

# Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

November 2009 - January 2010

www.sibcr.org

## Feature



**Molly Shores, MD**

**M**olly Shores, MD is the Seattle VA Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) Medical Director, a Geriatric Psychiatrist, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Her research consists of epidemiologic and clinical studies that examine the effect of low testosterone levels on the health of older men. She was initially funded by an SIBCR administered grant through the National Association for Research in Schizophrenia and Affective Disorders (NARSAD) to examine the effects of antidepressant treatment on endogenous testosterone levels in depressed older men. Subsequently, she received funding from the Royalty Research Fund of the University of Washington for a study published in the Archives of General Psychiatry which found that low testosterone levels predicted incident depressive illness in older men. She also published in the Archives of Internal Medicine, one of the first epidemiologic studies to find that low testosterone levels were a significant predictor for overall mortality in older hypogonadal men. In addition, she has been funded by an SIBCR administered study through the American Federation on Aging Research for a double-blind placebo controlled clinical trial which found that testosterone replacement significantly decreased depressive symptoms in men with mild depressive illness. Currently, she is completing a second epidemiologic study funded by the Royalty Research Fund to examine if testosterone replacement is associated with decreased incident depressive illness and overall mortality.

Dr. Shores recently received an R01 Grant through NHLBI and administered by SIBCR. This epidemiologic study is unique because it will be the first prospective study to examine the effects of low testosterone levels on incident cardiovascular events in a large population of elderly men with well-characterized events, a high event rate, and a long follow-up period.

Dr. Shores' collaborators on these projects have been Daniel Kivlahan, PhD; Alvin Matsumoto, MD; Tatiana Sadak, MS, ARNP; Brett Marck, BS; Nick Smith, PhD; Alice Arnold, PhD; Mary Lou Biggs, PhD; and Calvin Hirsch, MD.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ★ The VHA Nonprofit Program Office (NPPO) and two members of VISN 20 conducted a review of SIBCR. Both in an exit interview with the Medical Center Director and Chief of Staff and in the post review letter, the reviewers lauded SIBCR's operations. The reviewers had no findings, no suggestions for changes in operations and in fact noted several best practices to be shared with the VA-affiliated nonprofits nationally. We are pleased with the results of the review as they underscore our continued effort to operate SIBCR applying best practice principles at all levels.

## Grant News

- ★ SIBCR is pleased to announce awards of more than \$3.7 million from the National Institutes of Health as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) also known as 'stimulus' funding for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. In addition to stimulus funding, we have received approximately 20 newly awarded Federal and non-Federal grants and subawards this past fiscal year.
- ★ The NIH is streamlining their peer review process and has announced changes to the application process, including shortened page limits. The changes are to take effect for all applications with due dates on or after January 25, 2010. For a description of the changes, please refer to the NIH notice NOT-OD-09-149.
- ★ For upcoming grant submissions, please remember to notify SIBCR at least four weeks prior to the sponsor due date of your plans to submit. We may be reached at ext. 6-3971 [danielle.belisle@sibcr.org](mailto:danielle.belisle@sibcr.org); 6-2731 [kenji.schwarz@sibcr.org](mailto:kenji.schwarz@sibcr.org); or 6-6588 [alka.goyal@sibcr.org](mailto:alka.goyal@sibcr.org).

## Welcome!

Lindsey Beach, Jeffrey Biberston, Jennifer Black, Allison Emery, Basma Fattaleh, Allison Fritts-Penniman, Pamela Henderson, Kirise Kramer, Jennifer Lawrence, Branda Levchak, David Lockhart, Tobin Martin, and Kevin Weitz.