".

## Welcome!

SIBCR is pleased to welcome the following new employees: Elizabeth Chu, Clara Doctolero, Daniel Gonzalez, Stephanie Magone, Julie Moorer, Anita Ranta, Debbie Robinson, Stephen Todd, and Sara Wellnitz