#### CTSC Newsletter March 2021

#### HSC-CTSC <HSC-CTSC@salud.unm.edu>

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### **Clinical & Translational Science Center Newsletter**

#### March 2021

### Letter from the Director



Dear Colleagues,

As we look forward to another month of moving research forward for our communities, we hope that you and yours are staying safe and healthy.

In our featured stories this month, we highlight the recent COVID-19 research of two CTSC KL2 scholars, Dr. Darrell Dinwiddie and Dr. Daryl Domman. Their discovery of the Q667 new virus variant was featured in both the Albuquerque Journal and the New York Times. While there's no evidence that the Q667 mutation is more virulent or causes more severe disease, as the virus continues to mutate, it could become more dangerous. By tracking and identifying the genomic variants of the virus, researchers will be able to identify those which are more virulent or more resistant to

current vaccines.

We also have updated information on COVID-19 funding opportunities. We encourage you to look for the weekly memos for current information and funding opportunities.

The dedicated team at CTSC are working on numerous studies across various areas of health research. Our units are supporting a variety of clinical and translational research. In addition to six COVID-19 trials, the PCI core is also working on 114 non-COVID-19 trials. Please see the PCI section for information on Dr. John Durkin's study, which is assessing a hair-loss drug for adolescents and adults with Alopecia Areata.

At this time, all standard CTSC services are available. We encourage PIs to reach out to our Research Concierge (<u>HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu</u>) with questions and/or to setup a consultation with the CTSC team.

We endeavor to update each section of the CTSC newsletter monthly. Every part of the CTSC is integral to our purpose and funding. Each PI has a personal, professional investment in the information we provide. Please submit that information to our team. The CTSC is here for your support.

The committed faculty, staff, and students at CTSC continue their research projects and look for innovative ways to support our communities. If you are interested in a rigorous quantitative rural research project focused on COVID-19, please contact me (RLarson@salud.unm.edu) to start a dialogue.

The Health Sciences Center Office of Research website contains information on specific research-related updates (including the Research Continuity Guidelines for both <u>Laboratories & Research Facilities</u> and <u>Clinical Trial Research Faculty & Staff</u>) and can be accessed through the following link:

https://hsc.unm.edu/research/.

We encourage everyone to to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine, you may use this link: <a href="https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/">https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/</a>. Please remember to maintain good COVID safety habits, including social distancing and masking, even if you have received the vaccine.

Should you have any questions about our assets and services, please contact the CTSC Research Concierge at <a href="https://example.com/hsc-ex-es-earch-concierge@salud.unm.edu">hsc-cTscResearch-concierge@salud.unm.edu</a>. If you have any issues finding the information that you need, please reach out to <a href="mailto:the-cTsc Newsletter Team">the CTSC Newsletter Team</a> and they will get back to you.

As always, thank you so much for your continued support of the Clinical & Translational Science Center!

Warm regards,

Richard S. Larson, MD, PhD

PI, CEO and Director, Clinical & Translational Science Center

### CTSC Leadership

CTSC Director, CEO & Principal Investigator: Richard S. Larson, MD, PhD

Associate Director, CTSC: Matthew Campen, PhD Associate Director, CTSC: Nancy Pandhi, MD, PhD, MPH Chief Administrative Officer: Carla Cordova, MPH

Administrative Component Director: Beth Tigges, PhD, RN, PNP, BC Tracking & Evaluation Module Lead: Beth Tigges, PhD, RN, PNP, BC Quality & Efficiency Module Lead: Beth Tigges, PhD, RN, PNP, BC Informatics Component Director: Christophe Lambert, PhD

Community & Collaboration Component Director: Mark Unruh, MD
Community Engagement Module Lead: Nancy Pandhi, MD, PhD, MPH
Collaboration and Commercialization Module Lead: Eric Prossnitz, PhD
Translational Endeavors (TE) Component Director: Christopher Abbott, MD
Translational Workforce Development (TWD) Module Lead: Karlett Parra, PhD
Pilot Translational & Clinical Studies (PTC) Module Lead: Corey Ford. MD. PhD

Research Methods (RM) Component Director: Mark Unruh, MD

Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design (BERD) Module Lead: Mark Unruh, MD

Regulatory Knowledge & Support (RKS) Module Lead: Corey Ford, MD, PhD Hub Research Capacity (HRC) Component Director: Nancy Pandhi, MD, PhD, MPH Integration of Special Populations (ISP) Module Lead: Nancy Pandhi, MD, PhD, MPH

Participant Clinical Interactions (PCI) Director: Christopher Abbott, MD
Network Capacity (NC) Component Director: Hengameh Raissy, PharmD
Trial Innovation Network (TIN) Module Lead: Hengameh Raissy, PharmD

Drug Discovery & Repurposing Core Lead: Hakim Djaballah, PhD

Opioid-Use Populations with Integration, Outreach, Informatics, and Drug Discovery (OPIOIDD)

Module Lead: Kimberly Page, PhD, MPH

KL2 Mentored Career Development Component Director: Matt Campen, PhD

Clinical Laboratory Medical Director: Qian-Yun Zhang, MD, PhD

### **Featured Stories**

#### **UNM Researchers Discover New Mutation of Coronavirus**

Research by two KL2-affiliated investigators, Daryl Domman, PhD, and Darrel Dinwiddie, PhD, has uncovered a COVID-19 variant, Q677. Dr. Dinwiddie, an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics, is a graduate of the KL2 program. Dr. Domman, an assistant professor in the Center for Global Health, is a current KL2 program scholar. The Q677P variant was discovered while conducting genomics surveillance and sequencing of virus samples collected in New Mexico.

The mutation, which was noticed in New Mexico and Louisiana in late 2020, does not appear to be any more dangerous than prior mutations. This variant seems to be scattered across the United States, and also appears to have arisen independently in other countries.

News of the discovery was featured in both the Albuquerque Journal and the New York Times.

### **Funding Opportunities Specific to COVID-19**

There are several significant funding opportunities available through the CTSC to address the COVID-19 pandemic. CTSC monitors these opportunities for our HSC Faculty on a weekly basis and includes additional information from the NIH COVID-19 funding site for your convenience.

Some of these funding opportunities require an active grant or cooperative agreement. They may also need a Letter of Support from Dr. Larson, the CTSC PI. Please contact Michelle Parra (MMParra@salud.unm.edu) if you are interested in applying for any of the COVID-19 funding opportunities listed below.

#### Recent Active Funding Opportunities Specific to COVID-19 are listed below:

| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Telehealth   | Notice<br>Number<br>NOT-<br>DA-21-019 | Organization(s)  NIDA | Release<br>Date<br>Feb 10,<br>2021 | PA-20-184<br>PA-20-183<br>PA-20-200<br>PA-20-195                           | Expiration<br>Date<br>Sep 8,<br>2024 | Activity<br>Code(s)<br>R01,<br>R03,<br>R21 |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Strategies for Individuals with HIV and Substance Use Disorders SARS-CoV-2,   | RFA-                                  | NIAAA                 | Feb 5,                             | PA-20-194<br>PA-20-196<br>PA-20-146  | Apr 15,                              | RO3  |
| COVID-19 and<br>Consequences<br>of Alcohol Use<br>(R03 Clinical<br>Trial Not<br>Allowed)  | AA-21-003                             |                       | 2021                               | AA-21-003  | 2021                                 |  |
| SARS-CoV-2,<br>COVID-19 and<br>Consequences<br>of Alcohol Use<br>(R01 Clinical<br>Trial Not<br>Allowed)                           | RFA-<br>AA-21-002                     | NIAAA                 | Feb 5,<br>2021                     | RFA-<br>AA-21-002  | Apr 15,<br>2021                      | R01  |
| SARS-CoV-2,<br>COVID-19 and<br>Consequences<br>of Alcohol Use<br>(R21 Clinical<br>Trial Not<br>Allowed)                           | RFA-<br>AA-21-004                     | NIAAA                 | Feb 5,<br>2021                     | RFA-<br>AA-21-004  | Apr 15,<br>2021                      | R21  |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Medical Consequences of Smoking and Vaping Drugs of Abuse in Individuals with HIV and COVID-19 | NOT-<br>DA-21-017                     | NIDA.                 | Feb 4,<br>2021                     | PA-20-184<br>PA-20-183<br>PA-20-200<br>PA-20-195<br>PA-20-194<br>PA-20-196 | Sep 8,<br>2024                       | R01,<br>R02,<br>R03                        |

| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Complement in Basic Immunology (CIBI)   | NOT-<br>AI-21-008 | NIAID        | Feb 4,<br>2021 | PA-20-185<br>PA-20-195  | Jan 8,<br>2023  | R01,<br>R21         |
|--|-------------------|--------------|----------------|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Urgent Competitive Revisions and Administrative Supplements for Research at NIMHD Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI U54s) on SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Hesitancy, Uptake, and Implementation | NOT-<br>MD-21-012 | NIMHD        | Feb 4,<br>2021 | PA-20-272<br>PA-18-935<br>(Urgent<br>Supplement)  | May 4,<br>2021  | 333                 |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Long- Term Neurocognitive Consequences of COVID-19 in Individuals Living with HIV and Substance Use Disorders   | NOT-<br>DA-21-018 | NIDA         | Feb 3,<br>2021 | PA-20-184<br>PA-20-183<br>PA-20-200<br>PA-20-195<br>PA-20-194<br>PA-20-196<br>PA-20-146 | Sep 8,<br>2024  | R01,<br>R03,<br>R21 |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplement Opportunity to Study the Impact of COVID-19 on Global Cancer Prevention and Control   | NOT-<br>CA-21-033 | <u>NCI</u>   | Feb 3,<br>2021 | PA-20-272   | Apr 1,<br>2021  | 333                 |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplements for the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program to Address COVID-19 Public   | NOT-<br>TR-21-017 | <u>NCATS</u> | Feb 3,<br>2021 | PA-20-272   | Aug 17,<br>2024 | 333                 |

| Health Needs   |                   |              |                 |   |                 |   |
|--|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Notice of Intent<br>to Publish a<br>Funding<br>Opportunity<br>Announcement<br>for SARS-CoV-2,<br>COVID-19 and<br>Consequences<br>of Alcohol Use<br>(R21 Clinical<br>Trials Not<br>Allowed) | NOT-<br>AA-21-003 | NIAAA        | Jan 27,<br>2021 |   | Feb 28,<br>2021 |   |
| Notice of Intent<br>to Publish a<br>Funding<br>Opportunity<br>Announcement<br>for SARS-CoV-2,<br>COVID-19 and<br>Consequences<br>of Alcohol Use<br>(R01 Clinical<br>Trials Not<br>Allowed) | NOT-<br>AA-21-001 | NIAAA        | Jan 27,<br>2021 |   | Feb 28,<br>2021 |   |
| Notice of<br>Special Interest<br>(NOSI): NIDCR<br>Support for<br>Research on the<br>Physiological<br>Involvement of<br>Oral Cavity in<br>Coronavirus<br>Disease 2019<br>(COVID-19)         | NOT-<br>DE-21-001 | NIDCR        | Jan 26,<br>2021 | PA-20-185<br>PA-20-195  | May 28,<br>2023 | R01,<br>R21                                     |
| Notice of<br>Special Interest<br>(NOSI): Aging-<br>Relevant<br>Behavioral and<br>Social Research<br>on Coronavirus<br>Disease 2019<br>(COVID-19)   | NOT-<br>AG-21-015 | NIA          | Jan 26,<br>2021 | PA-20-183<br>PA-20-184<br>PA-20-185<br>PA-20-200<br>PA-20-194<br>PA-20-196<br>PA-20-195<br>PAR-19-374<br>PAR-19-314<br>PAR-19-070<br>PAR-19-071<br>PAR-20-070 | May 28,<br>2023 | R01,<br>R03,<br>R21,<br>U19,<br>P01,<br>R21/R33 |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Effects of smoking and vaping on the risk and outcome of COVID-19 infection   | NOT-<br>DA-21-011 | NIDA         | Jan 26,<br>2021 | PA-20-184<br>PA-20-183<br>PA-20-200<br>PA-20-195<br>PA-20-194<br>PA-20-196<br>PA-20-146   | Sep 8,<br>2024  | R01,<br>R03,<br>R21                             |
| Immune<br>Development in<br>Early Life<br>(IDEaL) (U19   | RFA-<br>AI-20-078 | NIAID, NIEHS | Jan 12,<br>2021 | RFA-<br>AI-20-078   | Jun 5,<br>2021  | U19   |

| Clinical Trial Not Allowed)   |                   |              |                 |  |                 |             |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|-------------|
| Immune Development in Early Life (IDEaL) (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)                                   | RFA-<br>AI-20-077 | NIAID, NIEHS | Jan 12,<br>2021 | RFA-<br>Al-20-077  | Jun 5,<br>2021  | U01         |
| Notice of Special Interest: Promoting Research on COVID-19 and Rheumatic, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases | NOT-<br>AR-21-012 | NIAMS        | Jan 5,<br>2021  | PA-20-185<br>PA-20-195<br>PAR-21-055<br>PAR-21-054<br>PAR-21-053 | Nov 19,<br>2021 | R01,<br>R02 |

If you are interested in applying for any of the grants, please email Michelle Parra (MMParra@salud.unm.edu).

For a full listing of COVID-19 through NIH, please access the following site: <a href="https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/COVID-Related.cfm">https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/COVID-Related.cfm</a>.

### Menu of Services & Resources

- **Biostatistics Support**
- Brain & Behavioral Disorders
- Citing the Clinical & Translational Science Center
- **Clinical Trials Participant Clinical Interactions**
- **Community Engagement**
- Community Health Network
- **Database Mining**
- **Drug Repurposing**
- · KL2 Scholars
- Intramural Funding
- **Laboratory Services**
- Pilot Funding
- Trial Innovation Network
- Quality & Efficiency
- Regulatory Knowledge & Support
- Rural Health Research
- Team Science & Commercialization
- **Training**
- **Vulnerable Populations**

#### Administration

### Tracking & Evaluation (T&E)

The Tracking and Evaluation Team is piloting a new "Common Metric" called the Median Accrual Metric. This metric is intended to look at our CTSC's ability to recruit and retain research participants. This metric will look at the entire calendar year for 2020 and will be reported in August of 2021.

### Quality & Efficiency (Q&E)

The Quality and Efficiency Team continues to work on two specific process improvements initiatives. These two projects will conclude in June of 2021 and will be evaluated for how the projects impacted our CTSC.

### *Informatics*

We are currently working with three investigators in the Cerner Learning Health Network. Two studies were approved by the Cerner governance committee prior to December 2020. These two projects are using the COVID dataset, one project got approved in January for data access using UNM HSC real world data (RWD). We are learning the process with these projects for accessing and retrieving the data that is needed for the Investigators. For more information about the Cerner Learning Health Network please contact mvalencia-reed@salud.unm.edu.

If you are interested in getting aggregate counts to determine if a project is viable please put in a request though the CTSC data request portal <a href="https://ctsc.health.unm.edu/apps/data-request-landing/">https://ctsc.health.unm.edu/apps/data-request-landing/</a> and Indicate research and use category "HealthFacts", in notes please indicate request is for Cerner RWD.

### Community & Collaboration (C&C)

### Community Engagement & Research Core (CERC)

#### DIPeX Training May 12-14, 2021

The Health Experiences Research Network is offering a virtual training from May 12th to May 14th, 2021 via Zoom. All attendees will be trained on the implementation of the Database of Individual Patients' Experiences (DIPEx) methodology, topic selection, recruitment, qualitative interviewing, and online module development.

The price of this training is \$180 for students and residents and \$380 for all others. If you are a faculty or staff member at the University of New Mexico then there is an option for using tuition remission as well. Please register here. More information will be sent over the coming months regarding a brief, mandatory asynchronous training course and meeting.

If you have any questions about the training please contact Jeff Carter at <u>jeacarter@salud.unm.edu</u> for more information. Thank you!

#### Team Science & Commercialization

CTSC promotes several events a year to promote Team Science and Commercialization- including both Hackathon and BioVenture. Promoting collaboration across academic disciplines, scientists are able to bring together ideas and fill in gaps to help move research out of the lab and into the market.

These events bring together clinicians, engineers, entrepreneurs, programmers, scientists, and students to form teams that worked to develop healthcare innovations and design a pitch allowed participants to practice skills necessary to begin the process of commercialization, a vital step to ensure technologies can reach patients.

As we start to plan for the upcoming BioVenture, we ask that you take a quick survey and let us know your thoughts: <a href="https://ctsctrials.health.unm.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=LK8R89TYDE">https://ctsctrials.health.unm.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=LK8R89TYDE</a>.

For additional information and to register for upcoming Synergy meetings, please visit the webpage: <a href="https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/programs/team-science.html">https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/programs/team-science.html</a>.

Find out more about ASCEND Hub resources and activities on the ASCEND Hub website: https://ascendhub.org/.

# Translational Endeavors (TE)

### Translational Workforce Development (TWD)

#### Write to Excite NIH Grant Reviewers

The NIAID recently released a short article, "<u>Writing a Winning Application—Write To Excite</u>" that described some great ways to engage your reviewers' interest. If you were intrigued by this article and want to learn more about how to build excitement in grants, sign up for the CTSC's <u>2-hour course on NIH grantsmanship</u>. This Zoom session is appropriate for anyone looking for ways to improve their NIH grant strategy.

For more information, contact Regis Lacher at rlacher@salud.unm.edu.

#### Pilot Awards

The UNM CTSC provides a variety of Pilot Award Programs that distribute intramural funding for clinical and translational research at the Health Sciences Center, including two rounds of funding for our standard RFAs annually. To access a Funding Calendar of CTSC opportunities, please use this link: <a href="https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/pilot-funding/funding-calendars/index.html">https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/pilot-funding/funding-calendars/index.html</a>.

Please visit our web site at <a href="https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/pilot-funding/index.html">https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/pilot-funding/index.html</a> for additional information.

### Research Methods (RM)

### Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD)

#### Biostatistics Consultation Services Available at CTSC

The Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) Core provides consultation and services, novel tools and methods intended to solve problems, and address barriers to the conduct of clinical and translational research. Services are open to all Health Sciences investigators (staff, students, and faculty) to understand the methodological aspects of their research for planning their projects, including power analysis, sample size, and research design for intermural and extramural grant submissions.

If you have a current pilot study that requires biostatical support, please schedule appointments as soon as possible.

Are you interested in applying for a pilot study? It is strongly recommended that you make an appointment with one our biostatisticians prior to your submission. Our expert biostatisticians can help in the initial stages of project development.

Appointments are available; but do fill up quickly. To schedule an appointment, please contact HSC-CTSCbiostats@salud.unm.edu. Services are offered Monday through Friday.

Please visit our web site: <a href="http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/biostatistics/index.html">http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/biostatistics/index.html</a>.

### Regulatory Knowledge & Support (RKS)

#### IRB Post Approval Monitoring (PAM) & Audits

The UNMHSC Human Research Protections Office is committed to ensuring that all approved research is conducted in accordance with the IRB approved protocol, federal and state regulations, UNM's institutional policies, and the ethical principles outlined in the Belmont Report. The primary goal of the compliance monitoring is to provide the most current information to investigators through education, training, and monitoring. Upon selection for a PAM, the Principal Investigator will be notified in writing two weeks in advance.

The reason(s) for on-site review may include:

- random selections as part of a regular PAM cycle
- when IRB have cause that a non-compliance has occurred,
- when there is unanticipated problems involving risk to subjects or others
- subject or whistleblower complaints

requests by an investigator to review their human subject processes

The CTSC Regulatory Knowledge Support (RKS) can provide investigators assistance in preparing for their Post Approval Monitoring visit.

Please contact the CTSC Research Concierge @ <u>HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu</u> for knowledge, assistance and updates regarding any regulatory requirements.

http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/regulatory-knowledge-and-support/index.html

### **Hub Research Capacity (HRC)**

### Integrating Special Populations (ISP)

The Health Experiences Research Network, launched in 2014, is a partnership between researchers at University of Wisconsin-Madison, Johns Hopkins University, Oregon Health & Science University, Yale University, University of New Mexico, University of Utah-Salt Lake City, and the Veterans Administration. We're using our combined talents as researchers, innovators, and health care professionals, and our experiences as patients, parents, caregivers, and advocates to bring you real information on the experience of health and illness from a wide range of patients. HERN is committed to implementing the Database of Individual Patient Experiences (DIPEx) methodology in the United States so that each qualitative research study is conducted with rigor and its corresponding public-facing web-based "module" is interpretive, deeply descriptive, and holistic. The systemic qualitative research methods develop the modules: 1. Represent diverse perspective, respect expertise that comes with "Lived" experiences, deeply engage participants, learn from advisors, analyze with rigor, and organize and present participant stories and lastly disseminate widely.

Once we have our established themes, they are presented as web-based modules at <a href="https://www.healthexperiencesusa.org">www.healthexperiencesusa.org</a>. What we learned is organized by categories and topics that help visitors to the website discover what is relevant to them. We take special care to retain the voices of those we interviewed, and include relevant clinical and background information. (source: <a href="https://www.healthexperiencesusa.org">www.healthexperiencesusa.org</a>)

The UNM CTSC ISP team will be hosting a national web based training for researchers and staff interested in learning about using this methodology on **May 12-14, 2021**. To learn more, please contact Heidi Rishel-Brakey at <a href="https://hrshelbrakey@salud.unm.edu">hrishelbrakey@salud.unm.edu</a>.

### Participant Clinical Interactions (PCI)

Dr. John Durkin is the Principal Investigator for Pfizer's, Placebo-Controlled Safety Study of PF-06651600 in Adults and Adolescents with Alopecia Areata. This study will investigate PF-06651600 in participants with Alopecia Areata (AA) to assess the efficacy of the drug compared to placebo on hair regrowth in adult and adolescent participants.

According to the National Alopecia Areata Foundation, there are as many as 6.8 million Americans affected by AA, which causes hair loss on the scalp, face and other areas of the body. AA is an autoimmune disease affecting people of all ages, both genders, and all ethnic groups. Researchers do not know what triggers the immune system to attack healthy hair follicles.

CTSC is supporting Dr. Durkin in this study by providing Regulatory Support, Participant Recruitment Services and Participant Clinical Interaction Services. In offering these services to Principal Investigators, CTSC assists in bringing impactful treatment to such disease states as AA.

For more information about the CTSC PCI unit, please email George Garcia at gemgarcia@salud.unm.edu.

### Community Health Network (CHN)



make connections with our neighboring communities in rural New Mexico. Cynthia Killough, the program manager, has been attending as many virtual community health council meetings around the state as possible. These meetings provide a wealth of information about health disparities and concerns that are important to rural communities. The meetings also provide a way for Cynthia to introduce health research at UNM and help break down stigma associated with research in general.

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, was Public Health Day at the New Mexico Legislature and things looked a bit different this year. Pre-pandemic, Public Health Day is an in-person event held in Santa Fe at the Roundhouse (see picture). Different organizations interested in various aspects of New Mexico health set up booths at the Roundhouse, meet, network and connect with others, including state legislators. As a virtual event, Cynthia attended the New Mexico Health Alliances' community health council showcase. During the showcase, representatives and coordinators of a few health councils presented and spoke about health concerns and projects specific to their counties. It was great to see folks, albeit virtually, from the various health councils that Cynthia attends monthly & continue to learn from these community experts.

### **Network Capacity (NC)**

#### Trial Innovation Network (TIN)

The Trial Innovation Network is a collaborative initiative within the CTSA Program and is composed of three key partners: the CTSA Program Hubs, the Trial Innovation Centers (TICs), and the Recruitment Innovation Center (RIC).

The vision for the Trial Innovation Network is to innovatively address critical roadblocks in clinical research and accelerate the translation of novel interventions into life-saving therapies.

The Trial Innovation Network is a collaborative national network with a focus in three main areas: operational innovation, operational excellence and collaboration. The Trial Innovation Network will leverage the expertise and resources of the CTSA Program. The Trial Innovation Network will feature a single IRB system, master contracting agreements, quality by design approaches, and a focus on evidence-based strategies to recruitment and patient engagement.

The goal of the Trial Innovation Network is to not only execute trials better, faster, and more costefficiently but, importantly, to be a national laboratory to study, understand and innovate the process of conducting clinical trials.

The University of New Mexico CTSC has been a part of the Trial Innovation Network and as a result has been a participating site in several studies that impact a variety of disease states. This import work has helped connect physicians at the University of New Mexico with the clinical trials specific to their specialty. This effort has encouraged new investigators to become engaged in clinical research. This collaboration is part of the larger mission to move innovated research from the bench, to the bedside, and ultimately out into the communities in which we live.

For more information on the Trial Innovation Network, please contact George Garcia at gemgarcia@salud.unm.edu.

### Drug Discovery & Repurposing Core (DDRC)

#### The DDRC is a Resource for Rapidly Translating Existing Drugs into New Clinical Trials

Do you have ideas about ways to repurpose existing FDA-approved drugs? The CTSC is here to help. Dr. Hakim Djaballah, Module Lead for the Clinical & Translational Science Center Drug Discovery and

Repurposing Core (DDRC) collaborates with UNM investigators other CTSCs to improve health outcomes by providing unique resources for rapidly translating existing drugs for use in new clinical trials. DDRC provides access to and operation of state-of-the-art technology in drug rescue, repurposing, and repositioning through innovative tools that support investigators and start-up companies. Additionally, DDRC provides support and guidance in translating pilot projects from preclinical proof-of-principle to clinical proof-of-concept as well as helps to develop first-in-human clinical trials.

For additional information or to become a DDRC member, please visit the DDRC (formerly DR3N) webpage- https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/dr3n/index.html

# Opioid-Use Populations with Integration, Outreach, Informatics, and Drug Discovery (OPIOIDD)

Please stay tuned for upcoming announcements about the work of Kimberly Page PhD, MPH, and her team, in conjunction with New Mexico communities and the CTSC cores.

The new NCATS study "Collaborative care teams for hospitalized patients with opioid use disorders: Translating evidence into practice" will be supported at UNM by Kimberly Page (<a href="mailto:pagek@salud.unm.edu">pagek@salud.unm.edu</a>), other faculty, and Dr. Page's team.

If you would like more information on this vital effort, please contact Dr. Page at <a href="mailto:pagek@salud.unm.edu.">pagek@salud.unm.edu.</a>

### Clinical Laboratory (T-Laboratory)

The CTSC Translational Laboratory (T-Laboratory) is comprised of 6,000 square feet of wet-lab space, located in the newly renovated CTSC Building. The T-Laboratory offers state-of-the-art equipment and technical assistance with laboratory techniques for UNM HS investigators. The experienced staff of the T-Laboratory provide specialized laboratory support, customized to meet the needs of the investigators in all aspects of research including protocol/assay development, budget preparation, and testing of patient samples for various assays. The T-Laboratory provides sample preparation and technical support for other non-CTSC resources such as UNM Shared Flow Cytometry and High Throughput Screening Resource, and KUSAIR Small Animal Imaging. In addition, our staff will provide training to UNM HS investigators staff on molecular techniques, clinical techniques, or equipment. There are three options for utilization of CTSC T-Laboratory Services:

- Option A: Full Service Sample Testing
- Option B: Equipment Utilization by Investigator
- Option C: Preparation of Investigator's Experiments or Train Investigator's Staff to Perform Assays and Equipment.

Additionally, the CTSC Clinical Laboratory develops and carries out research-related sample analyses for UNM HS investigators, researchers throughout the United States and world, as well as corporate funded research projects.

#### **New Point of Contact for T-Lab**

Debbie Lovato has been selected to serve as the T-Lab lead and point of contact. Debbie has over 20 years' experience in research at UNM. You can reach Debbie at <a href="mailto:document-debbie">document-debbie debbie at dlovato@salud.unm.edu</a>

For questions, please contact <u>HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu</u>.

### Citing the CTSC

When citing the CTSC, please be sure to include our Grant numbers:



# Thank you!

# HS in the News

For additional Health Sciences news, please visit: <a href="http://hscnews.unm.edu/">http://hscnews.unm.edu/</a>

#### **News or corrections?**

Please contact the Newsletter Team.

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