

Summer 8-2011

In Translation v.2:no.1 (2011:Summer)

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Recommended Citation

Cook, Matthew J., "In Translation v.2:no.1 (2011:Summer)" (2011). *UCHC Articles - Research*. 61.
https://opencommons.uconn.edu/uchcres_articles/61

IN TRANSLATION

Volume 2 Issue 1

Community Health Center, Inc. Joins as CICATS Partner

On June 28, the CICATS Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) voted unanimously to have Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC), a private, non-profit, federally qualified health center join CICATS as a partner institution. CHC becomes the eleventh institution to join CICATS. Daren Anderson, MD, Vice President and Chief Quality Officer also joins the SAB as their representative.

CHC provides comprehensive primary healthcare, dental care, and social services to residents throughout the state. From its origin in 1972 as a volunteer storefront clinic in Middletown, CHC has grown into a statewide care network offering services in over 173 locations including homeless shelters, schools, and clinics.

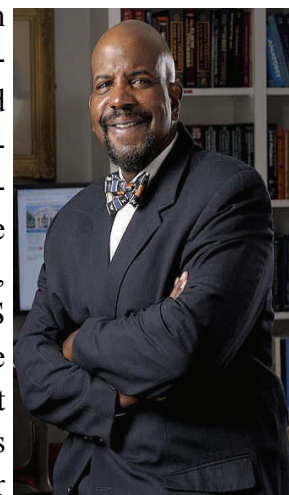
CHC's main primary care sites are located in Middletown, Old Saybrook (dental only), Meriden, New London, Groton, New Britain, Clinton, Stamford, Enfield, Danbury, Bristol, and Waterbury. In addition to the core competencies of medical, dental and mental health services, CHC has pioneered a wide range of supportive services such as intensive case management, a homeroom after school program, extensive prenatal education and lactation support services and family violence prevention and education, including a shelter for battered women. CHC is now the largest provider of primary health care services to the underserved in Connecticut with over 400,000 visits annually.

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CICATS Pilot Funds Awarded

Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD, Chief Executive Officer

The CICATS Pilot program provides pilot funds to support cutting-edge clinical and translational research. Investigators with a rank of Assistant Professor or higher at the UConn Health Center, UConn-Storrs or CICATS partnering institutions were eligible to apply. A request for pilot grant applications was announced on November 1, 2010. In response to this solicitation, nearly 70 letters



Dr. Laurencin

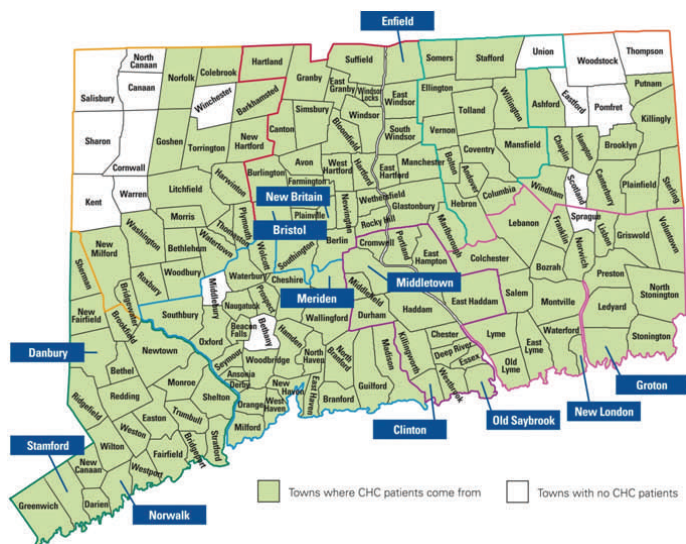
of intent were received and 37 investigators were invited to submit a full proposal. The full applications were reviewed on March 16, 2011 by a distinguished panel of clinical and basic researchers chaired by Dr. Victor Hesselbrock.

The six awardees who share \$250,000 in support that began on July 1 include:

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Community Health Center Inc. office locations and residences of patients by town

The organization is recognized throughout the state for its commitment to clinical excellence, comprehensiveness of scope and management infrastructure. CHC is accredited by the Joint Commission and has been recognized as a level III Patient Centered Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Occupational-Environmental Medicine Centers and CICATS

Martin G. Cherniack, MD, MPH, CIG Leader

There are two occupational and environmental medicine centers that are currently working with CICATS: the **Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW)** and the **Ergonomics Technology Center (ETC)**. CPH-New is one of three national Working Life Centers of Research Excellence, funded by the National In-



Dr. Cherniack

stitute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The Center was developed by investigators from three major New England public institutions, the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC), the University of Connecticut (UConn-Storrs), and the University of Massachusetts-Lowell (UML). It is focused on the integration of disease prevention and exposure reduction at the workplace with health promotion at the group and individual level. Because the *Working Life* concept includes work and family relations, considerations, issues of health and productivity, and the impacts of job loss and unemployment on health, it depends on both biomedical and social sciences. CPH-NEW directly manages four center grant R01s, and provides some limited funded staff and support for several additional studies funded from other extramural sources. In addition to the core intervention studies, there are federally funded projects on stress and cardio-vascular disease, obesity interventions in the working age population, and translational research involving companies and public institutions in both Connecticut and Massachusetts.

The Ergonomics Technology Center has two laboratories engaged in translational work. The Acoustics Laboratory, directed by Dr. Anthony Brammer, was constructed with NASA funding (NAG-1544), and is located on the UCHC campus. It features an anechoic chamber, reverberation room and two well-equipped supporting laboratories. There are shared projects with the Department of Communication Sciences at Storrs and the Department of Neuroscience in Farmington. Current work on hearing device development and speech communications is directed at converting laboratory investigations into real world devices. The Biodynamics Laboratory is directed by Dr. Donald Peterson, who is also Director of the Graduate and Undergraduate programs in Biomedical Engineering at UConn. It is one of a handful of international laboratories

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Summer Partnership Activities

Cheryl Steciak, CICATS Gateway

June was a busy month for CICATS with two events spotlighting the clinical and translational science taking place at a few of the CICATS partner institutions.

On June 2, 2011, a daylong research symposium entitled "Sickle Cell Disease: Translating Science into Action" was held at the UConn Health Center. The event sponsored by CICATS was organized by the sickle cell core interest group (CIG) which includes members from the UConn Health Center, UConn-Storrs, Connecticut Children's Medical Center and other CICATS partner institutions. The symposium featured eight speakers from UConn, Connecticut Children's and Yale University including CICATS members Drs. Biree Andemariam, William Zempsky, Robin Leger and George Lykotrafitis. The event brought attention to this painful genetic blood disorder that afflicts tens of thousands of people in the United States, most of them African American. It also highlighted the interdisciplinary Sickle Cell CIG which is working toward a common goal of translating scientific discoveries in sickle cell disease into rational, effective and novel ways of treating the illness.

On June 16, CICATS was invited to participate in the Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Research Day in Hartford, CT. The early evening event featured brief presentations about the Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center research activities and included presentations by CICATS members Drs. Richard ZuWallack and David Shapiro. A wine and cheese poster session followed with a chance to speak with researchers about their work and an opportunity to visit resource tables. Forty one posters highlighting the research of more than 100 individuals were on display. Among the resource tables was a booth

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Dr. *Michael Blechner*, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, School of Medicine, "Leveraging a Health Information Exchange (HIE) Infrastructure to Build a Clinical Research Data Warehouse."

Dr. *Jessica Clement*, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, "The prognostic significance of SATB1 expression in bladder cancer and its role in cisplatin chemoresistance."

Dr. *Sam Dadras*, Assistant Professor, Departments of Dermatology and Genetics and Developmental Biology, School of Medicine, "Sequencing Human Dicer Gene in Cutaneous Melanoma."

Dr. *Anthony T. Vella*, Associate Professor, Department of Immunology, School of Medicine and Dr. *Francisco Sylvester* (Connecticut Childrens Medical Center), Associate Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Immunology, School of Medicine, "Revealing a functional role for intestinal T cells in inflammatory bowel disease."

Dr. *Xiaoyan Wang*, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, School of Medicine, "Automated discovery of novel adverse drug events: An informatics approach using comprehensive electronic health records."

Dr. *Stefano Zanotti* (St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center), Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, "Notch signaling as a potential target for the treatment of osteoarthritis."

CICATS congratulates these outstanding clinical and translational research awardees.

Did you know?

- CICATS has over 500 members from 11 partner institutions in the Greater Hartford area who are interested in clinical and translational science.

CICATS Profiles

Looking for a collaborator, expert or mentor for your next research proposal or paper? Search CICATS Profiles, a brand new web-based research networking and expertise mining tool at <http://profiles.uconn.edu>. Profiles allows you to:

- Discover who works on similar topics
- Gain new insight into your publishing record
- Find new collaborators or mentors
- Map research connections
- Find a mentor or advisor
- Manage your own research profile
- Find out what the people down the hall really do!

Profiles provides access to information about more than 420 CICATS affiliated researchers, 12,700 publications, 11 CICATS partner institutions in the Greater Hartford region, and 25 biomedical institutions nationwide. **Start creating your research network today!**

Occupational Environmental Medicine continued from page 2

equipped to conduct inclusive vibration studies. The labs work on sensor development and measurement of human performance, including work performance, has been integrated into broader Center functions. Current projects involve the development of materials and gloves to prevent neurovascular disease in the hands and the use of human performance methodologies to improve surgical instruments.

Summer Partnerships continued from page 3

manned by CICATS members who provided visitors with brochures describing CICATS and its services. Visitors to the booth were able to go online to visit the CICATS website and sign up to become members. They also learned about exciting new research tools including Profiles Research Networking Software, Research Toolkit and REDCap.



CICATS

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