

Clinical & Translational Science Center Newsletter

January 2021

Letter from the Director



Dear Colleagues,

As we return to the school year, I reflect on the past year and how the HSC research community has adapted to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic so our valuable work can continue. We encourage everyone to maintain good COVID safety habits, including social distancing and masking.

For more information on staying safe, consult the governor's latest directives for our state: <https://www.governor.state.nm.us/>. The HSC website (<https://hsc.unm.edu/covid-19/index.html>) will continue to be updated with current news and COVID-19 guidance. There are also several videos on the HSC website that contain valuable information regarding COVID-19 worth exploring: <https://hsc.unm.edu/covid-19/video-guide/>.

In our featured stories this month we highlight several impactful researchers. The 12th Annual Faculty Research Day awardees includes six outstanding faculty members nominated by their peers. Additionally, emeritus professor and CTSC module lead Larry Sklar, PhD, has been recognized as 2020 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. Finally, Translational Workforce Development Module Lead Karlett Parra, PhD has been honored with an article spotlighting her career in ASBMB Today.

As always, we include recently released COVID-19 Funding Opportunities from NIH. Funding opportunities are sent to HSC Faculty each Monday, please read these memos for important and timely funding announcements that may apply to your research studies.

As the new year begins, the dedicated 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 [Laboratories & Research](#)

[Facilities](#) and [Clinical Trial Research Faculty & Staff](#)) and can be accessed through the following link: <https://hsc.unm.edu/research/>.

Should you have any questions about our assets and services, please contact the CTSC Research Concierge at HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu. If you have any issues finding the information that you need, please reach out to [the CTSC Newsletter Team](#) 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
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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

12th Annual Faculty Research Day Awardees

The HSC Office of Research recently hosted the Twelfth Annual Research Day Award Ceremony. The event was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the research being conducted at the HSC and meet your faculty colleagues. The award ceremony honored six outstanding faculty members, including three CTSC module leads. We congratulate:

- **Matthew Campen, PhD, M.S.P.H** received the Faculty Research Excellence Award in Basic Science
- **Hengameh Raissy, Pharm.D.** received the Faculty Research Excellence Award in Clinical Science
- **Kimberly Page, PhD, MPH, MS** received the Faculty Research Excellence Award in Population Science
- **Steven Bradfute, PhD** received the Faculty Research Excellence Award for Junior Faculty
- **Bryce Chackerian, PhD** received the Faculty Research Excellence Award in Team Science
- **David Peabody, PhD** received the Faculty Research Excellence Award in Team Science
- **Rebecca Hartley, PhD** received The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award

The awardees were nominated by their colleagues and selected through a peer review selection process. Congratulations to all the awardees and nominees that pursue CTSC's mission and vision with their outstanding efforts!

Former CTSC Drug Discovery and Repurposing Core Lead Larry Sklar, PhD, Named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors

Dr. Larry Sklar, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology and former CTSC Drug Discovery and Repurposing Core Lead, has been recognized as a 2020 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. Election as an NAI Fellow is the highest professional distinction accorded solely to academic inventors.

"This comes as I begin the journey into the next phase of my life," says Sklar, who moved to working quarter time when he retired and took emeritus status at the end of October.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Sklar developed a high throughput flow cytometry device that enables lab scientists to rapidly scan large numbers of cells to assess a variety of characteristics. It is a valuable tool in drug repurposing and new therapies. "People are applying it in discovery of drugs, personalized medicine and immuno-oncology," Dr. Sklar says.

Read more [here](#).

Karlett Parra, PhD Honored by ASBMB Today

Karlett Parra, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology And CTSC Translational Workforce Development Module Lead, has been honored as the subject of a [recent article](#) in ASBMB Today, an award-winning news magazine published by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. "A life devoted to teaching and research" spotlights Dr. Parra's scientific journey from Venezuela to New Mexico.

Dr. Parra's work focuses on V-ATPase, which plays an important role in many pH-dependent cellular processes. Its function is linked to the understanding and treatment of many disorders, including viral infections, neurodegenerative diseases, diabetes and cancer. For example, in prostate cancer, Parra's lab found that inhibition of V-ATPase affects the hypoxia-inducible factor-1-alpha function and androgen receptor expression, making V-ATPase potentially beneficial in treatment.

Working with students to advance their careers in remains an important endeavor for Dr. Parra. "Classrooms (at UNM) are composed of mainly underrepresented communities, with about 55% Hispanic population, 6% Native Americans, and the rest a mix of other races," Parra said. "Seeing these students advance in their lab work and coursework is very exciting for me, and I enjoy inspiring them to pursue careers in the life sciences."

Funding Opportunities Specific to COVID-19

The NIH is deeply concerned for the health and safety of people involved in NIH research, and about the effects on the biomedical enterprise in the areas affected by the HHS declared [public health emergency for COVID-19](#). Due to the potential exceptional impact, we want to assure our recipient community that NIH will be doing our part to help you continue your research.

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

Title	Notice Number	Organization(s)	Release Date	RFA/PA/ PAR #	Expiration Date	Activity Code(s)
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research to Address Vaccine Hesitancy, Uptake, and Implementation among Populations that Experience Health Disparities	NOT-MD-21-008	NIMHD , NIAID , NIAMS , NCI , ORWH , NIMH , NINR , OBSSR , ODP , NHLBI , NIDCR , SGMRO	Dec 17, 2020	PA-20-183 PA-20-185	Jan 8, 2022	R01
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Emergency Administrative Supplements to Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program Awards to Address	NOT-TR-21-011	NCATS	Dec 17, 2020	PAR-18-940 PAR-18-464 PAR-15-304 RFA-TR-14-009	Jun 2, 2021	333

2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Public Health Needs						
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Critical Threats to Public Health in Large-Scale Population Cohorts	NOT-HG-21-020	NHGRI	Dec 10, 2020	PA-18-935 (Urgent Supplement)	Jan 16, 2021	333
Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplement for Research and Capacity Building Efforts Related to Bioethical Issues (Admin Supplement Clinical Trial Optional)	NOT-OD-21-020	NIH, NLM, NIEHS, NIAMS, NIDCR, OBSSR, NIGMS, NHLBI, NCI, NIAAA, NINR, NCATS, ORWH, NHGRI, FIC, NCCIH, NIMH, THRO, NIDA, NINDS, NEI, NIMHD, NIAID, NIA, FDA, NIBIB, NIDCD, NICHD, NIDDK	Nov 17, 2020	PAR-20-072	Mar 5, 2021	333
Emergency Awards: Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) on Pan-Coronavirus Vaccine Development Program Projects	NOT-AI-21-002	NIAID	Nov 10, 2020	PAR-20-072	Jun 12, 2021	PO1
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Effects of smoking and vaping on the risk and outcome	NOT-DA-20-084	NIDA	Oct 27, 2020	PA-20-183 PA-20-200 PA-20-195	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R03, R21

of COVID-19 infection						
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Repurposing Existing Therapeutics to Address the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)	NOT-TR-21-006	NCATS	Oct 23, 2020	PAR-17-465 PAR-18-462 PAR-18-332	Mar 17, 2021	UH2, U34, U01
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): The Influence of Host Resilience on Heterogeneity of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome/Acute Lung Injury (ARDS/ALI)	NOT-HL-20-814	NHLBI	Sept 15, 2020	PAR-20-183 PAR-20-185	July 6, 2024	U01
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Emergency Awards for Limited Clinical Trials to Evaluate Therapeutic and Vaccine Candidates Against SARS-CoV-2	NOT-AI-20-065	NIAID	Aug 13, 2020	PAR-18-633	Sep 1, 2021	U01
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Simulation Modeling and Systems Science to Address Health Disparities	NOT-MD-20-025	NIMHD , NCI , NIDA , NLM , ODP , OBSSR , NIMH , NIAMS	Aug 13, 2020	PA-20-185	May 8, 2023	R01
Urgent Phase I/II Clinical Trials to Repurpose Existing Therapeutic Agents to Treat COVID-19 Sequelae (U01)	RFA-TR-20-003	NCATS	Aug 5, 2020	RFA-TR-20-003	Jan 24, 2021	U01

Clinical Trial Required)						
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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:
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/COVID-Related.cfm>.

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

REDCap and REDCap Training

REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) is a secure web platform for building and managing online databases and surveys. REDCap's streamlined process for rapidly creating and designing projects offers a vast array of tools that can be tailored to virtually any data collection strategy. REDCap provides automated export procedures for seamless data downloads to Excel and common statistical packages (SPSS, SAS, Stata, R), as well as a built-in project calendar, a scheduling module, ad hoc reporting tools, and advanced features, such as branching logic, file uploading, and calculated fields.

REDCap training is available in the form of video training until further notice. The REDCap Basic Training video is now available to watch on Moodle. You will need to complete a short survey, after which a link to Moodle and instructions for accessing the Basic Training video will be emailed to you: <https://ctsctrials.health.unm.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=FA9F7DNRF7>.

Contact mvalencia-reed@salud.unm.edu for information about our consulting and/or building your REDCap database.

Community & Collaboration (C&C)

Community Engagement & Research Core (CERC)

Qualitative Research Office Hours

Once a month, our Senior Qualitative Researcher Heidi Rishel Brakey holds office hours. If you would like to learn about upcoming office hours, please complete this [quick form](#). At these meetings, you are welcome to bring any questions related to qualitative research. For the first 30 minutes, we will cover one of the following topics (subject to change); the second 30 minutes are open to discuss anything you'd like related to qualitative research.

- Basics of coding
- Basics of NVivo coding
- Running reports in NVivo
- Basics of interviewing
- Basics of focus group facilitation

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.

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

The ASCEND Hub is hosting a webinar in conjunction with the University of Idaho this month. Please see details below:

- Webinar Title: **Filing Invention Disclosures to Identify and Protect IP**
- Date: **Thursday, January 28, 2021**
- Time: **2:00 pm (MST)**
- Webinar room: <https://event.webinarjam.com/t/click/84zo8inxb0yf20tn0xsvvap4c3> (*this is a link to the webinar- pre-registration is not required.*)

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

Translational Endeavors (TE)

Translational Workforce Development (TWD)

Translational Workforce Development will be rolling out several exciting initiatives in January, 2021, starting with a redesign of our [course catalog](#). In the TWD catalog “2.0” you’ll find our local course offerings as well as new selection of resources and tools to help researchers further advance their skills. You can continue to view our full calendar of courses on the [UNM Events calendar](#).

Concurrent with the catalog redesign, TWD will also be rolling out a new [consultation process](#).

New Biostatistics Seminar Series Begins Jan. 19, 2021

Last, but not least, we will be starting a new seminar series called *Statistics is Fun and Easy (With Help!)*. At each session of this series, an investigator and a biostatistician will sit down and have a conversation that reveals the process by which they designed and implemented the statistical analyses in a specific research study. By holding conversations about the challenges and joys of biostatistical design, we hope to reveal best practices and lessons learned so that every investigator can get the most out of their biostatistical analysis. The first session of this new series will debut at the January 19, 2021 CTIP meeting. If you’re interested in attending, please get in touch for the Zoom info and schedule at HSC-CTSCTWDTraining@salud.unm.edu.

For information regarding TWD, please visit our webpage:
<https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/training/index.html>.

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.

Funding Opportunity	RFA Release	Due Date	Funding Period	Amount
CTR-IN Multi Site Pilot Project	Nov. 13, 2020	IRB Submission Deadline: 1/29/21 Application Deadline: 3/26/21 IRB Approval Deadline for NIH Review: 3/26/21	June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022 Announcement: May 21, 2021	\$25,000

If you have any questions regarding Pilot Awards, please contact Christy Anderson @ CHAnderson@salud.unm.edu.

The CTSC also maintains a calendar of funding opportunities for Pilot Awards. To access the Funding Calendar, please use this link: <https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/pilot-funding/funding-calendars/index.html>.

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

Mentored Career Development Program (KL2)

The KL2 program equips a cohort of independent faculty with the training and support needed to conduct exceptional clinical and translational research. KL2 Scholars receive training and mentorship in multi-disciplinary, team-based, and patient-oriented clinical and translational research. KL2 Scholars become leaders and innovators in their respective professional fields and departments.

CTSC Career Development Opportunities: K-awards and Research Supplement Mechanisms through the NIH



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 biostatistical 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 of 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: <http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/biostatistics/index.html>.

Regulatory Knowledge & Support (RKS)

The University of New Mexico in collaboration with the Western Institutional Review Board (WIRB), allows CTSC Investigators will be able to streamline study start up activities for new clinical trials through the Clinical Research and Regulatory Support Services well as initiate studies in a prompt and efficient manner. WIRB has been at the forefront of protecting the rights and welfare of human

subjects. They provide in-depth regulatory expertise to support the development of research protocols and documentation.

WIRB is an independent IRB that has maintained full accreditation from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) since 2003. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of using WIRB in conjunction with our Regulatory Management and/or Study Coordinator services, please complete the Request for Resources Form and submit to CTSC Research Concierge at HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu.

To qualify for this service, you must obtain Departmental Review and Approval, provide a fully industry sponsored Phase II, III, or IV clinical trial, and utilize our CTSC Regulatory Support Service in addition to other CTSC Resources.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Brito at rbrito@salud.unm.edu.

Hub Research Capacity (HRC)

Integrating Special Populations (ISP)

The mission of the Integrated Special Populations team aims to accelerate health discoveries and improve health outcomes for all people. The ISP leads efforts to help researchers consider unique therapies, practices or interventions that may be needed to reach the underserved and underrepresented populations. Our goal is to provide opportunity for all faculty and staff to enhance opportunities for the underserved and special populations to participate in and benefit from clinical and translational research.

One such way this is being accomplished is through the research collaborations that utilize the DIPEX/HERN health services research methodology. The Health Experience Research Network (HERN) brings patients' voices to American health care. It is part of an international movement called DIPEX International that uses systematic research methods to share patient health experience stories. A particular strength is the deliberate integration of special populations. Voices that are seldom heard are an integral part of the research protocol. As part of its translational mission, HERN creates resources for patients of diverse identities with particular attention to the intersection of systemic racism and health. This work is found at www.healthexperiencesusa.org.

The CTSC recently funded a HERN pilot study that will examine the diverse experiences of living kidney donors. Led by Drs. Pandhi, Myaskovsky and Unruh, this pilot begins the process for creating a HERN web-based module that will further inform potential donors, recipients, family members, and clinicians. A future goal is for this module can be utilized in shared decision making conversations about the procedure. Understanding health experiences can help shape healthcare delivery for those who wish to donate an organ. Perhaps, through the success of this pilot, the need for donation and the importance of such action can be better appreciated and save the lives of many who are living with kidney failure.

For more information about the Integrated Special Population team, please contact Dr. Nancy Pandhi, MD, PhD at NPandhi@salud.unm.edu.

Participant Clinical Interactions (PCI)

COVID-19 has been dominating the studies in the Participant and Clinical Interactions group. Each coordinator, nurse and manager has been tirelessly working on various treatment options to help those infected with COVID-19. The promise of a vaccine has given this team renewed hope that this pandemic will soon be over.

Efforts to create a vaccine have been in the forefront of the news. The PCI unit has been collaborating with Dr. Steven Bradfute. Dr. Bradfute has previously successfully studied immune responses in convalescent hantavirus patients. The PCI is working with Dr. Bradfute on his Immunity and antibody generation in COVID-19 coronavirus patients. From his hantavirus study he was able to detect neutralizing antibodies against Sin Nombre hantavirus in survivors as far as 24 years post-infection. His team have also detected T cell responses against Sin Nombre orthohantavirus (SNV) up to 12 years post-infection. In working with his collaborators, the team has generated monoclonal antibodies against SNV from convalescent plasma. This experience has given Dr. Bradfute the platform to conduct a similar study on COVID recovered patients.

It is through efforts such as Dr. Bradfute that have allowed for scientists to produce vaccines to help fight this pandemic. The PCI unit at CTSC is very excited to work with Dr. Bradfute on his Immunity and antibody generation in COVID-19 coronavirus patients.

For more information on how PCI can help in study efforts, please contact Donna Sedillo at dlsedillo@salud.unm.edu.

Community Health Network (CHN)

Community engagement literature recommends being a presence in communities by showing up to events, like community meetings, in-person in order to create partnerships and forge relationships with community members. Under the current circumstances of the pandemic, meeting with people and conversing for long periods of time in-person is completely out of the question, which poses a new challenge for community liaisons everywhere, including CTSC's Community Health Specialist, Cynthia Killough, who manages the Community Health Network. When your job is to "engage communities" at a time when the world has stopped, one must embrace creativity and keep on moving forward.

One of the ways the Community Health Network (CHN) has been able to continue to engage communities through the pandemic is by showing gratitude & appreciation. The enrollment phase for one of the studies that had incorporated the CHN into their recruitment efforts, has come to a close. During the past 10 months (which included 1 month of in-person meetings and 9 months of virtual meetings), Cynthia reached out to participants by giving presentations at health council meetings around the state and by reaching out to certain community members to ask for their help in getting the word out about the study. Looking back at our enrollment efforts, we could not have gotten as much participant interest had it not been for these community organizations and members who went above and beyond and reached out to their communities through their networks.



To show our appreciation, the research team created virtual thank you cards (pictured) by using Google Jamboards. Cynthia then emailed the virtual cards to the corresponding community member/organization and made sure they knew how valued they were to our research team and work. The thank you cards were very well received by the community

members/organizations and in times like these, the cards provided another opportunity to engage communities.

If you would like to learn more about the CHN and how we engage diverse populations in research at CTSC, or if you know of a Principal Investigator who might benefit from partnering with the CHN, please feel free to contact Ms. Killough via email: ckillo@salud.unm.edu.

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 cost-efficiently 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 important 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 Sue'llen Johnson at sujohnson@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 (pagek@salud.unm.edu), other faculty, and Dr. Page’s team.

If you would like more information on this vital effort, please contact Dr. Page at pagek@salud.unm.edu.

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.

For questions, please contact Susan Tigert at STigert@salud.unm.edu.

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:

<http://hscnews.unm.edu/>

News or corrections?

Please contact [the Newsletter Team](#).

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