Director's Message

Lewis Smith, MD, is a professor in Medicine-Pulmonary and Preventive Medicine, associate vice president for Research at Northwestern University, and the NUCATS Institute's Center for Clinical Research director. In this Director's Message, Dr. Smith speaks on the importance of creating a robust clinical research infrastructure at NU and its clinical affiliates.

Highlights include:

- Supporting the Investigational Drug Service (Research Pharmacy)
- Harmonizing Standard Operating Procedures
- Expanding the Adult Clinical Research Unit

Read Director's Message>

NUCATS Staff Profile

Scott Gee
Instructional Technologist

Meet Scott Gee, instructional technologist for the NUCATS Institute. Scott is responsible for designing and developing eLearning modules, facilitating the Clinical Research Coordinator Basic Training Online course, managing the Institute's online Learning Management System, and more.

Read Interview>
NUCATS Announces Partnership with the Chicagoland Clinical Research Exchange, the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council and the Center for Healthcare Innovation

The NUCATS Institute recently entered into a partnership with the Chicagoland Clinical Research Exchange (CRE) to offer education and training for clinical research professionals across the Chicagoland area. The CRE is a collaborative effort of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the Center for Healthcare Innovation (CHI). CRE is an alliance connecting clinical research opportunities, clinical research organizations, healthcare institutions, physicians, patients, and other interested parties to make studies more effective, efficient, and inclusive.

As a first step in the new partnership, CRE worked with NUCATS to streamline the three-day CRC Basic Training course to a two-day model to deliver the training more effectively. A pilot of this course was hosted at the MCHC on February 19th and 20th and 20 students attended the training. Feedback on the training, course content, interactive exercises and prework from the pilot has been very positive and will be used to improve the two-day course model. Read Article to learn how this partnership flourished and about their future collaboration plans.

Former TL1 Trainee First Author on Novel SuperAger Study

Former NUCATS TL1 trainee, Tamar Gefen, doctoral candidate in the Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center (CNADC), is first author on a study that quantifies brain differences of SuperAgers and normal older people. The study is the first of its kind and was published in the Journal of Neuroscience. It identifies three common components of SuperAgers: a thicker region of the cortex, significantly fewer markers of Alzheimer’s disease, and a large supply of higher social intelligence neurons. Tamar was supported by the NUCATS Institute’s Multidisciplinary Clinical and Translational Research Pre-doctoral Training Program (TL1) for her work focusing on the neurobiologic substrates of SuperAging.

Other authors on the study include former NUCATS KL2 scholar, Emily Rogalski, PhD, research associate professor in CNADC. CNADC was recently awarded a National Institutes of Health grant to continue studying SuperAgers and potentially use their findings to prevent or treat Alzheimer’s and other types of dementia. Tamar was quoted in the New York Times and mentioned on KTIC regarding this novel study. Read more>

Investigator Spotlight: MSCI Student - Daniel Boyle, MD

NUCATS highlights Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) student, Daniel Boyle, MD, third year fellow in Medicine-Infectious Diseases. In his interview, Dr. Boyle discusses his research project focused on pulmonary infections caused by Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) and how his findings could provide the clinician with better prognostic insight. Read Interview>

NUCATS Center for Education and Career
Collaboration/Engagement

Multi-Site CTSA Study Implements NUCATS Team Science Education Strategies for Team Enhancement

NUCATS is one seven Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) institutions participating in a novel proof-of-concept study of Team Science research training. The study examines the feasibility of implementing a training program across different universities to enhance team success.

Each CTSA institution will identify a newly funded, ready to launch, interdisciplinary research team to participate in training over 10-12 weeks. During training, the researchers will complete online learning modules in the NUCATS teamscience.net series and participate in two in-person assessments, both alone and as a group. Teamscience.net was developed with supplementary funding awarded to the NUCATS CTSA. The team science assessment activities to be applied in the study are modeled after those used in the Institute's Master of Science in Clinical Investigation's Team Science course.

CCH Partner Finds Community Navigators Can Help Patients Overcome Healthcare Inequities

Principal Investigator, Melissa Simon, MD, associate professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, published a study focused on overcoming healthcare inequities in the American Journal of Public Health. The study found that uninsured Spanish-speaking women in DuPage County did not have longer follow-up times after an abnormal breast or cervical cancer screening result than their English-speaking counterparts when they were paired with a community navigator. Dr. Simon is a Center for Community (CCH) partner and an Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) Steering Committee member. She is also a former ARCC seed grant awardee.

Integration

NU Faculty Receive First Grants from SPARC to Advance Autoimmune Disease Research

The Strategic Pharma Academic Research Consortium (SPARC) for Translational Medicine has awarded their first grants to advance
autoimmune disease research. Award recipients include Northwestern University faculty members, **Lauren Pachman, MD**, professor in Pediatrics-Rheumatology, and **John Varga, MD**, professor in Medicine-Rheumatology and Dermatology. The award required two project-specific personnel from different participating institutions. The selected research teams will receive up to $400,000 over two years. Members of SPARC include four institutions supported by the National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Awards: Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI), which includes Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame, and institutions at Northwestern University, Ohio State University and Washington University in St. Louis. The awards are supported by SPARC’s industry partners: Eli Lilly and Co. and Takeda Pharmaceuticals International Inc. Read Article to learn more about these multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research projects.>

**Chicago Innovation Mentors (CIM) Embraces Culture of Entrepreneurship for Startups**
The Chicago Innovation Mentors (CIM) supports university-based and local new technology innovation ventures through the use of mentor teams. In February 2015, CIM hosted two events for setting the stage for long term growth in Chicago-based entrepreneurship, innovation and commercialization. Read Article to learn about their recent CIMposium and first international meeting with the Consulate General of Canada in Chicago.>

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**Methods/Processes**

**NUCATS and Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute Host Town Hall on Consent Audit Findings**
In collaboration with the NUCATS Institute, the Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago invites Northwestern University employees to their upcoming Town Hall.

**Presentation:** Post-Approval Monitoring - Consent Audit Findings  
**Presenters:** Jessica Macha, CIP, senior compliance coordinator for Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute, and Eileen Yates, MS, CIP, compliance manager for NU

**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015  
**Time:** 12-1:00 pm  
**Location:** Lurie Children's Hospital, Conference Room 11-152

For additional details, please view the event flyer.
Award (CTSA) Institutes, Northwestern University, University of Chicago and University of Illinois at Chicago, are committed to facilitating greater integration and coordination across the institutes to provide seamless access to all relevant resources for translational researchers.

In March 2015, investigators and research staff at Chicagoland CTSA affiliates have access to:

**University of Chicago Institute for Translational Medicine (ITM)**

- March 12 - Community Grand Rounds: Cancer and its Impact on our Community
- March 12 and 19 - Pathobiology of Disease Seminars

**University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS)**

- March 19 - Health Outcomes Seminar: Adventures in Text Messaging

For a full listing of Chicagoland CTSA shared resources and services, please click here.

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**Funding Opportunities**

**Northwestern Memorial Foundation Friends of Prentice Fiscal Year 2016 Grants Initiative**

- **Applications Due:** March 6, 2015
- **Funding Levels:** Up to $50,000 from a pool of $400,000

Friends of Prentice is seeking proposals from the greater Northwestern medical community that will advance women's or infant's health programs in research, patient care, education, and community service. Learn more>

**Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation (LSCRF) Fiscal Year 2016 Research Grants Initiative**

- **Applications Due:** March 25, 2015
- **Funding Levels:** $25,000-$50,000

The LSCRF research grants initiative is seeking proposals that impact patient care through translational clinical and benchmark research studies. Prospective proposals will be ones which provide support for all work associated with breast cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Preference will be given to projects with the potential of contributing to a National Cancer Institute Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) application. Learn more>

**Evergreen Invitational Fiscal Year 2016 Women's Health Grant Initiative**

- **Applications Due:** April 1, 2015
- **Funding Levels:** $25,000+ from a pool of $400,000

The Evergreen Invitational is seeking proposals for Northwestern Memorial HealthCare (NMHC) that will advance women's health programs in patient care, education, translational or clinical research, and community service. Learn more>

**Eleanor Wood-Prince Grants Initiative: A Project of the Women's Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital**

- **Applications Due:** April 3, 2015
- **Funding Levels:** Up to $25,000 from a pool up to $100,000
The Woman's Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital is soliciting proposals from Northwestern medical, nursing, and management staffs that are consistent with the mission and strategic plan of Northwestern Medicine®. Projects especially encouraged are those that would support investigators in the development of independent research projects. Eleanor Wood-Prince grants are intended to be a springboard for future research and programs. [Learn more>]

**John and Lillian Mathews Regenerative Medicine Endowment**

**Fiscal Year 2016 Grants Initiative**

**Applications Due: June 1, 2015**

**Funding Levels: 2-4 awards, up to $10,000-$30,000 each**

The John and Lillian Mathews Regenerative Medicine Endowment funds are to be used to support clinical-grade product manufacturing that require the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) compliant laboratories of the Mathews Center for Cellular Therapy (MCCT) GMP facilities. The products can be biologic, cellular, or even device in nature. [Learn more>]

**NU-Interdisciplinary Program 1-2-3**

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**Save the Date**

**TOP**

March 4 - [NITRO Study Tracker (formerly eNOTIS) New Features Demo Session](#)

March 10 - [NUCATS CECD Office Hours in Evanston](#)

March 12 - [Introduction to Quest High Performance Computing at NU Seminar](#)

March 12 -13 - [University of Cincinnati Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training Presents: Genomics and Ethics in Research and Medical Decision Making](#)

March 16 - [First Mondays Faculty Development 2014/2015 Seminar](#)

March 19 - [Transcriptome Analysis with RNA-seq Seminar](#)

March 25 - [NITRO Study Tracker (formerly eNOTIS) Basic & Policy Training Update](#)

April 1 - [NITRO Study Tracker (formerly eNOTIS) New Features Demo Session](#)

April 2 - [11th Annual Lewis Landsberg Research Day](#)

April 2 - [ChIP-seq: a Path to Identify Protein-DNA Binding Sites Seminar](#)

April 7 - [Center for Community Health Manuscript Writing Retreat](#)

April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 - [CRC Basic Training Online](#)

April 14 - [Northwestern Computational Research Day](#)

April 14 - [NUCATS CECD Office Hours in Evanston](#)

April 16 - 18 - [Translational Science 2015 Meeting](#)

April 22 - [NITRO Study Tracker (formerly eNOTIS) Basic & Policy Training Update](#)

April 22 - [ARCC Annual Town Hall](#)
May 6 - Guidance on Policy & Priority Areas for Conducting Health Research with Chicago Public Schools

May 9 - TEDx NorthwesternU 2015

More Events >

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**NUCATS MINUTE**

Did you know...

You can explore cohort availability using the self-service tool, i2B2, by developing and running simple search queries against a subset of data in the Northwestern Medicine® Enterprise Data Warehouse (NMEDW). All you need is a NU NetID and VPN access to utilize this resource.

**Query if NU has the patient population to support a specific study.**

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