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CTSA Clinical & Translational
Science Awards

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March 1, 2010

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EVENTS:

CTSA Committee Meetings and Activities

View the full [CTSA Committee Meetings and Activities calendar](#) on ctsaweb.org.

Webinar Series Hosted by CTSA Administration Key Function Committee

The Pilot Projects Best Practices Workgroup, part of the Administration Key Function Committee, encourages CTSA institutions with pilot funding programs to share strategies, tools, outcomes, and lessons learned. This working group is

hosting a Webinar series, featuring specific examples from several CTSA's, on topics of interest across the CTSA's.

Please save the date for the following Webinar to be conducted from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (ET):

- **March 3, 2010—Financial Concerns and Solutions Regarding Pilot Program Management**—including specific challenges and solutions from several CTSA's.

For more information, contact [Lynn Sutton](#).

2010 Clinical and Translational Research and Education Meeting

To enhance and promote the best practices in research and education of clinical and translational research, the CTSA Education and Career Development consortium has collaborated with the Association for Clinical Research Training (ACRT) and the Society for Clinical and Translational Science (SCTS) to develop a national conference for scholars and leaders in research and education. The scholars program will take place in Washington, D.C., on **April 6–7, 2010**, and the ACRT/SCTS joint meeting will be held on **April 5–7, 2010**.

For more information and to register, visit the [Association for Clinical Research Training Web site](#).

Clinical Applications of Quantum Dot and Nanoparticle Technology

The Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) at the University of Illinois at Chicago will host an all-day symposium on the Clinical Applications of Quantum Dot and Nanoparticle Technology on **April 13, 2010**. The symposium, which will feature 6 cutting-edge researchers, is aimed at translational science investigators and those interested in learning more about this emerging field. The Translational Technologies and Resources Core (TTRC) of the CCTS is hosting the event to help foster greater interaction between basic scientists and clinical researchers to achieve breakthroughs that would not be attainable by individual efforts. All are welcome but RSVP is required.

For more information, visit the [CCTS Web site](#) or to RSVP, email [Beth Woods](#).

Mayo Clinic CTSA Metabolomics Workshop

The Mayo Clinic CTSA will host a metabolomics workshop at the Mayo Clinic campus in Rochester, Minn., on **April 16, 2010**. The workshop is aimed at translational science investigators, KL2 and other K-award scholars, and research fellows interested in this emerging field.

National and international visiting faculty, as well as Mayo Clinic faculty, will speak at the workshop. In addition to learning more about metabolomics techniques and applications, attendees will have the opportunity to network with colleagues and tour Mayo's metabolomics facilities. Also outlined will be the novel analytical tools at the Mayo CTSA's Metabolomics Core.

For more information and to register, visit the [Mayo Clinic CTSA Web site](#).

Updated—Science of Team Science Conference

Northwestern University will host a [Science of Team Science Conference](#) on **April 22–24, 2010**. The discipline of Team Science promotes team-based research by working closely with investigators to examine the process by which research teams organize themselves. This includes how they think and do their work together to achieve research breakthroughs that would not be attainable by individual or additive efforts. Northwestern's Office of Research Team Support is a champion of this emerging field of study.

NEW: A workshop on social network analysis has been added on Saturday, April 24th.

For more information, please contact [Holly Falk-Krzesinski](#).

Improving Children's Health Through Community-Engaged Research Workshop

The Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR), in partnership with the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research, will sponsor "Improving Children's Health Through Community-Engaged Research," on **April 23, 2010**, at the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor, Mich. This workshop will feature prominent experts and dynamic breakout sessions designed to prepare for conducting team science. The event will also focus on developing academic and community partnerships to improve the health of children and youth—through collaborative, community-

engaged research. A pre-workshop reception is planned for the evening of **April 22**.

Other event sponsors include Community–Campus Partnerships for Health, Washtenaw County Health Department, and City Connect Detroit.

For more information, contact [Molly White](#) or [Nichole Washington](#).

NUCATS Sponsors Chicago's European Bioinformatics Institute Roadshow

Chicago's European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI) Roadshow will be held **April 26–27, 2010**, at Northwestern University. Sponsored by the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences (NUCATS) Institute, Northwestern University Biomedical Informatics Center (NUBIC), and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center Biostatistics Core, the EBI Roadshow will provide hands-on bioinformatics training for scientists through an introductory-level course directed at researchers with biological background but little or no previous knowledge of the resources to be presented. Faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students are all encouraged to attend.

For more information and to register, visit the [EBI Roadshow Chicago Web site](#).

2010 National Predoctoral Clinical Research Training Program Meeting

Washington University in St. Louis will again host the National Predoctoral Clinical Research Training Program Meeting **May 3–4, 2010**. Meeting events will take place in the Eric P. Newman Education Center and the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center at Washington University School of Medicine. The goals of this meeting are to bring together TL1 Predoctoral Program trainees from CTSA consortium institutions to share research findings and experiences, and to provide TL1 Predoctoral Program directors an opportunity to meet face-to-face and discuss common issues of program management and predoctoral student career development. Program administrators are also welcome to attend.

For more information, visit the [meeting Web site](#) or e-mail [Joe Wilson](#).

Save the Date—Community Engagement Key Function Committee Meeting

The CTSA Community Engagement Key Function Committee face-to-face meeting will be held **May 12, 2010**, at the Natcher Conference Center at NIH in Bethesda, Md.

For more information, contact [Donna Jo McCloskey](#), NCRR.

Save the Date—The Science of Community Engagement Conference

The CTSA-sponsored conference "The Science of Community Engagement" will be held **May 13–14, 2010** at the Natcher Conference Center at NIH in Bethesda, Md.

For more information, contact [Donna Jo McCloskey](#), NCRR.

Save the Date—Society for Clinical Trials Annual Meeting

The Society for Clinical Trials will hold its next annual meeting **May 16–19, 2010**, at the Baltimore Waterfront Marriott hotel. The Society is a non-profit organization, founded in 1979, that is devoted to developing and promoting high quality clinical trials as a tool for advancing public health. The membership is multi-disciplinary and includes clinical investigators, epidemiologists, statisticians, clinical research associates, IT professionals, and others interested in the practice of clinical trials. The meeting provides an excellent opportunity for CTSA trainees to present reports based on their training experiences.

[More information](#)

Save the Date—The 3rd Annual Clinical Research Management Workshop

The 3rd Annual Clinical Research Management Workshop has been scheduled for **June 21–22, 2010**, at the Natcher Conference Center at NIH. Items proposed for the Agenda include reports on CTSA Consortium-wide studies on protocol and contracts processing, lessons learned in implementation of process improvements, reports on progress on administrative supplements in support of the goals of Strategic Goal Committee #1—National Clinical and Translational

Research Capability, issues related to conversion to electronic IRB and comparisons of different systems, and use of metrics in implementation of improved processing.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CTSA e-Newsletter Pilots New CTSA Success Stories Series

Beginning this month, the CTSA e-Newsletter is piloting a new feature series—articles highlighting CTSA success stories. The articles will be connected to a particular CTSA committee's focus, but may be Consortium- or more site-specific stories. The Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design Key Function Committee (BERD KFC) will kick off the pilot this month featuring one of several success stories compiled by the BERD KFC's Evaluation Group, highlighting unique contributions BERD practitioners are making to clinical and translational science. "[BERD WATCH—BERD Tackles Trauma](#)" describes a BERD project at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H) Center for Clinical and Translational Center (CCTS). Future BERD WATCH articles will also feature stories that alternate between broad, cross-Consortium themes and themes that are more CTSA site-specific.

We invite you to send your comments and feedback regarding the pilot installment of CTSA Success Stories to help@CTSAweb.org.

Recent Media Coverage

Read CTSA institutional and consortium news and media coverage at the [CTSAs in the News page](#) on CTSAweb.org.

We want to post your CTSA institutional news items and open events in the CTSA e-Newsletter and on the CTSAweb.org [Events page](#). Please send submissions to newsletter@ctsaweb.org.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

NEW—Scientific Meetings for Creating Interdisciplinary Research Teams (R13)

This FOA encourages Research Conference Grant (R13) applications from institutions and organizations that propose to develop interdisciplinary research teams. Teams must include investigators from the social and/or behavioral sciences, and may include the life and/or physical sciences. The goal is to broaden the scope of investigation into scientific problems, yield fresh and possibly unexpected insights, and increase the sophistication of theoretical, methodological, and analytical approaches by integrating the analytical strengths of two or more disparate scientific disciplines while addressing gaps in terminology, approach, and methodology. This program will allow investigators from multiple disciplines to hold meetings in order to provide the foundation for developing interdisciplinary research projects.

[Full announcement](#)

NIH Funding Announcement, Recovery Act Limited Competition: NIH Director's Opportunity for Research in Five Thematic Areas (RC4)

A new ARRA-funded opportunity aimed at five specific thematic areas was issued Monday, December 28, 2009, supporting projects that address research endeavors in one or more of the following five thematic areas: 1) Applying Genomics and Other High Throughput Technologies; 2) Translating Basic Science Discoveries into New and Better Treatments; 3) Using Science to Enable Health Care Reform; 4) Focusing on Global Health; and 5) Reinvigorating the Biomedical Research Community. The research supported by the program should have high short-term impact, and a high likelihood of enabling growth and investment in biomedical research and development, public health, and health care delivery.

[Full announcement](#)

NIH Funding Announcement, Recovery Act Limited Competition: Institutional Comparative Effectiveness Research Mentored Career Development Award (KM1)

Through this new ARRA-funded opportunity issued Monday, January 13, 2010, NIH invites applications from research-intensive institutions to support mentored career development in support of comparative effectiveness research (CER) in an interdisciplinary environment, catering to the needs of diverse populations of scholars including (but not limited to) those

with backgrounds in biostatistics, epidemiology, health economics, pharmacology, medicine, and dentistry. Scholars should be encouraged to register for higher degrees, where appropriate. Successful applicant institutions will be expected to include course development work in their proposal and make provision for expanding the pool of experienced CER mentors.

[Full announcement](#)

NEW—Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Funding Opportunities Announcements

- NEW—[RFA-HS-10-013](#)—ARRA OS Recovery Act 2009 Limited Competition: Comparative Effectiveness Delivery System Demonstration Grants (R18)
- [RFA-HS-10-016](#)—Active Aging: Supporting Individuals and Enhancing Community-Based Care Through Health Information Technology (HIT) (P50)

FEATURES:

Michigan CTSA Investing in New Models That Advance the Science of Innovation

The University of Michigan's Institute for Clinical & Health Research (MICHHR) highlighted recent accomplishments at their annual External Advisory Board meeting in February, including a comprehensive assessment of their clinical research enterprise, collaborations with the Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC), and novel pilot programs in mental health and pediatrics. The meeting also described plans to further expand translational research at the university's new 2-million-square-foot North Campus Research Complex.

Strategic Assessment Guides Clinical Research Enterprise

The University of Michigan (U-M) recently completed a strategic assessment of its clinical research enterprise infrastructure, championed by the CTSA principle investigator and MICHHR Director, Associate Dean for Clinical & Translational Research Kenneth J. Pienta, M.D. The assessment collected data on translational research processes at U-M, such as time for contract and institutional review board approvals, time to enrollment/first visit, time to study completion, research team satisfaction, and effectiveness of information technology systems and key administrative functions. Recommendations for improvement were developed from the data and ranked based on ease of implementation. These recommendations now guide operations and allow the CTSA to serve as an innovation engine to improve the health of people in Michigan and around the world.

Clinical Research Unit Collaborates with CCC

In 2009, MICHHR's Clinical Research Unit (MCRU) provided 7,500 outpatient visits and 500 inpatient days in support of 566 investigators through 157 active protocols. MCRU is actively sharing best practices with U-M's CCC to perform phase I trials in cancer and other diseases. Other collaborative efforts between MICHHR and the CCC include:

- **Informatics:** Joint support of Velos eResearch and discussion of adopting a MICHHR-developed research visit scheduling system in the CCC.
- **Community Outreach:** Adaptation of MICHHR's [Engage](#) clinical research recruitment portal to the needs of CCC investigators.
- **Research Innovation:** Clinical trials partnerships, particularly through the use of MCRU-2-U mobile and after-hours services.
- **Promoting Translational Research:** Pilot program to support translational research and enhance clinical trials activity in high-priority disease areas.

Novel Mental Health Initiative

MICHHR's novel Mental Health Initiative seeks to better understand depression, bipolar disorder, and other psychiatric illnesses. The initiative includes a strong link with the pediatrics program, advancing the understanding of mental health issues in children and adolescents. MICHHR is positioned to lead collaborations with the new National Network of Depression Centers, composed largely of CTSA institutions, and seeks to engage the CTSA consortium in building on this initiative.

MICHHR Expands Programs with Move to New Research Campus

MICHHR will be better able to implement the recommendations from the clinical research

strategic assessment and grow its collaborations with the CCC and other units when it moves operations to U-M's new North Campus Research Complex this spring. The university purchased the 174-acre complex of 30 buildings (formerly Pfizer's global headquarters) in June 2009. MICHR's goal "to enable and enhance clinical and translational research and to make U-M a world leader in translating scientific discoveries into real health gains" made MICHR a logical choice to be among the first occupants. MICHR will soon be joined by thousands of faculty, staff and students who together will pursue groundbreaking interdisciplinary research initiatives across campus and industry partnerships.



The University of Michigan's Institute for Clinical & Health Research will soon move its operations to the new 174-acre, 30-building North Campus Research Complex.

Raising the Profile of Biostatistics/Epidemiology/Research Design (BERD)

The BERD Key Function Committee (KFC) has been active in promoting awareness about BERD issues and ensuring that BERD experts are engaged in all aspects of the CTSA program. For example, BERD KFC Vice-Chair David DeMets, Ph.D., met with NCCR leadership, including NCCR Director Barbara Alving, M.D., who agreed that strengths in biostatistics and research design are of critical value to CTSA renewal applications, and NCCR issued an NIH Guide Notice to this effect. Dr. DeMets strongly encourages those with BERD expertise to volunteer as reviewers for the renewal application process.

The BERD Evaluation Group is finalizing an article describing its evaluation guidelines, "Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design: Defining Metrics for Evaluation at Academic Health Centers," which is slated for publication in *Statistics in Medicine*. In addition, the Evaluation Group is planning a survey of BERD KFC members to assess how the evaluation metrics are being implemented and to identify best statistical practices. This group will also assess different computerized systems to track BERD activities. Also, several BERD members are actively involved in further development of ctspedia.org as a research methods resource.

The Evaluation Group has compiled a series of BERD success stories that highlight the unique contributions of BERD practitioners to clinical and translational science. Starting with the current issue, the CTSA e-newsletter will feature a BERD success story every month, alternating stories that have broad cross-consortium themes with those that are more CTSA site-specific. Along the same lines, the Online Resources and Education Group just completed a report on the feasibility of developing an online CTSA-BERD journal.

The BERD KFC is planning a face-to-face meeting April 8–9, 2010, in conjunction with the Association for Clinical Research Training/Society for Clinical and Translational Science Joint Annual Meeting. Among the topics on the agenda is the growing problem with reproducibility in research that depends on high-throughput technologies and complex data mining.

The BERD KFC recently established the Good Statistical and Epidemiologic Practices and Reproducible Research Group to address issues related to reproducibility. It is charged with developing resources that maximize the use of powerful and accurate statistical and epidemiologic methods in everyday clinical and translational research and in community-based research. This group also seeks to spread the word about new computing, analytic, and reporting technologies that can enhance reproducibility by documenting exactly how research findings were obtained.

Finally, the BERD KFC created the Impact, Visibility, and Leadership Group to enhance the impact and visibility of biostatistics and epidemiology and to develop the next wave of senior national leaders in biostatistics and epidemiology devoted to clinical and translational research. Specifically, this group will develop recruitment and retention strategies to overcome the shortage of qualified BERD professionals in academic health centers.

ARTICLES:

BERD WATCH—BERD Tackles Trauma

The Biostatistics/Epidemiology/Research Design (BERD) component of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H)'s Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS) was awarded \$9.2 million from the Department of Defense to coordinate a nationwide, multicenter study on treating patients with traumatic injuries—the largest study of its kind on record.

Traumatic injury is the leading cause of death in Americans under the age of 44. Rapid treatment is essential to survival but has not been scientifically analyzed in a large, controlled study, in part because the pace of emergency treatment hinders data collection. As a result, trauma care is largely based on individual clinicians' subjective judgments and has not been standardized.

The PRospective, Observational, Multicenter Massive Transfusion sTudy (PROMMTT) will collect detailed, minute-by-minute information on the timing and delivery of lifesaving interventions among trauma patients, such as the transfusion of blood components (e.g., red blood cells, plasma, and platelets). UTHSC-H BERD Director M. H. Rahbar, Ph.D., is the principal investigator of the PROMMTT Data Coordinating Center, and Deborah del Junco, Ph.D., chair of the CTSA-BERD KFC Evaluation Group, is a co-investigator. Working with the CCTS Informatics Component, the CCTS BERD designed touch-screen tablets that allow real-time data collection by emergency department personnel without compromising patient care. Data analysis will reveal the best and most efficient treatments for trauma victims.

PROMMTT is a network of 10 trauma centers across the country: eight within currently CTSA-funded medical centers, one with a CTSA planning grant, and one military hospital in San Antonio, Texas. PROMMTT's clinical director is retired Col. John Holcomb, M.D., former commander of the U.S. Army's Institute of Surgical Research in San Antonio and current director of the UTHSC-H Center for Translational Injury Research (CeTIR), established by the State of Texas Emerging Technology Fund, Memorial Hermann Hospital, and UTHSC-H. Drawing on an efficient, transdisciplinary infrastructure linking the CCTS, CeTIR, and the national CTSA consortium, BERD activated the PROMMTT protocol in record time with full approval from the institutional review boards at each site. PROMMTT will assess the treatment and outcomes of 1,200 trauma patients. The results will be immediately applicable to both armed forces personnel and civilians. This research partnership between the Department of Defense and NIH-funded CTSA's will help rapidly disseminate information to improve trauma care and the quality of injured patients' lives.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Updated Information on CTSAweb.org

The **CTSAweb.org** home page, in keeping with the Web site's role of ensuring access to CTSA resources, enhancing communication, and encouraging sharing, features:

- Streamlined navigation menus organized around specific audience needs
- New [Resources for Researchers](#) page

The CTSA Web systems help desk e-mail is help@CTSAweb.org. Please contact the help desk if you have questions regarding the CTSA systems, including CTSA Wiki and password questions.

Read archived CTSA e-Newsletters on the [CTSAs in the News](#) page.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any questions or comments, or to unsubscribe, please contact newsletter@ctsaweb.org.