Director's Message

Philip Hockberger, PhD, Associate Professor in Physiology and Executive Director of Research Facilities, provides an update on his responsibilities in the Office for Research (OR) and the NUCATS Institute.

Highlights include:

- Open Access Initiative
- NUCATS Voucher and Pilot Data Programs

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...

Leticia Vega
Application Support Specialist Senior

Meet Leticia Vega, NUCATS Point of Contact for REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture). If you are looking to transfer your existing data capture results into an electronic format or start collecting data in an electronic format, Leticia is your contact.

Read Interview>

Collaboration
First Phase of Analysis Complete for eMERGE II Project

On June 2, 2014, researchers at Northwestern University announced the completion of the first phase of analysis of the ongoing electronic Medical Records and Genomics (eMERGE) II project. Genetic results from over 400 patients were collected and are being returned on an ongoing basis. Types of genetic analyses performed included testing for gene changes that may affect response to the following drugs: Clopidogrel, Warfarin, and Simvastatin. Read Article>

Congratulations NU Startups on Recent Funding Successes

Congratulations AuraSense Therapeutics, Viamet Pharmaceuticals and Innoblative Designs on their recent funding successes. AuraSense Therapeutics, a nanotech startup developing gene-regulation therapies for heart disease, cancer and bacterial infections, raised $13.6 million from numerous investors, including an investment from Bill Gates. Viamet Pharmaceuticals, a biotech startup developing metal-binding protein therapeutics for treating fungal infections, filed an initial public offering with the Securities and Exchange Commission to raise up to $75 million. Innoblative Designs, a startup company developing a medical device related to breast cancer treatment, received Phase 1 funding under the National Collegiate Inventors Alliance (NCIIA) grant. Read media coverage in ChicagoInno and NASDAQ.

Save the Date: Chicago HealthTECH Summit

Insight Product Development and Northwestern University are hosting the second annual Chicago HealthTECH Summit on October 23rd, 2014. This year the event will include the first health tech crowdfunding competition in Chicago, where five leading early stage medical device and digital health startups from the Midwest will have the opportunity to engage online and in-person with key stakeholders in the steadily growing health tech ecosystem. Competition finalists will be announced at the Chicago HealthTECH summit where they will receive additional backing onsite from Gold sponsors to fuel their startup businesses. Learn more>

Community

CCH Supports PCORI Grant Award Addressing Chicago Stroke Disparities

Congratulations to Shyam Prabhakaran, MD, Associate Professor in the Ken and Ruth Davee Department of Neurology, and several of IPHAM's Center for Community Health (CCH) and Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) community and academic partners and staff for being awarded a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) grant. The research project is titled "Community Engagement for Early Recognition and Immediate Actions in Stroke" (CEERIAS). Read Interview and learn how Dr. Prabhakaran's work with CCH contributed to the successful submission>

CCH Partners Contribute to Passage of New State Law

Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH, Associate Professor in Pediatrics, and her research team's data and input contributed to the passage of a new law that expands the 2011 Illinois' existing stock epinephrine law. The 2011 law gave permission to
Dr. Gupta's team with Lisa Madigan

schools to stock epinephrine and allowed nurses to administer epinephrine shots to children having allergic reactions in school. The new law expands the number of people (volunteers and school staff members) who can administer these shots. Dr. Gupta's team are partners of IPHAM's Center for Community Health (CCH) and received an Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) seed grant with the Chicago Public Schools. Read more>

ARCC Seed Grant Partnership Finds Chicagoans Choose Healthy Food over Junk in Vending Machines
A group of partners including the Logan Square Neighborhood Association, the Chicago Park District, and Maryann Mason, PhD, Research Assistant Professor in Pediatrics-Smith Child Health Research and Preventive Medicine, have published their Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) seed grant supported research project "Working with Community Partners to Implement and Evaluate the Chicago Park District's 100% Healthier Snack Vending Initiative" in the Preventing Chronic Disease journal. The research program replaced Chicago Park District vending machine choices with healthier snacks and found that it led to increased monthly sales and positive feedback from patrons. Read media coverage in Chicago Tribune and Time magazine.

ARCC Seed Grant Partnership, Courage to Love Collaborative
The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation and Craig Garfield, MD, Associate Professor in Pediatrics-Hospital Based Medicine and Medical Social Sciences, are partnering to convene the Courage to Love Collaborative. This collaborative is a community of diverse stakeholders working to design a fundable research agenda to examine the power of love as a framework for eliminating disparities of infant mortality and preterm births in Chicago’s African American communities. Watch videos to learn more>

C3 October 10 Symposium: Call for Poster Abstracts
Chicago Consortium for Community Engagement (C3) invites abstracts from public health professionals, students, community partners, and investigators to present results of scientific research, program evaluation, policy analysis and lessons learned from community engaged research projects during the "Building Health Equity throughout Chicago through Community Engaged Research" Symposium, Friday, October 10, 2014, 8am - 2pm. Abstract deadline: September 19, 2014. C3 connects and leverages the community-engaged health research resources of communities and academic institutions including Northwestern University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, Rush University, Alliance of Chicago, and others toward a healthier Chicago. Learn more>
MSCI Student Links Depression to Parkinson’s Disease

Danny Bega, MD, Instructor in the Ken and Ruth Davee Department of Neurology and student in the Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) program, examined data from more than 7,000 patients with Parkinson's Disease over a one year period using the National Parkinson's Foundation patient database. The study confirmed that depression is a very common symptom in Parkinson's disease. It also showed that the majority of patients with depressive symptoms did not receive prescriptions for antidepressants or referrals to counseling and remained untreated. The results were published in the Journal of Parkinson’s Disease. Read more>

NUCATS Spotlight: MSCI Student - Rebecca Carl, MD

NUCATS highlights Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) student, Rebecca Carl, MD, Assistant Professor in Pediatrics-Academic General Pediatrics and Primary Care. In her interview, Rebecca discusses her community-engaged research project with the Chicago Park District on assessing the effectiveness of an educational intervention about sports concussion for coaches, parents and athletes involved in a youth football program. Read Interview>

September 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 Announces Four Voucher Program Awards

The NUCATS Institute is proud to announce four Voucher Program awardees:

- Frances Lim-Liberty, MD, Endocrinology Fellow in the Department of Pediatrics
- Emily Miller, MD/MPH, Assistant Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology-Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Christopher Payne, PhD, Assistant Professor in Pediatrics-Human Molecular Genetics and Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Gary Schiltz, PhD, Research Assistant Professor in Center for Molecular Innovation and Drug Discovery (CMIDD)

The Voucher Program provides up to $2,500 in funding support for projects targeted at: 1) junior faculty who have not yet established a significant funding base, 2) projects involving critical steps in the device and drug development pathway or in the dissemination and implementation in community settings and 3) a need that is too small to be suitable for conventional research. Read Interviews to learn about the Awardees and their projects>
New Faces at Galter Health Sciences Library

Congratulations to the three most recent additions to the team at Galter Health Sciences Library:

Karen Gutzman, MLIS, Impact and Evaluation Librarian
RoseMary Hedberg, MLIS, Research Librarian
Jon Shank, MA, Acquisitions and Electronic Resources Librarian

Unified Culture

NUCATS Played Integral Role in RIC's NIDRR ARRT Award

In academia there is a shortage of qualified researchers studying the rehabilitation of clinical populations with neurological communication disorders such as stroke, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and Parkinson's disease. Leora Cherney, PhD, Professor in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Director of Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC)’s Center for Aphasia Research and Treatment, saw a need to increase research capacity building efforts in this area. In 2011, she collaborated with the NUCATS Institute to write a National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) grant application for a new training program at RIC.

Funding Opportunities

NUCATS Voucher and Pilot Data Programs

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.

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

September 5 - Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Center Annual Scientific Session

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

September 19 - 4th Annual Medical Education Day

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 9 - 19th Annual Drug Discovery Symposium

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

October 10 - 2014 Chicago LGBT Health and Wellness Conference

October 30 - 19th Annual James E. & Bonnie L. Eckenhoff Lecture

More Events >

NUCATS MINUTE

Did you know...

Publications are the key metric that Congress, the NIH, and NU use to demonstrate outcomes that benefit the public and effective use of grant funding. When you cite the NUCATS grant in your publications you help NU maintain prestigious CTSA funding and NU researchers continue to get essential infrastructure, resources and services.

Ensure your publications are linked to the CTSA grant.

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.