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**CTSA** Clinical & Translational  
Science Awards

Translating Discoveries to Medical Practice

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September 8, 2010

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## EVENTS:

### The 2nd Conference on Clinical Research for Rare Diseases (CCRRD)

The Clinical & Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Rare Disease Workgroup and the Rare Disease Clinical Research Network (RDCRN) present The 2nd Conference on Clinical Research for Rare Diseases (CCRRD) on Tuesday, September 21 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Bethesda, Md. This unique conference will focus on methodology for conducting clinical research in rare diseases and should be of particular interest to new investigators, trainees, junior faculty and others interested in research in rare diseases. Topics will include study design and biostatistics relevant to small sample sizes, recruitment strategies for rare diseases, utilizing the resources of the CTSA program, regulatory pathways for developing orphan products, working with stakeholders including patient advocacy groups, industry, academia, and government, and career development in rare diseases research.

For more information about the conference, including details about the program, applying for travel awards, and conference logistics and registration, visit the [conference website](#).

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### **UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) Hosts CTSA Social Network Analysis Workshop**

The UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual CTSA Social Network Analysis Workshop to be held in Sacramento, Calif. on **September 23-24**, with an optional pre-workshop session on the evening of **September 22**.

The workshop is for participants from CTSA institutions who are interested in learning some of the tools and techniques of social network analysis for promoting and evaluating CTSA research, especially in community-engaged settings. The theme of the workshop is "Social Network Analysis and CTSA Community Engaged Research" and will include both instruction and CTSA-relevant research presentations.

There is no fee for the workshop, and meals will be provided during workshop hours; however, registration is required. Space is limited, and priority is given to participants from CTSA institutions.

[Register early](#) and no later than September 9, 2010.

For registration and hotel information, contact [Miyishia Slay](#), UC Davis.

For more information about the workshop, contact [Julie Rainwater](#), UC Davis.

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### **NEW — First International Conference on Translational Medicine**

The First International Conference on Translational Medicine (The 13th Frank and Bobbie Fenner Conference), bringing together leaders of different types of national initiatives on translational science, will be held at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University on **November 1-4, 2010** in Canberra, Australia. Key program leaders from the United States, including leadership from NIH, CTSA, FDA, the British Isles, China, Singapore and Australia will compare and contrast different approaches to foster translational medicine across the globe.

Innovative panels and discussions will include:

- Where Should the Money Go? To Fundamental Discovery or Translation?
- How to create academic structures and partnerships that integrate fundamental discovery, translational medicine, health care and global health
- Developing a Global Translational Research Workforce
- Translational approaches to disease of global impact such as obesity, malaria, traumatic brain image, autoimmunity and breast cancer

Outcomes of the conference will include guidelines for international strategies to facilitate the pathways from fundamental discovery through translational science that is aimed at improving global health.

Poster submissions, particularly by young investigators, are encouraged.

For more information including registration and the full program, visit the [meeting website](#).

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### **Save the Date — Evaluation Key Function Face-to-Face Meeting**

The CTSA Evaluation Key Function Committee face-to-face meeting will be held **December 7-8, 2010**, at the Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel and Executive Meeting Center in Rockville, Md.

For more information, contact [Lori Mulligan](#), NCRR, or [Meryl Sufian](#), NCRR.

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### **CTSA Committee Meetings and Activities**

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

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## **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **NC TraCS Names New Director**

Marschall Runge, M.D., Ph.D., has been named director and principal investigator of the North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences (NC TraCS) Institute. NC TraCS is the academic home of the UNC CTSA. He replaces Etta Pisano, M.D., who served as director and PI for NC TraCS until her recent departure to become dean of the Medical University of South Carolina's College of Medicine.

Dr. Runge is executive dean for the School of Medicine and chairman of the Department of Medicine in the School of Medicine, a post he has held since coming to UNC in 2000. His new role caps a career during which Dr. Runge has edited six major medical textbooks, including *Netter's Cardiology*, published over 180 peer-reviewed articles and given 250 invited presentations nationally and internationally as a leader in cardiovascular disease.



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### **New Tutorial Available for Submitting Publications to CTSA Consortium Publications Committee**

A new tutorial demonstrating how to submit a group publication for CTSA Consortium Review is now available on the wiki [CTSA Consortium Publication and Review](#) page.

The [Publications & Review Submission Process Tutorial](#) offers step-by-step assistance for submitting group publications for review by the CTSA Consortium Publications Committee. The committee ensures that all CTSA Consortium publications reflect the values and priorities of the CTSA Consortium. Submission of group publications to the CTSA Consortium Publications Committee is necessary for endorsement of publications by the CTSA Steering Committee. The [CTSA Publications SOP](#) also can be found at the wiki.

For questions about the CTSA Consortium Publications review process, contact [Jody Sachs](#).

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### **NIH Clinical Center Bench-to-Bedside Awards — New Cycle Announced**

The NIH Bench-to-Bedside program, originally established in 1999 to integrate the work of basic and clinical intramural scientists and since 2006 open to partnerships between intramural and extramural programs, is soliciting proposals for the next cycle of funding. Once again, CTSA, Alliance for Independent Academic Medical Centers (AIAMC), and NIH investigators will be able to initiate applications jointly for Bench-to-Bedside research projects. Up to \$135K per year for two years is available to support these intramural/extramural partnerships in clinical research. Most awardees involve projects bringing patients to the intramural program at the NIH Clinical Center.

Intramural investigators in all NIH institutes and centers are eligible to serve as project leaders on proposals. Extramural principal investigators (PIs) with an existing NIH grant (e.g., researchers at CTSA or AIAMC sites) are invited to initiate proposals by seeking an intramural partner at NIH who would function as the project leader and serve as the point of contact. To identify an intramural collaborator, extramural investigators can consult the [NIH database of all current intramural research](#).

A letter of intent must be submitted by September 22, 2010.

Additional information is available on the [Bench-to-Bedside Program](#) website or by email at [BenchtoBedside@mail.nih.gov](mailto:BenchtoBedside@mail.nih.gov).

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### **Correction to August CTSA e-Newsletter Clinical Research Management KFC Feature Article**

An article in last month's CTSA e-newsletter, [Annual Clinical Research Management Workshop Provides Early Data on Process Improvement](#) misstated the average time to execute a contract. Thirty-eight days is the average time to negotiate, not execute, a contract.

The article also misstated a study publication date. The results of the second study will be published in 2011.

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### **Veterans Health Administration (VA) and CTSA Opportunities for Collaborative Clinical and Translational Science:**

## **Enhancing Clinical Phenotyping Meeting**

On **September 28, 2010**, the Veterans Health Administration (VA) and the CTSA program will sponsor an [Opportunities for Collaborative Clinical and Translational Science: Enhancing Clinical Phenotyping Meeting](#) at the Natcher Conference Center at the NIH Main Campus in Bethesda, Md.

The meeting will focus on opportunities for enhanced collaboration among Department of Veterans Affairs and NIH's CTSA consortium. Topics will include electronic health records, genomic and observational research, Central Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), comparative effectiveness research (CER), and the synergies with training environment these provide.

A common goal of translational science is better understanding of disease susceptibilities and mechanisms. Evolving approaches utilize electronic health records, biorepositories and genotyping will create new opportunities for clinical phenotyping. Meeting presentations will describe resources such as a Central IRBs, informatics and a clinical research pharmacy that the VA has to support data-intensive studies.

The meeting will be [VideoCast](#) from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., EDT.

Poster presentations are requested. Please submit poster abstracts by September 14, 2010. (Please contact [Jody Sachs](#) if you are interested in presenting a poster at the meeting.)

[Registration](#) deadline is Friday, September 17, 2010.

For more information, contact [Jody Sachs](#), NCCR, [Anthony Hayward](#), NCCR, or [Alexander Ommaya](#), VA.

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## **NCCR to Host Web Demonstrations for the CTSA Wiki and CTSAweb.org**

NCCR is offering two online demonstrations\* of the CTSA web systems, CTSAweb.org and CTSA Wiki. Learn where key information is, how to navigate the sites, and basic editing in the Wiki.

- **Tuesday, September 14, 2010**, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. ET  
<https://webmeeting.nih.gov/demo09142010/>
- **Thursday, September 23, 2010**, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET  
<https://webmeeting.nih.gov/demo09232010/>

\*Due to system limitations, when possible please plan to participate with others from a common room or location at your institution.

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## **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](mailto:newsletter@CTSAweb.org).*

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## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **NEW — Funding Opportunities 2011 NIH Director's Award Programs: Transformative Research Projects, Pioneer, and New Innovator Awards (T-R01)**

#### *NIH Director's Transformative Research Projects Award Program*

Announcing funding for Transformative Research Projects (T-R01) Award Program for:

- Exceptionally innovative, high risk, original and/or unconventional research
- Clinical, basic, and/or behavioral/social science research projects
- Up to \$25 million total costs per year for a single project
- One-third of total funding budget geared to projects with more than \$1 million in direct costs

The deadline for submitting Transformative Research Project applications is October 27, 2010 with Letters of Intent due by September 27, 2010.

View [RFA-RM-10-010](#).

Additional information and frequently asked questions are posted on the [Transformative R01 Program](#) page.

Submit questions to [T\\_R01@mail.nih.gov](mailto:T_R01@mail.nih.gov).

#### *NIH Director's Pioneer and New Innovator Awards Program*

NIH welcomes proposals for 2011 NIH Director's Pioneer Awards and New Innovator Awards for innovative approaches to major challenges in biomedical or behavioral research.

- Pioneer Awards:
  - Up to \$2.5 million in direct costs over five years
  - Open to scientists at any career stage

Pioneer Award application deadline is September 13, 2010.

View [RFA-RM-10-008](#).

For additional information, visit the [NIH Director's Pioneer Award](#) page.

Submit questions to [pioneer@nih.gov](mailto:pioneer@nih.gov).

- New Innovator Awards:
  - Up to \$1.5 million in direct costs over five years
  - For early stage investigators (ESI), defined as those who have not received an NIH R01 or similar grant and are within 10 years of completing their terminal research degree or medical residency.

New Innovator Award application deadline is September 20, 2010.

View [RFA-RM-10-009](#).

For additional information, visit the [NIH Director's New Innovator Award](#) page.

Submit questions to [newinnovator@nih.gov](mailto:newinnovator@nih.gov).

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#### **NEW — Economics of Prevention (R21)**

This FOA solicits R21 applications for research to conduct economic analyses of prevention and health. Applications must be responsive to one of four topic areas that target research that addresses costs of health care, benefits to the health care system and other sectors of the economy and cost-effectiveness all within the context of prevention and health. [View the announcement](#).

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#### **Scientific Meetings for Creating Interdisciplinary Research Teams (R13)**

This funding opportunity announcement ([PA-10-106](#)) 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 to provide the foundation for developing interdisciplinary research projects. [View the announcement](#).

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### **FEATURES:**

#### **Stanford's Spectrum Reaches Across the University, State and Globe**

Spectrum — Stanford University's CTSA organization — promotes the translation of scientific discoveries into practical solutions that improve human health and well-being by supporting the work and training of investigators and scholars at the Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford Hospital & Clinics, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, the Veterans

Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System and across the university. Several examples of transformative services and programs provided through Spectrum are outlined below.

#### *Teaching Innovation in Medical Technology*

Stanford's Biodesign Program trains the future inventors of medical technology. Each year, a select multidisciplinary group of graduate students learns how to create medical devices that will improve patient care, and Spectrum sponsors two fellowships for the program. Thus far, 35,000 patients have been treated by devices created through the program, such as a device that helps physicians detect and treat irregular heart rhythms. In addition, fellows have more than 200 patent applications or approvals among them. Stanford has partnered with the governments of India and Singapore to take the Biodesign Program global. Other universities, such as Northwestern University, have modeled programs on Stanford's Biodesign Program.

#### *Providing Insight into Immune Response*

Through the Human Immune Monitoring Core, researchers subject blood and other tissue samples to state-of-the-art assays that provide a wealth of information about the ability of cells to respond to different types of stimuli. For instance, researchers are using a novel high-throughput mass cytometer to identify more than 30 cell markers on individual lymphocytes, which may help them understand why older people respond differently to the seasonal influenza vaccine than younger people do. Cancer researchers are monitoring the effects of immunotherapies, which are becoming important alternatives to conventional forms of treatment. Spectrum helps fund the facility, which is a core resource for expanding the application of information derived from clinical and translational research.

#### *Facilitating Statewide Data Collection*

Spectrum is improving the care and outcomes for the state's pregnant mothers and newborns through the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative, a robust neonatal outcomes database populated by a consortium of 128 California hospitals with neonatal intensive care units (NICUs). Two Spectrum investigators established and manage the program on behalf of the state, which has more than 550,000 births each year. The collaborative's dataset links information about the clinical care and outcomes of 95 percent of the newborns discharged from the NICUs, including follow up data through age 3. These data are critical for research supported by Spectrum, including the first genome-wide association study of bronchopulmonary dysplasia-A, a disorder affecting very-low-birthweight infants.

#### *Training New Investigators in Clinical Research Practices*

Despite the scientific and medical training that future clinical researchers receive, they often are not well-versed in the specifics of running a successful clinical trial. To address this shortcoming, Spectrum offers an intensive course in clinical research—a one-week "immersion" program for new investigators at the junior faculty, fellow or senior resident level. Already, 134 investigators have completed the course, and 80 percent of them have subsequently received funding to support their clinical research.

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### **Evaluation KFC Focuses on Measuring Impact**

Throughout the past year, members of the CTSA Evaluation Key Function have been working to enhance the work of the committee to promote local and national evaluations. As part of this effort, the committee has formed a new interest group on Bibliometrics and a National Evaluation Liaison Group. The Evaluation Key Function Committee is also pleased to introduce a new PI Liaison, Dr. Steven Reis. Dr. Reis serves as the Associate Vice Chancellor and Director of Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Reis will be a valuable addition to the work of this Committee.

#### *New Evaluation Groups Established*

The Bibliometrics Interest Group will determine what metrics individual CTSA institutions use in evaluation reporting and how bibliometrics are used across different fields. The group will also consider how to conduct bibliometric analysis beyond medical research efforts.

The National Evaluation Liaison Group will provide the perspective of CTSA institutions on the national CTSA evaluation effort. This group may coordinate data collection across sites and assist with recruitment of subjects for interviews, field visits and surveys. It will also consider how the local evaluations interface with the national evaluation as well as other issues related to the evaluation as they emerge.

#### *Using Social Network Analysis (SNA) to Evaluate CTSA Impact*

Since SNA can visually depict the perceived strength of relationships among individual groups, it can identify strong and weak connections among them and demonstrate changes over time in relationships. The Evaluation KFC's SNA Group will host the Community Engagement and Social Networking Analysis Workshop on September 23–24, 2010, at the University of California, Davis, to provide education about the basic concepts, tools and techniques of SNA and how they relate to the evaluation of CTSA's and their impact on community research networks. Register by September 9 by visiting the [registration website](#).

#### *Face-to-Face Meeting Set for December*

The Evaluation KFC will meet in person on December 7–8, 2010, in Rockville, Md. The annual face-to-face meeting is an opportunity for members to share evaluation progress, challenges and best practices at both the institutional and consortium level. The event will feature:

- New member breakfast orientation
- Overview of recent CTSA consortium activities
- Keynote address: Academic Marketing
- CTSA National Evaluation update
- American Evaluation Association (AEA) panel
- Breakout sessions: evaluation and education, evaluation and informatics, bibliometrics and publications, social network analysis
- CTSA competitive renewal process session
- Poster session and networking

Also at the meeting, committee members will review work products and activities emerging from the Evaluation KFC's interest groups.

## ARTICLES:

### **BERD Watch — Dual Mentoring Program at UC Davis Builds Bridges Across Disciplines**

Every researcher has stories about statisticians who just can't seem to explain their results clearly, and every statistician has stories about researchers who can't seem to formulate a clear question or don't know enough about statistics to understand the answer. At the University of California (UC), Davis, the focus on Biostatistics/Epidemiology/Research Design (BERD) has resulted in a dual mentoring program that brings researchers and statisticians together early in their academic careers.

The dual mentoring program links the UC Davis CTSA education program with the Masters in Clinical Research program and a number of pre- and postdoctoral training grants. A clinical/translational research trainee is matched with a statistics or biostatistics student. With guidance from a team of two mentors, one from each trainee's discipline, the trainees work together on a project and write a paper. Each receives some training in the other's discipline, and each helps the other understand his or her perspective as they work together. The mentors meet with the trainees together and separately to monitor their progress, offer advice and help break down communication barriers.

The UC Davis mentoring model has begun a sea change in the way graduate and postgraduate education is conducted at UC Davis. UC Davis statistics and biostatistics trainees have gone on to work in medical research units across the country, including several at other CTSA sites. For example, one biostatistics doctoral student turned her mini-internship in Alzheimer's research and close work with a junior faculty member in neurology into a dissertation and subsequently took a job in aging-related research at Johns Hopkins University. In another case, a statistics undergraduate trainee and a family medicine resident won the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine's award for outstanding research by a trainee for their presentation on barriers to breastfeeding among female medical residents.

In a recent survey about the dual mentoring program, a trainee said, "Meeting regularly with several mentors from different disciplines has given me a longitudinal perspective on what senior investigators do to develop research ideas and follow through during various stages of grant writing, study conduct and paper writing/submission, serving as role models and providing inspiration for my work and career development."

The dual mentoring program not only provides interdisciplinary training for scientists, but also creates new partnerships between the program's mentors. For example, faculty members have initiated new collaborations as they become aware, through mentoring, of new approaches in other scientific disciplines and areas of common interest between their fields. If the program continues to succeed, the next generation of statisticians and researchers will be telling stories about how

rewarding it is to collaborate with their colleagues who really understand interdisciplinary research.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION:

### Updated Information on CTSAweb.org

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

- New CTSA [Collaboration Opportunities](#) page listing CTSA collaboration opportunities
- Newly updated sections on the [Resources for Researchers](#) page enable targeted searches
- Updated CTSA [Governance Document](#) available at [CTSAweb.org](#) "For the Consortium" menu on the left

The CTSA Web systems help desk e-mail is [help@CTSAweb.org](mailto: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](#).***

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We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any questions or comments, or to unsubscribe, please contact [newsletter@CTSAweb.org](mailto:newsletter@CTSAweb.org).