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

June 2015

Director's Message
The NUCATS Institute welcomes Timothy Babin, MBA, MHAc, CCRC, to the Clinical & Translational Research (CTR) Program at Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute, the research arm of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. In this month's Director's Message, Tim introduces you to his role and responsibilities as the director of Clinical & Translational Research Operations.

Highlights include:

- Streamlining concepts and operations
- Pediatric Clinical Research Unit Coordinator and Research Staff Services pool

Read Director's Message>

NUCATS Staff Profile

Magda Kupczyk, MPH
Research Project Coordinator

Meet Magda Kupczyk, MPH, research project coordinator for the Center for Clinical Research in the NUCATS Institute. Magda provides the regulatory support for clinical investigators and study teams to turn research ideas into innovative health solutions for the Northwestern patient community.

Read Interview>
NUCATS Staff Member Awarded Northwestern University 2015 Employee of the Year
The NUCATS Institute is proud to announce that our very own, Mary Ratliff, assistant director of the Institute’s Center for Education and Career Development, is the Northwestern University 2015 Employee of the Year! Mary has proven to be an exceptional and truly remarkable employee during the calendar year 2014 and performed at a level well above and beyond normal expectations. Her contributions have had a far-reaching impact on the key functions of NUCATS as well as across the University and affiliated clinical partners in many ways. Read Article to learn about Mary’s major contributions>

ACTS Connection Features NUCATS Graduate KL2 Scholar
The Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) spotlighted NUCATS graduate KL2 scholar, Emily Rogalski, PhD, research associate professor in Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center (CNADC), in their ACTS Connection May 2015 Issue 2 e-newsletter. The article features Dr. Rogalski’s groundbreaking work in “primary progressive aphasia” and superior memory in “SuperAgers” and how the NUCATS KL2 Career Development Award impacted her research career. Read Article>

Investigator Spotlight: MSCI Student - Anju Peters, MD
NUCATS highlights Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) student, Anju Peters, MD, associate professor in Medicine-Allergy-Immunology. In her interview, Dr. Peters discusses her research interest in chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS), an inflammatory disease of the sinuses that affects over 12% of the American population and is associated with a significant negative impact on quality of life, and her plans to start clinical trials in CRS. Read Interview>

NUCATS Members Elected to APSA Board of Directors
Congratulations to Hans Arora, MD/PhD, urology resident physician at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute, and David Engman, MD/PhD, professor in Pathology and Microbiology-Immunology and former longstanding director of the Northwestern MD-PhD program, for being elected to the 2014-2015 Board of Directors of the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA). APSA is devoted to the training and career development of physician-
scientists, typically medical school faculty members who combine patient care with basic, translational, and/or clinical research. APSA is closely allied and supported by the major honorific societies for physician-scientists, the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Association for Physicians. Dr. Arora is a graduate trainee of the NUCATS TL1 Pre-doctoral Training Program and Dr. Engman was the TL1 Program director from 2008-2013. Learn more about the APSA Board of Directors>

Consult with NUCATS Center for Education and Career Development on the Evanston Campus

June Clinical Research Educational Opportunities

Collaboration/Engagement

Impact of 2015 ARCC Seed Grant Recipients
This year in their 8th round of funding, Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) awarded $20,000 in seed grants to five community-engaged research participants to support partnership development, research proposal development, and dissemination of research findings. Each award (ranging $1,500-$5,000) supports a partnership that includes a community co-principal investigator from a local community-based organization and an academic co-principal investigator from Northwestern University. Abstracts for each funded partnership are available here. Learn about the impact of earlier seed grants>

ARCC Participates in The Chicago Community Trust's On the Table Event
In May 2015, The Chicago Community Trust celebrated their Centennial anniversary with On the Table 2015, asking people around the city and region to come together in community conversations about the ways we can commit to continue to make our communities stronger, safer, and more dynamic. The Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) hosted a group of community and academic partners to share lunch and ideas. Topics included health equity, time banking, giving voice and listening to that voice, and systems change. Stemming from last year's On the Table 2014, ARCC director, Jen Brown, MPH, has been working on Sister Neighborhoods, an initiative to build connections across Chicago's neighborhood boundaries. Learn more about Sister Neighborhoods in this Chicago Tribune editorial>
Integration

NUCATS Child Health Associate Director Co-Authors Groundbreaking Cystic Fibrosis Study

NUCATS Child Health associate director, Susanna McColley, MD, professor of Pediatrics-Pulmonary Medicine, recently co-authored a novel cystic fibrosis study published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study reported improved lung function and a decreased rate of pulmonary exacerbations in a set of cystic fibrosis patients who used a combined lumacaftor-ivacaftor therapy. Dr. McColley is also the director of the Clinical & Translational Research Program at Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute, the research arm of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Read how this study will benefit 8,500 patients in the U.S. alone.

The Garage Opening June 16, 2015

The Garage is the new cross-disciplinary space designed for all Northwestern students to explore innovation and entrepreneurship. The Garage is a hub for all ideas. It’s the central gathering place for those who will help you shape your idea, test it, and potentially bring it to market. On June 16, 2015, The Garage will welcome students from every corner of campus with a mission of creating a diverse culture of innovation. Connect with The Garage.

Chicago Innovation Mentors June 2015 CIMposium

The final of four CIMposium events will be held on June 24, 2015 at MATTER Auditorium (222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 1230) from 5:30-8:30pm. The focus of this event will be dedicated to regulatory issues related to determining if your health care product falls under the purview of FDA and if so, what the key regulatory issues are for consideration as you navigate the path to approval. Registration is free, open to the public, and encouraged as seats are limited. Register for the June 2015 CIMposium.

Methods/Processes

Galter Health Sciences Library Director Leads Evaluation Efforts for NUCATS

You may know Kristi Holmes, PhD, as the director of the Galter Health Sciences Library and associate professor in Preventive Medicine-Health and Biomedical Informatics but she also plays a pivotal role in the NUCATS Institute's evaluation efforts. In her role as associate director of Evaluation in NUCATS, Dr. Holmes will lead the Evaluation and Continuous Improvement (ECI) Program for the Institute. Recently, Dr. Holmes has been invited to co-chair one of the three working groups at the National Information Standards Organization (NISO). She has also been invited to
Alexandra Heestand, MPH, MS, RD, LDN join the Alberta Innovates - Health Solutions intensive training course on implementing health research impact assessments as a faculty member. Dr. Holmes plans to incorporate the knowledge and experience gained from each of these opportunities in the NUCATS ECI Program. Read Article>

NUCATS CRU Research Dietitian Elected to National Association of Bionutritionists Board of Directors

Congratulations to Alexandra Heestand, MPH, MS, RD, LDN, research dietitian for the Center for Clinical Research’s Clinical Research Unit (CRU) in NUCATS, for being elected to the 2015-2016 Board of Directors of the National Association of Bionutritionists (NAB). The NAB is made up of registered dietitians, other nutrition scientists, and business associates who are engaged in nutrition-focused research. Alexandra will serve as the chair of the Education and Leadership Committee. In this role, she plans to expand on the committee’s task of writing standard operating procedures for common nutrition research functions and procedures as well as work with the NAB website redesign team to make those published procedures more easily searchable and accessible. These efforts will aid all dietitians engaged in nutrition research by providing a gold standard of policies and procedures to follow for excellence in nutrition research. Visit the NAB and see why it’s been one of the primary sources of resources, mentoring, and education for nutrition research>

Informatics

NITRO Recruit Powers Women's Health Research Institute’s New Men's Health Registry

The informatics team at NUCATS recently partnered with the Women’s Health Research Institute (WHRI) at Northwestern University to develop their new Illinois Men’s Health Registry. Now this new registry and their Illinois Women’s Health Registry are powered by NUCATS’ NITRO Recruit, a secure web-based research registry and participant screening system. NITRO Recruit is used to collect information about potential research study participants to assist research teams in qualifying participants for their studies. It allows investigators at Northwestern to build their own research registries or study level screeners so that potential participants can respond to screeners directly into the system. WHRI took advantage of this service and collaborated with NUCATS staff to learn the basics of building a registry. NUCATS staff was also available for technical assistance during the creation process. Learn more
about NITRO Recruit and how to work with NUCATS on developing your own research registry or study level screener.

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

University of Chicago Institute for Translational Medicine (ITM)
June 3 and 10 - Outcomes Research Workshop
June 5 - myCHOICE: Careers in Medical Writing

University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS)
July 14-16 - 3-Day Summer Program in Clinical and Translational Research Methods
October 2, 9 and 16 - Clinical Research Coordinator Boot Camp

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

Funding Opportunities

Alvin H. Baum Clinical Simulation Research Grants Initiative
Applications Due: June 5, 2015 by 5pm
Funding Levels: One-year grants up to $50,000 each
These awards are focused on providing funding to support original and innovative research opportunities that are scientifically promising or have potential to advance Northwestern Medicine strategies. Ideal simulation proposals should challenge existing paradigms of clinical practice, explore innovative hypothesis, or address critical barriers to reliable healthcare. Proposals should also develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for an area. Learn more.

Alvin H. Baum Simulation Faculty Fellowship
Applications Due: June 5, 2015 by 5pm
Funding Levels: $50,000 over two years
The Baum Family Foundation Faculty Fellowship will provide funding to support faculty salary and simulation lab expenses for a faculty member who commits to advance simulation-based education at Northwestern. Learn more.

NUCATS Pilot Program
Applications Due: June 15, 2015
Funding Levels: Up to $10,000
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 two application deadlines that will be repeated annually. The next application deadline is June 15, 2015. Learn more.
2015 Practice-Based Seed Grants
Applications Due: June 15, 2015
Funding Levels: 3-5 awards of $5,000 to $10,000 each
The Practice Based Research Program (PBRP) 2015 Seed Grants aim to increase engagement of academics and community clinicians from practice-based research networks, foster the development of practice-based proposals for external funding, and support the preparatory steps that lead to dissemination and implementation of research findings in community practice settings. Learn more>

Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science
Applications Due: June 15, 2015
Funding Levels: $50,000
The Vilcek Foundation will award three prizes of $50,000 each to young foreign-born biomedical scientists who demonstrate outstanding early achievement. Eligible work may be in basic, applied, and/or translational biomedical science. Learn more>

NU-Interdisciplinary Program 1-2-3

Save the Date

June 4, 11, 18, 25 and July 2, 16 - CRC Basic Training Online
June 9 - CTR Program's Clinical Research Townhall
June 11 - REDCap New Project Owner Intro Session
June 15 - CTR Program's Clinical Research Townhall
June 15-18 - The Michigan Regional Comprehensive Metabolomics Research Core Presents Metabolomics Summer Workshop
June 17 - REDCap Office Hours
June 24 - Chicago Innovation Mentors June 2015 CIMposium
June 24 - NITRO Study Tracker (formerly eNOTIS) Basic & Policy Training Update
June 25 - REDCap New Project Owner Intro Session
June 30 - 2015 Scientific Images Contest Entry Deadline
July 1 - NITRO Study Tracker (formerly eNOTIS) New Features Demo Session
July 9 - REDCap New Project Owner Intro Session
July 13 - First Mondays Faculty Development 2014/2015 Seminar Series
July 15 - REDCap Office Hours
July 16-17 - CRC Basic Training Live
July 16 - Faith Based Community Engaged Research Network Meeting
NUCATS Minute

Are you a junior faculty member who has not yet established a significant funding base to accelerate your clinical and translational research projects? Or do you have a clinical and translational research need that is too preliminary or speculative to compete for external funding? If yes, you should apply for the upcoming NUCATS Pilot Program funding opportunity to help address those small but critical gaps in your work.

Apply by the June 15th deadline for awards up to $10,000.

Other News

Nominations Now Being Accepted for $200,000 Mechthild Esser Nemmers Prize in Medical Science

Northwestern University invites nominations for the Mechthild Esser Nemmers Prize in Medical Science, a biennial prize of $200,000 awarded to physician-scientists whose body of research exhibits outstanding achievement in medical science as demonstrated by works of lasting significance. Learn more and submit>

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.