

Educating today...  
for a *brighter tomorrow*

NEWSLETTER

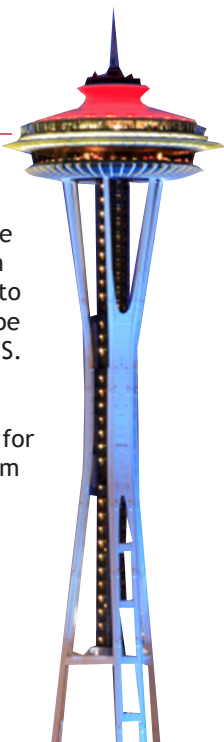
Supported by the National Center for Research Resources, a part of the National Institutes of Health



## 2011 SEPA Conference

The 2011 SEPA Conference will be held in **Seattle, Washington**. It will give those involved in science education partnership projects a place to discuss the changing landscape of science education in the US. It will provide an environment for individuals to share best practices, discuss challenges for partnership projects, and form new collaborations through networking.

The Conference welcomes participation by PIs, staff, evaluators and other project participants, NIH staff and other interested individuals.



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For further information, please contact us at (210) 567-2568 or teachhealthk-12@uthscsa.edu.

## SEPA Launches New Website

by Nancy Place

The Multimedia Services team at the University of Texas Health Science Center welcomed the challenge to redesign the SEPA website. Our mission was to redesign the site with a fresh new look and add key functions including better navigation, usability, and a more robust search engine. Central to the redesign was the ability to create open, secure and administrative roles within the site. This would allow the users to collaborate in secure areas and administration to operate behind the scenes of the website.

To accomplish the many initiatives set forth by the SEPA grant, we chose Drupal, a free open source content management system as the platform for the website. Drupal is a web platform used by many private, corporate, political and government websites, including whitehouse.gov. Forums, blogs and comments are all features that can be built into any Drupal site. Drupal can require complex programming skills, but administrative users do not have to be programmers to make changes and add content.



The new design offers a simpler home page with a “dashboard” approach to content. The information for the users is on the front page and can easily be accessed. The new search engine is far more robust as is the advanced search feature.

The site will go live during the annual SEPA conference on May 8th. After the initial launch, more features will be added in the coming months including forums and social networking. We have included a short survey on the website and would like to know what you think of the new site. Your input will be valuable in assisting us with improving the site in coming months.

*Thank you!*



[www.NCRRSEPA.org](http://www.NCRRSEPA.org)



## *New Awards for 2010*

Virginia Commonwealth University • Richmond, VA

**Project CRESST: Enhancing Clinical Research Education for Science Students and Teachers**  
Estimated Five-Year Award: \$1.33 million

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

*Lisa Abrams, Ph.D.*

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**DESCRIPTION:**

Improved public perception and participation in clinical and translational research is one of the goals of the Virginia Commonwealth University's Project CRESST: Enhancing Clinical Research Education for Science Students and Teachers. Project CRESST seeks to enhance understanding of the clinical trials process in the local community through a partnership among clinical and translational scientists, faculty in the Schools of Education and Pharmacy, the VCU Center for Clinical and Translational Research, and middle and high school science teachers, students and parents. Targeted to traditionally underserved urban and rural schools, the project will feature inquiry-based curricular tools for teachers to introduce students to the clinical research process, using childhood obesity research as a model. It also will include an innovative, week-long, on-campus professional-development workshop on clinical research practice and concepts for science teachers.

EdVenture Children's Museum • Columbia, SC

**Unlocking the Mysteries of Chronic Disease: Bioinvestigations for Family, School and Youth Audiences**  
Estimated Five-Year Award: \$1.31 million

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

*Susan Bonk*

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**DESCRIPTION:**

EdVenture Children's Museum in Columbia, S.C., will develop "Unlocking the Mysteries of Chronic Diseases: Bioinvestigations for Family, School and Youth Audiences" in close collaboration with NIH-funded researchers at the University of South Carolina. Bioinvestigations will feature information about chronic diseases and health disparities in the state, and current local research around these topics. Museum visitors also will gain a better understanding of the personal choices they can make to optimize their health. The program will consist of teaching laboratories and experiments to educate youth, teens, and adults about biomedical science topics in a fun, interesting way. EdVenture also will develop educational programs designed to engage disadvantaged audiences in schools and communities to expose them to the world of science and the benefits of community-based translational research.

Meharry Medical College • Nashville, TENN

**Meharry Health Sciences Leadership Academy**  
Estimated Five-Year Award: \$1.34 million

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

*Susan A. DeRiemer, Ph.D.*

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*Starr Hermann*

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**DESCRIPTION:**

The Meharry Health Careers Leadership Academy is a partnership with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools to enhance health sciences career academies, to increase the number and diversity of students entering post-secondary training, and to raise awareness of the role of research in health advances. The academy will challenge ninth-grade students' ingenuity in developing solutions for real world health problems. Advanced students will work alongside Meharry faculty and students to provide health education and screening in their own communities. A select group of students will spend the summer in a course on health messaging, producing materials for their peers in and out of the classroom. A summer workshop will bring together interdisciplinary teaching teams to improve integration of lessons, to increase facility in training underrepresented minorities, and to incorporate the most up-to-date health research and practice information. Support and evaluation will continue throughout the year.

Louisiana State University Health Science Center • Shreveport, LA

**Being Me**  
Estimated Five-Year Award: \$1.35 million

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

*Heather Kleiner, Ph.D.*

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**DESCRIPTION:**

The BioStart: Clinical Research and Education Experiences for Students, Teachers, Parents, and Public program will enable 25 Louisiana high school seniors to have hands-on, intense and exciting laboratory research experiences and increase their understanding of the clinical trial process. Louisiana State University faculty will mentor students by guiding them in developing research projects relevant to drug discovery research occurring in their laboratories. Faculty, nationally known entrepreneurs, and senior management from biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies will present to students on clinical research topics and careers, and faculty and student interns will share their research with other community and university stakeholders.