Director's Message

James Adams, MD, is chief medical officer of Northwestern Medicine®, department chair and professor in Emergency Medicine and associate director for Adult Medicine at the NUCATS Institute. In this Director’s Message, Dr. Adams discusses bridging clinical and translational research into the new health system.

Highlights include:

- Platform for researchers and value to patients
- Aligning infrastructure
- Being in the business of discoveries

Read Director's Message>

NUCATS Staff Profile

Annette Kinsella

Clinical Research Nurse and Staff Educator/Trainer

Meet Annette Kinsella, RN, CRCC, clinical research nurse and staff educator/trainer for the NUCATS Institute. Annette is responsible for coordinating clinical research studies at Northwestern University, orienting and training new Clinical Research Coordinators (CRC) to the NUCATS Center for Clinical Research, instructing NUCATS Center for Education and Career Development’s CRC Basic Training course and more.

Read Interview>
NUCATS Responsible Conduct of Research Training Experts Publish in JMBE’s Inaugural Theme Section: "Scientific Ethics"

Congratulations to the NUCATS Institute’s Center for Education and Career Development (CECD) faculty leaders and staff for publishing two articles on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training in the Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education (JMBE). The articles were featured in JMBE’s inaugural special Theme section, for which they chose "Scientific Ethics," in the December 2014 issue. The first Theme section expected 10-15 contributions but grew to 45 indicative of the strong importance and relevance of the broadly-applicable topic. The article, "Beyond Responsible Conduct: Taking Responsibility for the Responsible Conduct of Others," describes the unique elements of the NUCATS RCR course. The article, "Evaluation in RCR Training - Are You Achieving What You Hope For?" addresses incorporating formal evaluation processes in RCR training. Read more about these articles and the experts behind them.

NUCATS Graduate KL2 Scholar Awarded Five-Year, $1.6 Million NIH Grant to Continue Studying Whiplash

James Elliott, PT, PhD, assistant professor in Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences, and his research team were awarded a five-year, $1.6 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to continue studying the structural causes and consequences of whiplash injuries from motor vehicle collisions. Dr. Elliott, PI on the study, was supported by a NUCATS Institute KL2 award for his work focusing on associations between altered spinal cord physiology and muscle morphometry to guide the diagnostic schema for whiplash-related injuries. By examining this information, Dr. Elliott’s group have provided MRI evidence suggesting that individuals with chronic whiplash-associated disorders (WAD) may have degenerative changes in certain neck and lower extremity muscles. Read about Dr. Elliott’s next phase of research funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
CECD Hosts Office Hours on Evanston Campus
NUCATS Center for Education and Career Development (CECD) hosts office hours on the Evanston campus to meet with early career investigators and research staff who are interested in learning about the programs available to grow their own clinical and translational research careers at NU. Office hours are typically held on the second Tuesday of the month. Register for a consultation appointment with the NUCATS CECD Research Navigator.

February Clinical Research Educational Opportunities
NUCATS Good Clinical Practice and Clinical Research Staff 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.

Collaboration/Engagement

Stakeholder Spotlight: Demoiselle 2 Femme
Demoiselle 2 Femme (D2F) provides community-based programs for girls on the far south side of Chicago as well as the south suburbs. The mission of D2F is to provide holistic services, education, instruction and training to assist adolescent girls in a successful transition to womanhood. D2F is a longstanding Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) Steering Committee (SC) member. D2F founder and chief executive officer, Sherida Morrison, MA, has recently been elected as Committee Co-Chair of the ARCC SC. In addition, D2F and Sherida are community Co-Principal Investigators on two ARCC Seed Grants.

In this interview, Sherida discusses D2F’s interest in community-based participatory research and how the impact of their research projects have positioned D2F as a thought leader in the field of gender responsive programs for girls as well as evidence-based practices in prevention programming to urban girls. Read Interview and learn about D2F’s youth violence research study, "Choose Life".

Call for Nominations: 4th Annual ARCC Community-Engaged Research Partnership Award
Submissions Due: February 20, 2015
The Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) is soliciting nominations to recognize exemplary community-engaged research partnerships that use a community-based participatory research approach and have made an impact on the health of their community. The selected partnership will be publicly recognized at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine’s 11th Annual Lewis Landsberg Research Day on April 2, 2015. Nominations must be submitted by, or on behalf of, a team that includes the participation of at least one community or faith-based organization or public agency and at least one Northwestern University faculty member (regular or adjunct). Nominate an exemplary partnership.

Call for Abstracts: NIH Science of Team Science 2015 Conference
Submissions Due: February 12, 2015

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Science of Team Science (SciTS) 2015 conference will be held June 2–5, 2015 at the NIH main campus in Bethesda, Maryland. The conference will bring together thought leaders in the SciTS field, scientists engaged in team-based research, institutional leaders who promote collaborative research, policy makers, and federal agency representatives. A registration site will be available soon. All attendees must register, though there will be no registration fee for the conference. The SciTS 2015 conference planning committee welcomes your abstracts for oral papers and panel presentations and scientific posters. Learn more and submit your abstract online.

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Integration

NUCATS POC Awardees Receive Funding from IllinoisVENTURES Regional POC Matching Fund Program

Congratulations to the NUCATS Institute Proof-of-Concept (POC) awardees, William Klein, PhD, professor of Neurobiology and member of the Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center (CNADC), and Jonathan Leis, PhD, professor of Microbiology-Immunology, for being two of the five projects selected for funding from the first cycle of the IllinoisVENTURES Regional POC Matching Fund Program. The NUCATS Institute awarded Drs. Klein and Leis their initial POC funding in January 2014 to assist them in validating their promising biomedical research and moving it into a self-supporting commercial pathway. Now the IllinoisVENTURES program will provide them with additional funding to help them further achieve important commercial milestones.

Dr. Klein’s funded project is focused on a new noninvasive magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) probe that can detect molecular toxins that lead to Alzheimer’s disease in a living animal at the earliest stages. Dr. Leis’ funded project is focused on small molecular inhibitors that block replications of pathogenic enveloped virus infections including HIV, Herpes and Ebola. The program and awardees were featured in Chicago Tribune and Crain’s articles. Read Article and learn why this opportunity was created and how it will impact funded research projects.

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Methods/Processes

NEW! Computational Skills for Informatics Seminar Series

Galter Health Sciences Library is proud to announce their new Computational Skills for Informatics seminar series. Hosted by NUIT Research Computing, Galter Library, the Center for Data Science and Informatics (CDSI), and the NUCATS Institute, the seminar series will run from February - April 2015. It will consist of presentations from guest speakers in a number of topics relevant to bioinformatics, large dataset management and computation. All sessions will last one hour and will begin at noon in the Galter Library Learning Resources Center (the large computer classroom in the back of the library). Please see below for the presentation schedule:

- February 12 - Reproducible Research
- February 26 - Introduction to Cloud Computing
- March 12 - Introduction to Quest High Performance Computing at NU
March 19 - Transcriptome Analysis with RNA-seq  
April 2 - ChIP-seq: a Path to Identify Protein-DNA Binding Sites

Registration is encouraged as space is limited. For additional details, speakers and registration information, click here.

**NEW! Advanced Bioinformatics and Bio-Computation (ABBC) Core**  
The Advanced Bioinformatics and Bio-Computation (ABBC) Core is housed within the NUCATS Institute and provides big data and computation support to Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine investigators. ABBC Core faculty and staff work in collaboration with Feinberg investigators to help them generate data and results for single investigator and multi-Principal Investigator (PI) large grants. Services offered by the ABBC Core include:

- Data integration and analysis;
- Predictive modeling;
- Data management;
- Consultation services to organize, store, and query genomic and proteomic data;
- Connections across data types such as data in genomics and similar fields; multiscale data; and multiple platform data including microassay and NextGen sequencing; and
- Predictive modeling to create new biomedical information.

The ABBC Core was featured in the December 2014 issue of Feinberg’s newsletter, *Breakthroughs*. Visit the ABBC Core webpage and learn more about their services.

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**Chicagoland CTSA Shared Resources**  
The Chicagoland Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Institutes, Northwestern University, University of Chicago and University of Illinois at Chicago, have identified a list of shared resources and services that investigators and research staff at the three institutes have access to. Majority of the shared resources and services listed on the NUCATS website are offered at no charge or at the internal rate to Chicagoland CTSA affiliates.

Each month *NUCATS News* will be featuring our fellow Chicagoland CTSA Institute’s upcoming shared resources and services. In February 2015, investigators and research staff at Chicagoland CTSA affiliates have access to:

**University of Chicago Institute for Translational Medicine (ITM)**  
February 5, 12, 19 and 26 - Pathobiology of Disease Seminar Series

**University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS)**  
February 19 - Health Outcomes Seminar Series  
February 23 - Biomedical & Health Informatics Colloquium

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 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>

NUCATS Voucher and Pilot Programs

Upcoming Due Date for Pilot Applications: March 15, 2015

The NUCATS Voucher and Pilot Programs are a 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 too preliminary or speculative to compete for external funding. The Voucher Program funds projects up to $2,500 and is accepting applications on an ongoing basis. The Pilot Program funds projects up to $10,000 and has three application deadlines that will be repeated annually (March 15, July 15 and November 15). Learn more>

2015 ARCC Seed Grants

Informational Webinar: February 11, 2015 at 10am

Applications Due: March 20, 2015

Funding Levels: 4-6 awards, up to $5,000 each

The Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) is seeking applications for Seed Grants that support the development or dissemination of Chicagoland community-engaged partnerships and research projects. The three types of seed grant awards are: partnership development, project/proposal development and research dissemination/implementation. 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

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 Incubator (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. Learn more>

Save the Date

February 5 - Chicago Innovation Mentors February 2015 CIMposium
February 10 - EndNote Training
February 11 - ARCC Seed Grant Informational Webinar
February 12 - Reproducible Research Seminar
February 16 - First Mondays Faculty Development 2014/2015 Seminar
February 17 - NUCATS CECD Office Hours in Evanston
February 17 - Winter Meeting: Community-Engaged Academic Research Staff
February 18 - PubMed Training
February 18 - Chicagoland Chapter of ACRP Presents: Protocol Complexity and Practices to Optimize Study Design
February 25 - NITRO Study Tracker (formerly eNOTIS) Basic & Policy Training Update
February 26 - Introduction to Cloud Computing Seminar
February 19 -20 - Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Presents: Getting to Know PCORI: From Application to Closeout
March 3 - 11th Annual Lewis Landsberg Research Day Call for Abstracts Deadline
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 - 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
Did you know...

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

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.