Director's Message
The NUCATS Institute is proud to feature our fellow Chicago Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Institute in this month’s Director’s Message. Julian Solway, MD, and Susan Cohn, MD, co-directors of the University of Chicago Institute for Translational Medicine (ITM), discuss how CTSA funding supports our ability as "hubs" to work together in the national network of medical research institutions to improve the translational research process by getting more treatments to more patients more efficiently.

Highlights include:

- Chicago CTSA Collaborations and Shared Resources and Services
- myCHOICE: Chicago Options in Career Empowerment
- Connect with UChicago ITM

Read Director's Message>

NUCATS Staff Profile

Kristine (Tina) Shontz
Assistant

Meet Kristine (Tina) Shontz, assistant to Donald Lloyd-Jones, MD/ScM, senior associate dean for Clinical and Translational Research, director of NUCATS, and chair of Preventive Medicine. Tina manages Dr. Lloyd-Jones’ calendar and prioritizes his action items to allow for more time to concentrate on his research and on helping NUCATS’ strategic success. Tina has also been recently named chair of the Outreach Committee in the Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council (NUSAC).
Workforce Development

**NUCATS Welcomes New KL2 Scholars**

Please join the NUCATS Institute in welcoming three new KL2 scholars who are participating in the Multidisciplinary Mentored Career Development Program (KL2). The awardees and their projects are:

- **Amanda Saratsis, MD**, assistant professor in Neurological Surgery; her project is focused on investigation of histone modifications in pediatric brainstem glioma.
- **Lisa VanWagner, MD/MSc**, assistant professor in Medicine-Gastroenterology and Hepatology and Preventive Medicine; her project is focused on the prediction of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease using a lifecourse approach.
- **Robert Gregory Webster, MD/MPH**, assistant professor in Pediatrics-Cardiology; his project is focused on evaluation of first-degree relatives after sudden cardiac death.

**NUCATS Brings Mentor Training to Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital**

During the summer of 2015, the NUCATS Institute brought their Mentor Development Workshops to research scientists at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital. Michael Fleming, MD/MPH, professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Family and Community Medicine, and Neil Jordan, PhD, associate professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Preventive Medicine, spearheaded this collaborative effort that consisted of three 90-minute workshops covering key mentoring competencies such as effective communication, aligning expectations, and fostering independence.

**NUCATS MSCI Advisor Awarded the Cover for Hippocampus Journal**

Congratulations to Matthew J. Smith, PhD, NUCATS Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) student advisor and assistant professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, for being awarded the cover of the September
2015 *Hippocampus* journal. The cover features his research article "Cannabis-related episodic memory deficits and hippocampal morphological differences in healthy individuals and schizophrenia subjects".

Read article

**Investigator Spotlight: MSCI Student - Ellie Sukerman, MD**

NUCATS highlights Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) student Ellie Sukerman, MD, instructor in Medicine-Infectious Diseases. In her interview, Dr. Sukerman discusses how her research team will use next-generation sequencing technology to study influenza A virus-host interaction and its impact on influenza disease severity.

Read Interview

**NUCATS Co-Sponsors 5th Annual Midwest Neglected Infectious Disease Meeting**

In August 2015, Northwestern University scientists presented at the 5th Annual Midwest Neglected Infectious Disease Meeting held at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. The NUCATS Institute co-sponsored the meeting that brings together clinical and translational scientists from around the Midwest to present and discuss research involving tropical and nontropical fungal and parasitic diseases.

View presentations

**Open Calls for Applications: Career Development Awards (KL2 and TL1)**

**October Clinical Research Educational Opportunities**

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**Collaboration/Engagement**

**Practice-Based Research Program Funds Seed Grants on Infant Hypertension**

Congratulations to Benjamin Kornfeld, MD, of North Suburban Pediatrics, and Gal Finer, MD/PhD, assistant professor in Pediatrics and attending physician at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, whose project "Hypertension in Premature Infants in the Pediatric Office" was selected for Practice-Based Research Program (PBR) seed grant
Lurie Children’s Hospital Gives KIDS a Voice in Pediatric Research

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago has formed a Kids and Families Impacting Disease Through Science (KIDS) advisory group with patients of their Kids Advisory Board and teenagers from Walter Payton College Preparatory High School in Chicago. KIDS is focused on understanding, communicating, and improving health, medicine, research, and innovation for children.

Read more

Two Northwestern Faculty Receive Proof-of-Concept Funding to Support Biomedical Research with Commercialization Potential

NUCATS and the Innovation and New Ventures Office (INVO) are proud to announce the awardees of Proof-of-Concept funding. The awardees and their projects are:

- **Richard Silverman, PhD**, Patrick G. Ryan/Aon Professor in Chemistry; his project is focused on testing safety and efficacy of a potential drug that inhibits an enzyme believed to be important to hepatocellular carcinoma, a type of liver cancer, in humans.
- **Rishi Arora, MD**, associate professor in Medicine-Cardiology; his project aims to validate a new gene therapy for atrial fibrillation.

Read more

Methods/Processes

NUCATS Infrastructure and Collaboration Support Provided to
New NIH Center Grants at Northwestern
As a result of NUCATS Clinical and Translational Research Studio Consultations, the following research teams have been able to take advantage of in-kind or heavily subsidized existing NUCATS resources and services that enhanced their center grant submissions.

- Congratulations to Richard D’Aquila, MD, professor in Medicine-Infectious Diseases, and his partners for being awarded a five-year, $6.25 million P30 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) that supports the creation of the Third Coast Center for Aids Research (CFAR). NUCATS resources such as software tools, biostatistics support, early career faculty development programs, Clinical Research Unit services, and community-engaged research support were leveraged in every core of the application. Learn more

- Congratulations to Katherine Wisner, MD, professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Obstetrics and Gynecology, and her partners for being awarded a five-year, $3.9 million U54 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to determine the optimal drug doses for treating pregnant women with depression across pregnancy and after birth. NUCATS resources such as biostatistics support and Clinical Research Unit services were leveraged in the application. Learn more

NUCATS Studio Consultation Services

Galter Library Welcomes Two New Research Librarians
Please join Galter Health Sciences Library in welcoming two very talented research librarians, Eileen Wafford, MLIS, and Patty Smith, MLIS, to their team. In this role they support the clinical, scholarly, and research needs of Feinberg School of Medicine affiliates by forging strong links with departments and centers, providing systematic review services and resource training, and keeping users up to date on the latest information tools. These positions complement Galter Library's long-standing and successful support of Feinberg's research and clinical community.

Read more

Choose the Right Journal for Your Research Results
Informatics

NITRO Competitions Plays Key Role in Northwestern's New National Center for Top Down Proteomics

Congratulations to Neil Kelleher, PhD, professor in Molecular Biosciences, Chemistry and Medicine, and his team for being awarded a $5.6 million P41 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) that supports the creation of the National Resource for Translational and Developmental Proteomics at Northwestern. Dr. Kelleher utilized NITRO Competitions, a software application developed by NUCATS that supports internal grant applications, to host the competition for biomedical projects across the United States and to demonstrate Northwestern's feasibility in the grant application. The system also provided a secure environment for application submissions and will continually be used to solicit new collaborations for the Resource.

Learn more

Chicagoland CTSA Shared Resources

Investigators and research staff at Chicagoland CTSA affiliates have access to the following upcoming opportunities:

**University of Chicago Institute for Translational Medicine (ITM)**
- October 15 - Pathobiology of Disease Seminar Series: Multitasking Autophagy Pathways in Skin Cancer

**University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS)**
- October 20 - UICentre Drug Discovery Workshop at Cancer Research Forum
- October 22 - Health Outcomes Seminar: Cost-Effective Clinical Translation of Warfarin Pharmacogenetics

Full listing of Chicagoland CTSA Shared Resources

Funding Opportunities

**AIDS-Science Track Award for Research Transition (R03)**
**Applications Due: January 7, 2016**
**Funding Levels: Up to $100,000 per year**

This funding opportunity seeks to facilitate the entry of both newly independent and early career investigators to the area of drug abuse research on HIV/AIDS. The AIDS-Science Track Award for Research Transition (A-START) encourages Small Research Grant (R03) applications to support research projects on drug abuse and HIV/AIDS that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources. Applications are welcomed from all areas of HIV/AIDS research that the National Institute on Drug
Save the Date

October 7 - NITRO Study Tracker (formerly eNOTIS) New Features Demo Session

October 8 - Research Computing Consultation Services: Quest Office Hours

October 15 - REDCap New Project Owner Intro Session

October 15 - MSRC Winter Quarter Application Deadline

October 21 - REDCap Office Hours

October 22 - InsightPD HealthTECH Competition

October 23 - 13th Annual CBC Symposium

October 23 - The Importance of Diversity in Clinical Trials: A Briefing for the Chicago Community

October 28 - NITRO Study Tracker (formerly eNOTIS) Basic & Policy Training Update

October 29 - REDCap New Project Owner Intro Session

October 29 - AHA Heart Innovation Forum

October 29 - Future of Research Chicago

November 4 - NITRO Study Tracker (formerly eNOTIS) New Features Demo Session

November 5 - IPHAM Seminar: Integrated Community-Clinical Linkage Models to Advance Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes Prevention and Management for Asian Americans

November 5 - Proposed Changes to Federal Regulations for Human Research (Common Rule)

November 5 - NUIT Tech Talk: Picture This! Data Visualization Services

November 5-6 - CRC Basic Training Live

November 12 - REDCap New Project Owner Intro Session

November 16 - First Mondays Faculty Development Seminar

November 18 - REDCap Office Hours

November 19 - Faith Based Community Engaged Research Network Meeting

More events
Did you know...

NITRO Study Tracker, the clinical trial management system built by NUCATS, has an Announcements tab on the top navigation bar of the login page. Visit this page regularly to see a record of the latest system changes, policy-related updates, and other important details that may affect your utilization of NITRO Study Tracker.

Stay connected via the Announcements tab.

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 UL1TR001422.