NUCATS news
Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute
A CTSA partner in accelerating discoveries toward human health

April 2015

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Director's Message

The Innovation and New Ventures Office (INVO) and the NUCATS Center for Translational Innovation (CTI) continue to increase their efforts in providing drug and device development resources and services to Northwestern University faculty, clinicians, postdoctoral fellows and students in biomedical research. Alicia Loffler, PhD, executive director of INVO and director of NUCATS CTI, introduces new offerings to help bring your next idea to the marketplace.

Highlights include:

- SBIR/STTR Training Workshops
- New Venture Kit and Start Up Guide
- The Garage

Read Director's Message>

NUCATS Staff Profile

Karen Gutzman, MA, MS
Impact and Evaluation Librarian

Meet Karen Gutzman, MA, MS, impact and evaluation librarian for Galter Health Sciences Library. Karen works with the Metrics and Impact Core at Galter Library. Her responsibilities are to support individuals and groups in their understanding, assessment, visualization, and reporting of impactful outcomes of research and clinical care efforts.

Read Interview>
Feinberg and NUCATS Announce Expanded Access to Clinical Research Professionals Training

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and the NUCATS Institute are pleased to announce the newly revised, intensive Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) Basic Training course, designed to make new research coordinator orientation and training more efficient and affordable than ever before. Improvements to the course include but are not limited to:

- **2 day training.** Reduces training time to ensure all new coordinators have time to participate.
- **$199.** Reduces cost to ensure the training is accessible to all new coordinators at Feinberg.
- **TransCelerate Recognized.** Eliminates the need to participate in an individual Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training for each study by meeting the coordinator training requirements for industry sponsored trials.
- **NIH GCP Compliant.** Provides staff with a "one stop shop" for introductory CRC training by fulfilling the upcoming NIH GCP training requirement.
- **Continuing Education (CE) Credits.** Enhances professional development by approving this course as a continuing nursing education activity by the NUCATS Institute. Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Provider Number CPN 15198, for 14 continuing education contact hours.

Feinberg and the NUCATS Institute are committed to increasing the quality, safety and efficiency of clinical trials at the Institution through development of the clinical and translational workforce. We hope you will take advantage of this excellent opportunity to ensure your research staff have the training they need to work most effectively for you. **Registration for the revised course is open.** The first offering is scheduled for May 7 to 8, 2015. [Learn more and register.]

### NUCATS MSCI Advisor Links Brain Abnormalities and Poor Long-Term Memory with Heavy Marijuana Use in Teens

Congratulations to Matthew Smith, PhD, NUCATS Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) student advisor and assistant professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, for publishing in the journal *Hippocampus* one of the first studies to link oddly shaped hippocampus to poor long-term memory performance in former marijuana users. The study has received extensive news coverage including WGN-TV, TIME, Fox News, Chicago Sun-Times, HealthDay, and NBC News. [Read original press release.]

### Investigator Spotlight: MSCI Student - Dustin Carlson, MD

NUCATS highlights Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) recent graduate, Dustin Carlson, MD, second year fellow in Medicine-Gastroenterology and Hepatology. In his interview, Dr. Carlson discusses completing a multi-center study comparing two methods of esophageal manometry interpretation to determine the more reliable and accurate method for diagnosing esophageal motility disorders for his MSCI mentored research project. His research focus has now
Ronald Ackermann, MD/MPH, professor in Medicine-General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, has been elected to the Lead Team for the Domain Task Force on Collaboration/Engagement for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). This group will work with the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program to meet the goals related to Collaboration/Engagement set by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the NCATS Council Working Group. NUCATS is funded, in part, by the NCATS CTSA research grant UL1TR000150. The CCH is supported, in part, by the NUCATS Institute and the Institute for Public Health and Medicine (IPHAM). Read IOM report on the CTSA Program at NIH.

CCH Partners Release Report on Chicago's Age-Friendliness

Rebecca Johnson, PhD, research assistant professor in Buehler Center on Aging, Health & Society, and Amy Eisenstein, PhD, adjunct assistant professor in Medical Social Sciences, are pleased to announce the release of their commissioned report on Chicago's Age-Friendliness. The report is a baseline assessment of the city's assets and challenges for older adults and includes information and opinions from over 2,600 participants in the form of both qualitative and quantitative data. Dr. Johnson is an Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) seed grant recipient and Dr. Eisenstein is an ARCC steering committee member. Read full report.
CCH Associate Director Selected to Join 2015 Class of Aspen Institute Ascend Fellows
The Center for Community Health (CCH) associate director, Darius Tandon, PhD, associate professor in Medical Social Sciences, has been selected to join the 2015 class of Aspen Institute Ascend Fellows. The Ascend Fellowship invests in diverse leaders from a range of sectors who have breakthrough ideas to build economic security, educational success, and health and well-being for low-income families in the United States. Read IPHAM announcement>

ARCC Director Delivers Keynote Presentation for Alliance of Chicago Health Services Annual Research Meeting
The Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) director, Jen Brown, MPH, delivered the keynote presentation at the Alliance of Chicago Health Services Annual Research Meeting. Jen presented, "Ensuring Research Benefits Community Health Centers and Patients." View materials from presentation and other resources for community health centers and healthcare providers>

Provide Input on ARCC's Future Direction at Annual Town Hall

Integration

NUCATS and CTR Program at Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute Harmonize Clinical and Translational Resources
Susanna McColley, MD, director of the Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) Program at Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute (SMCRI), has worked with colleagues at SMCRI and NU to align clinical and translational research resources at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and Northwestern University. Her role as associate clinical director for Child Health at the NUCATS Institute has been integral in this collaboration process and has generated several new initiatives including:

- Business Associates Agreement
- Research staff workforce development opportunities

Read Article>

Methods/Processes

Galter Health Sciences Library Supports Informatics and Computational Science
Galter Health Sciences Library has been ramping up its resources and support for informatics and computational science at the Feinberg School of Medicine. As part of these efforts, the library launched a set of talks and workshops in a series called Computational Skills for Informatics. The series is a collaborative effort between NUIT Research Computing, Galter Library, and NUCATS
Center for Data Science and Informatics. Galter Library also offered a data science training session on the use of the Galaxy computational platform for data intensive biomedical research. This day long, hands-on workshop was taught by Dave Clements of the Galaxy Project training team and joined by Matthew Schipma, PhD, director of the Next Generation Sequencing Core and research associate in Center for Genetic Medicine, who provided instruction on RNA-Seq techniques in Galaxy. Response to these workshops has been phenomenal, with some of the seminars registered beyond capacity. Read Article to learn more about these workshops.

CRU Nurse Selected as 2015 NMH Chapman Nurse Scholar to Implement Early Detection of Orthostatic Hypotension in Heart Failure Patients Intervention

Congratulations to Joan Pasquesi, BSN, RN, CCRP, education coordinator for the NUCATS Center for Clinical Research adult Clinical Research Unit (CRU), on being selected as a 2015 Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH) Chapman Nurse Scholar. The program will award Joan $5,000 over 18 months to work on her research project, "Can early identification of orthostatic hypotension and timely implementation of nurse-driven interventions ameliorate the symptoms of orthostatic hypotension (OH) in the heart failure (HF) population and prevent falls?" Read Article to learn how Joan will implement a protocol at NMH to routinely assess HF patients for OH.

Next Round of NUCATS Pilot Awardees Aim to Advance Research in Diabetic Wound Healing, Depression, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome

The NUCATS Institute is pleased to announce the next round of Pilot Program grant awardees that will help advance research in the following areas: diabetic wound healing, depression, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and polycystic ovary syndrome. The NUCATS Institute provides rapid, targeted funding to address small, but critical gaps in clinical and translational research work through the Voucher and Pilot Programs. The Pilot Program awards up to $10,000 and has three application deadlines that are repeated annually. The following investigators were recently awarded Pilot Program grants:

- Guillermo Ameer, ScD, professor in Biomedical Engineering and Surgery-Vascular
- Ye Han, PhD, research assistant professor in Neurology
- Gary Schiltz, PhD, research assistant professor in the Center for Molecular Innovation and Drug Discovery
- Laura Torchen, MD, instructor in Pediatrics-Endocrinology

Read Article to learn about the awardees and their research projects.

NUCATS CDSI and SPORE Collaborate on New Award Focused on Biomarker Discovery Detection of High-Risk Prostate Cancer

Congratulations to Ramana Davuluri, PhD, director of the Advanced Bioinformatics and Bio-Computation (ABBC) Core in the NUCATS Center for Data Science and Informatics (CDSI) and professor in Preventive Medicine-Health and Biomedical Informatics, for being awarded a research grant from the Riviera Country Club United-4 A Cure. It will focus on identifying genetic and epigenetic markers for early detection of high-risk prostate cancer. His group will be performing the computation aim of the proposal and the experimental validation part will be

Read Article to learn about the awardees and their research projects.
accomplished in collaboration with William Catalona, MD, professor in Urology, and Sarki Abdulkadir, MD, PhD, professor in Urology. The banked bio-specimen samples from Northwestern University National Cancer Institute-funded Prostate Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) Tumor Tissue Bank will be used for the assays development in this project. Learn more about the NUCATS CDSI.

Northwestern Computational Research Day: Call for Abstracts
Deadline Extended to April 8th
This all-day, campus-wide event will be held on April 14, 2015 and is designed to showcase computation research and strengthen the computational research community at Northwestern University. Postdoctoral fellows, graduates, and undergraduate students are eligible to present their research at the event’s Poster Competition and/or partake in the event’s Data Visualization Challenge. The deadline for submissions has been extended to April 8, 2015. Learn more and register.

Chicagoland CTSA Shared Resources
The Chicagoland Clinical and Translational Science 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 April 2015, investigators and research staff at Chicagoland CTSA affiliates have access to:

University of Chicago Institute for Translational Medicine (ITM)
April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 - Pathobiology of Disease Seminars
April 8, 15, 22 and 29 - Outcomes Research Workshop

University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS)
April 7 - Professional Development Workshop Series
April 16 - Health Outcomes Seminar Series

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

Funding Opportunities
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

Save the Date

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 2 - MSRC Online Information Session
April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 - CRC Basic Training Online
April 6 - First Mondays Faculty Development 2014/2015 Seminar Series
April 7 - Center for Community Health Manuscript Writing Retreat
April 8 - Computational Research Day Call for Abstracts Deadline
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

May 15-17 - Computational Social Science Summit

May 19 - Spring Meeting: Community Engaged Academic Research Staff

May 21 - Faith Based Community Engaged Research Network Meeting

More Events >

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**NUCATS MINUTE**

Did you know...

The new NIH biosketch format requires researchers to define their five highest impact contributions to science. While this is a helpful step towards evidence-based decision making in research funding, it may be difficult for researchers in all stages of their career to determine how best to describe or quantify their scholarly contribution and research impact. The Galter Health Sciences Library can help you address the requirements of the new biosketch format and identify your most impactful research using publication tools, metrics and resources.

Attend the April First Mondays session and hear from the Galter Library Director about this new requirement and how the Library can be of assistance.

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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 funded, in part, by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) of the NIH research grant UL1TR000150. The same research award was previously funded, in part, by National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) of the NIH and recognized as research grant UL1RR025741.