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Matthew J. Cook

University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Dentistry, cook@uchc.edu

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IN TRANSLATION

Volume 1 Issue 2

Momentum Continues: Newly Formed CICATS IRB

The newly established CICATS Institutional Review Board (IRB), chaired by Julian Ford, PhD, is officially operational. Applications are currently being accepted for review of CICATS research studies and trials. The first convened meeting was held on November 18, 2010.

The CICATS IRB is unique because its members are representatives from the various CICATS partnering institutions throughout the region, making it a true collaboration. CICATS IRB members specialize in an extensive array of disciplines including psychology, endocrinology, public health, law, physiology, research administration, cardiology, pathology and pediatrics. This depth of experience allows for comprehensive review of each study in a variety of contexts. Also, reliance agreements have been established for the partner institutions to rely on the review of the CICATS IRB. This will allow for collaborative research amongst CICATS Institutions with a single IRB application process.

The IRB meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. Full board applications must be submitted to the Gateway by the first Thursday of the month for screening, review by the IRB members, photocopying and inclusion into that month's meeting. There is no specific deadline for submission of expedited or exempt reviews. Principal Investigators and staff are encouraged to contact the CICATS Regulatory Analyst during the early stages of ap-

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Research Navigation

There are two new members of CICATS available to you in your research investigator corner — the Regulatory Analyst and the Investigator Advocate. Each helps researchers navigate in different ways.



(L-R) Jessica Carlson, M.S. and Rebecca Crowell, Ph.D.

Jessica Carlson, MS is the newest member of the CICATS team. She has been appointed as the Regulatory Analyst for the Regulatory Core. In this role, she will work collaboratively with Principal Investigators, the Investigator Advocate, and the CICATS IRB. She will play an integral role in providing support to PI's in navigating all aspects of regulatory compliance. Ms. Carlson is available to answer any inquiries regarding CICATS Regulatory requirements. She can be reached at (860) 679-2557 or via email to jcarlson@uchc.edu.

Rebecca Crowell, PhD is the CICATS Investigator Advocate. Dr. Crowell will help researchers navigate CICATS resources and services, and consult with investigators who are seeking assistance from

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The Gateway

Stacey Anderson, Operations Manager

The Gateway serves as the primary point of contact for researchers seeking assistance, referral, services and resources. This “nerve center” promotes collaborative clinical and translational research through outreach, education and program development.

As a convenience to researchers, Gateway Offices located in the Dowling South Building on the University of Connecticut Health Center campus house faculty and staff from the CICATS Biomedical Informatics and Biostatistics Centers. An Investigator Advocate is available to assist investigators seeking CICATS resources or planning collaborative research projects. In addition, the CICATS Regulatory Analyst maintains an office in the Gateway to provide consulting services pertaining to regulatory issues regarding clinical and translational research, and applications to the CICATS IRB.

The Gateway is currently developing programs and tools that will facilitate new clinical and translational research in the region.

CICATS OPEN HOUSE

December 16, 2010 — 1:30-3:30 PM

The research community is invited to attend the first of several Open House “meet and greet” events. The first open house is on December 16, 2010. The event will be held at the CICATS Gateway Office in the Dowling South Medical Office Building on the campus of the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington.

Please drop by between 1:30 pm—3:30 pm to meet the new Regulatory Analyst, Jessica Carlson, and learn about the regional CICATS IRB. Dr. Audrey Chapman will also be on hand to discuss Clinical Research Ethics.

Light refreshments will be served. For more information about the open house or the Gateway, please contact Ms. Susan Philo in the Gateway offices at 860-679-7039.

Core Interest Groups

Core Interest Groups (CIGs) are composed of new and existing investigators spanning multiple disciplines. CIGs jumpstart the use of infrastructure and pilot new resources within CICATS. CIGs are organized around particular diseases, systems, or health topics, and methodological or technological domains, with relevance to the mission of the larger CICATS initiative. CIGs can span basic science, clinical research, and community engagement. The formation of CIGs will allow researchers, practitioners, state agencies, community groups, and service organizations to work collaboratively with CICATS to advance science and practice in a particular scientific, medical or methodological area.

Community Engagement

Multidisciplinary Obesity Research: Amy Gorin, PhD. Assistant Professor of Psychology

Occupation Health Research: Martin Cherniak, PhD. Professor. Occupational Medicine.

Community Research in Geriatrics & Gerontology Richard Fortinsky. PhD. PHS Chair in Geriatrics & Gerontology and Professor, Center on Aging.

Community-based Brief Interventions: Jean Schensul, PhD. Senior Scientist, Institute for Community Research (ICR).

Basic Science

Osteoporosis Research and Fracture Repair: Jay R. Lieberman, MD. New England Musculoskeletal Institute.

Implant and Reconstructive Dentistry: Martin Freilich, DDS and David Shafer, DMD.

Biomedical Engineering: Cato Laurencin, MD, and Jon Goldberg, PhD.

Innovative Translational Technologies: Jay Lieberman, MD. Director of the New England Musculoskeletal Institute.

Clinical Research Training: K30 Curriculum Development Award

**Anne Kenny, M.D. Associate Program Director,
Clinical Research Center**



There has been a crisis in the manpower of clinical investigators noted for the last two decades. In 1999, both the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Commonwealth Fund published recommendations calling for improvements in the status of clinical investigation, especially in education and training. The National

Institute of Health responded to concerns by developing the Clinical Research Training Curriculum Development Award (K30) and the number of successful, active clinical investigators has increased.

The University of Connecticut Health Center was successful in obtaining a curriculum development award (K30), effective September 13, 2010, under the direction of the Principal Investigator, Anne Kenny, MD. The resources will be used to strengthen the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research program (MSCTR). The MSCTR, accredited by the Connecticut State Board of Higher Education in 2008, is an interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates faculty and resources across campuses and was developed in response to the need for training a cadre of clinical and translational investigators. The overall goals of the MSCTR are to provide interdisciplinary research training in approaches to the conceptualization, design, and performance of clinical and translational research by educating up to six clinical sci-

entists per year as scholars, researchers, educators, leaders, and administrators in the field of clinical and translational research. The K30 award will allow refining and expanding the core curriculum of the MSCTR under the direction of the Executive and Advisory Committee for the program.

The primary objective of the K30 award is to develop two new graduate courses in translational research to add to the core curriculum currently available. The courses to be developed are tentatively titled "Basic Science Methods for the Clinical Investigator" and "Health Outcome Methods for the Clinical Investigator." These courses will be developed by a committee of content experts chaired by Dr. Betty Eipper for the basic science course and Dr. Richard Fortinsky for the health outcomes course.

Further, the award will allow for further refinement and graduate-level accreditation of a course, Introduction to Clinical Research. This course is currently taught by Dr. Anne Kenny in the fall semester. The course is geared to early investigators that required an overview of clinical research.

A final aim of the K30 award is to develop and implement curricula to train mentors in skills necessary to advise clinical and translational investigators and to extend the training in mentorship to the students.

All aspects of the curriculum development will be evaluated and tracked. The evaluation of the program will be conducted by Dr. Thomas VanHoof.

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CICATS to develop translational research projects, form multidisciplinary research teams, or identify potential collaborators. She is currently working with other faculty and staff to develop and implement programs and policies that will benefit investigators and promote translational research within the CICATS community. Reach her at (860) 679-2897 or via email to crowell@uchc.edu.

Basic Science Research in Cardiac Disease: Dr. Bruce T. Liang, MD, FACC. Director, Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center

Clinical and Translational Research in Cardiovascular Diseases: Dr. Bruce T. Liang, MD, FACC. Director, Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center.

Personalized Immunotherapy: Dr. Pramod Srivastava, professor and chair of the Department of Immunology. Ion Mandoiu, associate professor of computer science from the School of Engineering, Storrs Campus.

CIGs approved in 2010

Women's Cancer Consortium: Kevin Claffey, PhD, University of Connecticut Health Center.

The Correctional Health Research: Deborah Shelton, PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN, University of Connecticut, School of Nursing.

Sickle Cell Disease: William T. Zempsky, MD.

Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases: Louise McCullough, MD, PhD. The Translational Stroke Program is fully integrated between UCHC and Hartford Hospital.

Injury Prevention: Brendan Campbell, MD, MPH. Children's Medical Center.

Clinical and Translational Research in Geriatrics and Gerontology: George Kuchel, MD, Citi-corp Chair in Geriatrics & Gerontology.

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plying for CICATS IRB approval in order to receive direction and guidance on expeditiously navigating the IRB processes. Additional information including application deadlines, forms and instructions can be found on the CICATS website at <http://cicats.uconn.edu/services/irb.html> or by contacting the CICATS Gateway at 860-679-6213.



KNOW BETTER CARE

Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS)
University of Connecticut Health Center
Dowling South, Suite 1007
263 Farmington Avenue, MC 6233
Farmington, CT 06030-6233
<http://cicats.uconn.edu>

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