



# NEWS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Stephen Lennartz  
Executive Director  
office - 314-659-2442

**For Immediate Release**

**ALLIED HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE 2008 CONCLUDES THIRD SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE IN NORFOLK, VA WITH RECORD NUMBER OF ATTENDEES**

**St. Louis, Missouri, September 25, 2008** – The Allied Health Research Institute (AHRI) today announced that its third annual conference recently concluded its two-day run as its most successful event to date. With over 60 member and non-member attendees, the meeting gathered the foremost industry and academia leaders, practitioners, and visionaries who are driving the allied health revolution. The conference was presented on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at Old Dominion University in Norfolk Virginia and consisted of distinguished speakers, group discussions and poster presentations.

"With the record conference turnout and growing AHRI membership, AHRI is clearly addressing the needs of both our industry and academic partners," said Dr. Richard Oliver, Dean of the School of Health Professions at the University of Missouri-Columbia and AHRI president. "We were pleased to offer a balance of presentations that focused on many of the critical issues facing the health care industry and academia. We look to expand the opportunities to support our membership via our AHRI Annual Conference and an expanded research agenda that will make lasting contributions toward improving health care delivery and health professions education in the United States."

The theme of the conference was Translational Research in Rehabilitation Care. Translational research addresses the conversion of findings from basic, clinical or epidemiological health sciences into practical public health programs. The two-day event addressed recent advances in translational research and their application in rehabilitation care. Conference goals included strengthening and building an industry-academia partnership in translational research related to

rehabilitation care, and ultimately, explore ways of improving healthcare quality and health professions education.

According to Dr. Susan Hanrahan, Dean, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Arkansas State University and AHRI board member, “There was lots of timely and extremely useful information shared and the agenda seemed to flow very well.”

Two AHRI Fellowship awardees amazingly targeted some of the same questions that were being asked at the conference. John Jackson of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center presented his plan to address development of a predictor model for discharge destination in inpatient rehabilitation patients. Dr. Bridgett Piernik-Yoder of University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio shared her plan for exploring post-acute rehabilitation services among stroke patients with and without diabetes.

Next year’s conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.

Discover AHRI at [www.theahri.org](http://www.theahri.org).

Contact Stephen Lennartz, Executive Director [ahri@rehabcare.com](mailto:ahri@rehabcare.com)

314-659-2442

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#### **About Allied Health Research Institute**

Based in St. Louis, Missouri, the Allied Health Research Institute (AHRI) is a non-profit organization comprised of employers, academia and other members that have a unified goal of proliferating the field of allied health with qualified professionals and developing better, more efficient models of care. The principal objectives of AHRI include:

- Create a central data repository to collect and analyze clinical outcomes for the purpose of establishing industry and academic-supported, evidence-based practice patterns
- Promote awareness and advocacy of public and private sector policies that support growth and more efficient, effective and higher quality standards of care
- Advance education and training to better integrate curriculum and accreditation requirements with the needs of patients and employers

For more information visit [www.theahri.org](http://www.theahri.org).