Research Equipment Reserve Fund Spring 2008-09 – Final Report

Date of award: May 8, 2009
Amount of award: $16,490
Instrument: Behavioral Tracking System for Mice and Rats
P.I.: Kathy Magnusson, Biomedical Sciences
Co-I's: Jane Ishmael, Pharmacy
Mark Leid, Pharmacy
Tory Hagen, Linus Pauling Institute
Joe Beckman, Environmental Health Sciences Center

Final Budget Statement:
Income: 
RERF funds $16490
Additional funds: 
Department of Biomedical Sciences 3298
Environmental Health Sciences Center 1000
Linus Pauling Institute 1720

$22508
Expenses: 
HVS Atlantis platform with cables & adaptors: $7500
SMART Basic Video Tracking System $9350
Water tank – 6 ft diameter $1620
Water tank – 4 ft diameter $1320
Platform $435
Water tank drain kit X 2 $200
Computer & monitor $1785
SMART upgrade for current system 0
Shipping and handling $175

$22385

Brief summary of scholarly activity: The RERF funding allowed us to establish an additional behavioral testing room, in which we could test either mice or rats. We used this in collaboration with Tory Hagen’s laboratory this winter to test rats in Weniger Hall, while maintaining our mouse behavioral setup in LARC. We plan to move the additional setup to the new Linus Pauling Science Center to contribute to the Healthy Aging Program.

The use of the Atlantis platform produced unexpected improvements in performance in the aged mice that we can use to our advantage to assess gene expression differences between easy and more challenging tasks in a planned grant revision from the Magnusson lab.

External funding requests:
NIH R21 - Model of Hippocampal and Prefrontal Expanded Use for Cognition in Elderly
Magnusson – P.I. – 12/10 – 11/12 – Direct Costs - $150,000
Submitted March 2010
Plan to revise and resubmit Fall 2011

Discussions ongoing for development of a PO1 grant application centered on nutritional interventions into aging, involving Tory Hagen, Emily Ho, Fritz Gombart and myself. We are currently awaiting the arrival of new faculty member in the Healthy Aging Program of the Linus Pauling Institute. This grant would involve behavioral testing of both rats and mice and would be concurrent with my current RO1. The ability to have two setups will allow the two grants to avoid scheduling conflicts.