Director's Message

Rosalind Ramsey-Goldman, MD, Medical Director for Northwestern Memorial® Hospital's Clinical Research Unit (CRU) and Professor in Medicine-Rheumatology, provides an update on the Center for Clinical Research’s CRU.

Highlights include:

- Service updates, role expansions and new collaborations

Read Director's Message>

NUCATS Point of Contact Interview

With a name, a face and contact information, you'll be able to connect with NUCATS better than ever. This month get to know...

Pamela Shaw, MLIS, MS
Biosciences & Bioinformatics Librarian

Meet Galter Health Sciences Library’s Pamela Shaw, MLIS, MS, NUCATS Point of Contact for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) public access policy. If you need help resolving issues of compliance or with using My NCBI, a tool developed by the National Center for Biotechnology Information, and the NIH Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) system, Pamela is your contact.

Read Interview>
Collaboration

How Big Data is Impacting Health Care
Big Data is a term we hear often in research and patient care, but what does it really mean and how is it being used? Experts in the field including NUCATS Deputy Director, **Justin Starren, MD, PhD, FACMI**, Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine-Health and Biomedical Informatics Division, provide insight on Big Data in the article "How Massive Amounts of Information Are Impacting Health Care" by Howard Wolinsky published by the Chicago Medical Society. The article explores the challenges of defining Big Data, how it's being used to look at genetic components in common diseases, the speed of it and its impact on physicians. The article also mentions Northwestern's role in the eMERGE project which involves combining Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) with genomic data to develop new research and patient care methods. Read Article>

Community

Stakeholder Spotlight: North Arlington Pediatrics
The Pediatric Practice Research Group (PPRG) is the oldest pediatric practice-based research network (PBRN) in the country. PBRNs focus on issues important to improving the health and healthcare of patients in the community. PPRG, headed by Helen Binns, MD, MPH and Adolfo Ariza, MD, is part of the Practice-based Research Program in IPHAM's Center for Community Health. Currently, the PPRG includes 53 practices with 98 clinic sites and 522 medical providers (in the metropolitan Chicago area). North Arlington Pediatrics in Arlington Heights, IL is a long-standing active partner in PPRG studies. Dr. Tim Geleske and Sue Beatty, RN, of North Arlington Pediatrics reflect on their work experiences working with the PPRG. Read Interview>

ARCC Welcomes Five New Steering Committee Members
The Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) is pleased to announce five new members to the ARCC Steering Committee. This includes the organizations Access Living, Casa Central and Vida/SIDA and Northwestern faculty members Amy Eisenstein, PhD and Gail Huber, PT/PhD. ARCC's Steering Committee consists of community and faith-based organizations across the city, as well as faculty at Northwestern University, that guide the goals and activities of ARCC. Meet the new members>

Education
NUCATS Education Hosts Inaugural FSM Mentor Development Academy Training

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (FSM) faculty members from various departments gathered on July 16th to discuss best practices in both mentoring and facilitation. The inaugural FSM Mentor Development Academy training, hosted by the NUCATS Institute, is part of a larger FSM initiative to establish a Mentor Development Academy at the medical school. The initial goal of the Academy is to train 1-2 faculty members in all 27 FSM departments to serve as departmental leaders in mentorship and also to assist in delivering Mentor Development Workshops to all faculty across the institution. The workshops use a combination of didactic lecture, small group work, case studies and role play exercises that enable participants to increase their mentoring skills and reflect on their own mentoring experiences as both a mentor and mentee. Read Article>

NUCATS Spotlight: MSCI Student - Benjamin Prince, MD

NUCATS highlights Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) student, Benjamin Prince, MD. In his interview, Ben discusses his research interest in food allergy, his recent NIH T32 training grant award and his goal in achieving a better understanding of the mechanism of tolerance in food allergy at a cellular level for better prevention and treatment strategies. Read Interview>

August Clinical Research Educational Opportunities

The NUCATS Institute Research Support Staff (RSS) Training programs include a full complement of instructor-led and online educational opportunities for clinical research professionals at various stages in their professional development. Learn about upcoming clinical research educational opportunities>

Infrastructure

NUCATS Launches New Online Learning Module on Citing Publications

NUCATS recently launched a new online learning module that teaches Northwestern investigators how to link their research results to grants through the NIH My NCBI portal. The NUCATS Institute provides essential infrastructure, resources and services at Northwestern University to support the translational research enterprise through the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). In preparation for CTSA submission, the NUCATS Institute will be calling on Northwestern University investigators to ensure that publications which resulted from research that benefited from this infrastructure are appropriately linked. Read Article and learn how to link your research results>

Unified Culture
NUCATS Staff Elected as Leaders for New Chicagoland Chapter of ACRP

Congratulations to Karan Fachet, MS, BSN, NE-BC, Clinical Research Unit Clinical Manager, and Nicole Masen, MS Ed, MSRC Assistant Director, for being appointed as leaders for the new Chicagoland chapter of the international Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP). Karan has been appointed as Vice President and Nicole has been appointed as Chair of the Education Committee. Goals of the Chicagoland chapter are to increase opportunities for member participation in ACRP activities, to create a network of research professionals in the Chicagoland area who can rapidly provide feedback on issues of concern to the international association, and to deliver improved access to local members to ACRP resources, including certification and educational opportunities. Read Article>

Funding Opportunities

The Fairbanks Institute for Healthy Communities RFA: Biological Samples with Longitudinal EHR Data for Research Applications Due: August 15, 2014

The Fairbanks Institute for Healthy Communities, a non-profit organization, and the Indiana Clinical and Translational Science Institute (ICTSI) requests submissions of project applications for research use of bio-specimen with longitudinal electronic medical record data. This application is designed to promote research studies using the Fairbanks Institute's samples. Only bio-specimen will be made available. Requests for other resources are not permissible. Proposals are requested using the 2-page form from the ICTSI grant website. The submission must include a current maximum 4-page NIH biosketch. Deadline for receipt is Friday, August 15, 2014 at 4pm. Learn more>

NUCATS Pilot and Voucher Program

The NUCATS voucher and pilot data programs are a new funding mechanism designed to accelerate research by providing rapid, targeted funding to address small, but critical gaps in clinical and translational research work that is otherwise at present not funded by other sources. Learn more>

NU-Interdisciplinary Program 1-2-3

The Office for Research and the Deans are pleased to announce a new seed-funding platform to cultivate investigator-initiated visionary "Big Ideas". The NU-Interdisciplinary Program 1-2-3 was developed in response to gaps and needs that were identified as possibly hindering the pursuit of bold research at Northwestern University. The program consists of 3-tiers of non-sequential, seed funds that will support Ideas (I1), Innovative Initiatives (I2) and Innovative Initiatives Incubators (I3) by providing funding and guidance to bring together new teams and shepherd "Big Science" from the inception of an idea to securing external funding and possible maturation into a University Research Center, focusing on interdisciplinarity, innovation, and societal impact. In addition to funds, the program will provide project management, assistance in finding funding opportunities, proposal development and Team Science guidance. For more information please contact Fruma Yehiely, Director, Office of Research Development (yehiely@northwestern.edu). Learn more>

Save the Date

August 6-8 - 5th Annual International SciTS Conference
August 11 -13 - CRC Basic Training Live

August 20 - MSRC Information Session (On Campus)

September 15-16 - 2nd Annual Forum on Optimizing Clinical Research Performance

September 19 - Annual Achieving Excellence in Clinical Research: Scientific, Ethical and Operational Considerations

September 22, January 23 and April 7 - CCH Manuscript Writing Retreats

September 23 - December 9 (Tuesdays) - Taking Responsibility for Responsible Conduct of Research

October 6 - First Mondays Faculty Development 2014/2015 Seminar Series

October 10 - Building Health Equity throughout Chicago through Community Engaged Research

More Events >

NUCATS MINUTE

Did you know...

The Chemistry of Life Processes (CLP) Institute has an Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) charged with evolving therapeutic and diagnostic projects suitable for translation from early inception into clinical and commercial evaluation. EIR activities are focused around collaboration and the formation of internal and external partnerships in the scientific, medical and economic areas.

Learn more about CLP’s EIR and how to overcome hurdles in translating new discoveries from the university into society.

Other News

NUCATS Announces Winners of iPads from myNUCATS Membership Drawing

Congratulations to Christopher Futtner, Research Associate of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Jennifer Nicholas, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiology for winning a free iPad in the myNUCATS membership drawing. As part of a larger plan to improve services and to encourage the development of a dynamic translational research community, the NUCATS Institute launched myNUCATS, a free membership portal in November 2013. The benefits of myNUCATS membership include preferred access to many NUCATS services such as research navigation, software tools, and competitive funding opportunities. To encourage people to signup NUCATS promoted a free iPad for one of the first 1,000 members and for the 1,000th member. Read Article>
The NUCATS Institute is a member of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), an initiative led by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Institute is currently funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) of the NIH research grant 8UL1TR000150-05. The same research award was previously funded by National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) of the National Institutes of Health and recognized as research grant UL1RR025741.