

Dr. Timothy Jones, Professor in the Department of Communication Science & Disorders, College of Allied Health Sciences, has been awarded a \$36,734 grant from The John Hopkins University for a research project entitled “The role of Activity in Auditory System Development”. He will test the hypothesis that ‘spontaneous’ activity in primary afferent spiral ganglion neurons prior to the onset of hearing requires purinergic receptor activation. The data gained from the mechanistic studies will enable further research to manipulate this activity *in vivo* to determine the specific role that activity plays in auditory system development.

Dr. Leonard Trujillo, Professor and Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Allied Health Sciences, has been awarded a \$20,021 grant from Interactive Metronome, Inc. for a research project entitled the “Effect of Interactive Metronome® on Upper Extremity Movement Following Brain Injury”. He will determine the effects of a specific intervention, the Interactive Metronome®, on selected aspects of motor skills and movement smoothness in a group of adults who have suffered brain injury secondary to stroke. It is hypothesized that those who complete the Interactive Metronome® protocols established by this study will show an increased level of performance in their motor skills and movement smoothness. The expected improvements in motor skills should result in improvements in the participant’s activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living abilities.

Dr. Anne Dickerson, Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Allied Health Sciences, has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the National Center for Senior Transportation. She will coordinate the development and implementation of an older adult driver safety plan for the State of North Carolina. As a member of the North Carolina Older Adult Drivers Coalition Working Group, she has been interacting with officials in the State Department of Transportation, including Highway Safety, as well as the Division of Aging & Adult Services, the Department of Health & Human Services and the AARP. She has organized a team of nine key officials to attend the planning meeting and to subsequently implement an innovative plan for improving older adult driver safety in North Carolina.

Dr. John Heilmann, Assistant Professor in the Department of Department of Communication Science & Disorders, College of Allied Health Sciences, has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for a project entitled “Oral Narratives in English Language Learners”. He will bring together child language researchers to summarize relevant literature, generate hypotheses, and empirically test those hypotheses.

Dr. Donald Ensley, Professor of Community Health in the Department of Health Services and Information Management, and Dr. Daniel Wong, Professor of Rehabilitation Studies, College of Allied Health Sciences, have been awarded an \$8,000 grant from the Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation entitled “Improving Minority Health through Dissemination of Information, Educational, Exchange and Empowerment”. Those funds will help support the 2009 Mills Symposium. The purpose of the Jean Elaine Mills Memorial Seminar and Lecture Series is to call attention to and seek solutions for the critical health care issues facing minority populations, particularly in the rural areas in and around Pitt County. This project will contribute to improving minority health through dissemination of information and education exchange among educators, health care professionals, researchers, stakeholders, community leaders and consumers.

Dr. Leslie Allison, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, College of Allied Health Sciences, has been awarded an \$86,107 grant from the Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation for a project entitled “FALL-ER: A New Screening and Evaluation Program to Prevent Fall-related Injuries in Older Adults”. She will facilitate an interdisciplinary team from the College of Allied Health Sciences and the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, in cooperation with the Pitt County Memorial Hospital, to implement an Emergency Room fall risk screening process and a separate evaluation clinic. The Fall-ER program will address an important need in senior services by helping to prevent fall-related injuries in older adults.