

## Clinical & Translational Science Center Newsletter

February 2021

### Letter from the Director



Dear Colleagues,

We hope that you and yours are staying safe and healthy as we look forward to another month of moving research forward for our communities!

The CTSC has been active doing all aspects of their research efforts even with the changing restrictions we have all faced during the pandemic. We have been continuing and expanding our research through consulting with PIs to adjust their protocols to include Zoom and other outreach for community based research, physically modifying our clinics to allow for safe participant interactions and working flexible schedules as our PIs may have additional clinical responsibilities.

While the CTSC is currently involved with several PIs that are conducting COVID-19 specific studies and we appreciate the opportunities to address this urgent need, we are available for all of our standard CTSC services and encourage PIs to reach out to our Research Concierge ([HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu)) with questions and/or to setup a consultation with the CTSC team.

We endeavor to update each section monthly and each are integral to our purpose and funding, we acknowledge that each PI has a personal and professional investment in the information we provide, and request that you submit that information to our team. The CTSC is here for your support.

For 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/>.

UNM HSC is pleased to announce our partnership with Cerner Learning Health Network- please see the featured story for additional information.

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.

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](mailto: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/>.

We encourage everyone to maintain good COVID safety habits, including social distancing and masking. Also, remember to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine, you may use this link: <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/>.

Should you have any questions about our assets and services, please contact the CTSC Research Concierge at [HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu](mailto: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

**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

### Cerner Real World Data: Cerner Learning Health Network

UNM HSC is pleased to announce that we are partnering with the Cerner Learning Health Network to enable our researchers to access Cerner Real World Data (RWD). Cerner Real-World Database is a national, de-identified, person-centric data set solution that enables the investigator to leverage longitudinal record data from contributing organizations.

The Cerner Learning Health Network (LHN) is a collaboration of healthcare organizations empowered by data to enhance clinical research and improve patient care. Organizations participating in the Learning Health Network agree for Cerner to map their institutions' de-identified and site-anonymized data to support answering important research questions.

**Cerner Real-World Data (RWD)** offers researchers access to national, de-identified clinical data sets. Specifically, EHR-based data from 50+ U.S. health systems including national, de-identified, person-centric data from which you can derive longitudinal record data from organizations using the Cerner EHR.

**Cerner Learning Health Network** offers access to a network of de-identified data, including our own data; the IT resources to assist with research efforts; and, opportunities to participate in research studies.

The **Cerner COVID Database** contains a specialized subset of Cerner Real-World Data, including demographic information for patients who qualified for inclusion based on the following criteria:

- 1) Patient has a minimum of one ER or inpatient encounter with a diagnosis code that could be associated to COVID exposure or infection; OR
- 2) Patient has a minimum of one ER or inpatient encounter with a positive result for a COVID laboratory test.

The full list of eligible encounter types for the inclusion criteria above includes:

- Emergency,
- Inpatient,
- Admitted for Observation, and
- Inpatient hospice care.

**After obtaining access for any of these databases,** the query is performed using Structured Query Language (SQL) in the Cloud, specifically, Apache Spark SQL. You can analyze the data using R, Python or Spark language/libraries.

To access **data in the above databases,** HSC investigators will need to follow the following process:

- For all data access types please submit a data request on the CTSC data request portal <https://ctsc.health.unm.edu/apps/data-request-landing/>.

## 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](mailto: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:**

Title	Notice Number	Organization(s)	Release Date	RFA/PA/PAR	Expiration Date	Activity Code(s)
Notice of Special Interest: Promoting Research on COVID-19 and Rheumatic, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	<a href="#">NOT-AR-21-012</a>	<a href="#">NIAMS</a>	Jan 5, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-185</a>	Nov 19, 2021	R01, R02
				<a href="#">PA-20-195</a>		
				<a href="#">PAR-21-055</a>		
				<a href="#">PAR-21-054</a>		
				<a href="#">PAR-21-053</a>		
Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplements for COVID-19	<a href="#">NOT-MH-21-120</a>	<a href="#">NIMH</a>	Dec 23, 2020	<a href="#">PA-20-272</a>	Jun 2, 2023	333

<b>Impacted NIMH Research</b>						
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research to Address Vaccine Hesitancy, Uptake, and Implementation among Populations that Experience Health Disparities</b>	<a href="#">NOT-MD-21-008</a>	<a href="#">NIMHD</a> , <a href="#">NIAID</a> , <a href="#">NIAMS</a> , <a href="#">NCI</a> , <a href="#">ORWH</a> , <a href="#">NIMH</a> , <a href="#">NINR</a> , <a href="#">OBSSR</a> , <a href="#">ODP</a> , <a href="#">NHLBI</a> , <a href="#">NIDCR</a> , <a href="#">SGMRO</a>	Dec 17, 2020	<a href="#">PA-20-183</a> <a href="#">PA-20-185</a>	Jan 8, 2022	R01
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Emergency Administrative Supplements to Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program Awards to Address 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Public Health Needs</b>	<a href="#">NOT-TR-21-011</a>	<a href="#">NCATS</a>	Dec 17, 2020	<a href="#">PAR-18-940</a> <a href="#">PAR-18-464</a> <a href="#">PAR-15-304</a> <a href="#">RFA-TR-14-009</a>	Jun 2, 2021	333
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Critical Threats to Public Health in Large-Scale Population Cohorts</b>	<a href="#">NOT-HG-21-020</a>	<a href="#">NHGRI</a>	Dec 10, 2020	<a href="#">PA-18-935</a> (Urgent Supplement)	Jan 16, 2021	333
<b>Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplement for</b>	<a href="#">NOT-OD-21-020</a>	<a href="#">NIH</a> , <a href="#">NLM</a> , <a href="#">NIEHS</a> , <a href="#">NIAMS</a> , <a href="#">NIDCR</a> , <a href="#">OBSSR</a> , <a href="#">NIGMS</a> , <a href="#">NHLBI</a>	Nov 17, 2020	<a href="#">PAR-20-072</a>	Mar 5, 2021	333

<b>Research and Capacity Building Efforts Related to Bioethical Issues (Admin Supplement Clinical Trial Optional)</b>		<a href="#">NCI</a> , <a href="#">NIAAA</a> , <a href="#">NINR</a> , <a href="#">NCATS</a> , <a href="#">ORWH</a> , <a href="#">NHGRI</a> , <a href="#">FIC</a> , <a href="#">NCCIH</a> , <a href="#">NIMH</a> , <a href="#">THRO</a> , <a href="#">NIDA</a> , <a href="#">NINDS</a> , <a href="#">NEI</a> , <a href="#">NIMHD</a> , <a href="#">NIAID</a> , <a href="#">NIA</a> , <a href="#">FDA</a> , <a href="#">NIBIB</a> , <a href="#">NIDCD</a> , <a href="#">NICHD</a> , <a href="#">NIDDK</a>				
<b>Emergency Awards: Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) on Pan-Coronavirus Vaccine Development Program Projects</b>	<a href="#">NOT-AI-21-002</a>	<a href="#">NIAID</a>	Nov 10, 2020	<a href="#">PAR-20-072</a>	Jun 12, 2021	PO1
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Effects of smoking and vaping on the risk and outcome of COVID-19 infection</b>	<a href="#">NOT-DA-20-084</a>	<a href="#">NIDA</a>	Oct 27, 2020	<a href="#">PA-20-183</a> <a href="#">PA-20-200</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a>	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R03, R21
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Repurposing Existing Therapeutics to Address the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)</b>	<a href="#">NOT-TR-21-006</a>	<a href="#">NCATS</a>	Oct 23, 2020	<a href="#">PAR-17-465</a> <a href="#">PAR-18-462</a> <a href="#">PAR-18-332</a>	Mar 17, 2021	UH2, U34, U01
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): The Influence of Host Resilience on Heterogeneity of Acute Respiratory Distress</b>	<a href="#">NOT-HL-20-814</a>	<a href="#">NHLBI</a>	Sept 15, 2020	<a href="#">PAR-20-183</a> <a href="#">PAR-20-185</a>	July 6, 2024	U01

Syndrome/Acute Lung Injury (ARDS/ALI)						
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If you are interested in applying for any of the grants, please email Michelle Parra ([MMParra@salud.unm.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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)

**We are now accepting applications for a Program Specialist. Please use this link to access the UNMjobs system for additional information and to apply:**

<https://unm.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/18/home/requisition/14623?c=unm>

The CERC team continues to support numerous studies across New Mexico during the pandemic. We are available for consultations on studies including assisting PIs with methods to move their research forward during this time of COVID-19 restrictions.

CERC provides the following services for investigators:

- Recruitment
- Consenting
- Research Coordination
- Qualitative & Quantitative Data Collection
- Project Management
- Data Management
- Research Consultation & Training



- Qualitative Analysis
- NVivo Enterprise Server Licensing
- Information Dissemination
- Interpretation
- Translation Services

If you would like a consultation with the CTSC for your study, please contact the CTSC Research Concierge @ [HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu).

For information on CERC services, please contact Maren Krake Dalton @ [mkrakedalton@salud.unm.edu](mailto:mkrakedalton@salud.unm.edu).

### ***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.

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

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

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

## Translational Endeavors (TE)

### Translational Workforce Development (TWD)

We're excited to announce the new TWD [course catalog](#) for 2021. The redesigned course catalog is aligned to the [CTSA competency domains](#) developed by the CTSA institutional DIAMOND portal, a collaborative discovery learning space for clinical research professionals. These competency domains provide researchers with a framework to ensure they have the skills necessary to succeed in their pursuits. The new catalog includes the same face-to-face Zoom sessions as prior, plus a wide range of new online modules, videos, and documents which can help all researchers expand their knowledge. You can continue to view our full calendar of courses on the [UNM Events calendar](#).

If you have a request for a resource to be included on the TWD course catalog, or would like to inquire about a custom course, contact Regis Lacher, TWD Training and Development Specialist, at [rlacher@salud.unm.edu](mailto:rlacher@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
<b>CTR-IN Multi Site Pilot Project</b>	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 CTR-IN Multi Site Pilot Awards, please contact Liz Torrez @ [METorrez@salud.unm.edu](mailto:METorrez@salud.unm.edu).

If you have any questions regarding Pilot Awards, please contact Maren Krake Dalton @ [mkrakedalton@salud.unm.edu](mailto:mkrakedalton@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.



## 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](mailto: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)

### **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 @ [HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu) 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 [www.healthexperiencesusa.org](http://www.healthexperiencesusa.org). 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: [www.healthexperiencesusa.org](http://www.healthexperiencesusa.org))

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 [hrishelbrakey@salud.unm.edu](mailto:hrishelbrakey@salud.unm.edu).

## Participant Clinical Interactions (PCI)

The PCI team is providing support to the University of California, San Diego’s research study, entitled, A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy of Ramipril to Prevent ICU Admission, Mechanical Ventilation or Death in Persons with COVID-19. Dr. Joao Teixeira is the local Principal Investigator for this study.

This study hypothesizes that Ramipril will “perform better than placebo in reducing the composite of all-cause mortality, need for ICU admission or invasive mechanical ventilator support among hospitalized patients with COVID-19.” While this study is important in the investigation of COVID therapeutics, the study has an added design feature, which is mindful of preventing the spread of COVID.

In order to reduce the risk of transmission of SARS- CoV2, the study design allows for online consenting and virtual study visits. Online consenting will be performed by utilizing a Part 11 compliant REDCap project. The PCI core of CTSC relied on our Information Technologies department to design and implement the online consent in REDCap for this study. This collaboration demonstrates the wealth of talent and strengths that the CTSC is able to provide to our investigators.

For more information about the CTSC PCI unit, please email George Garcia at [gmgarcia@salud.unm.edu](mailto:gmgarcia@salud.unm.edu).

## Community Health Network (CHN)

The Community Health Network (CHN) continues to 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.

For the past couple months, Cynthia has been helping to promote Dr. Carla Wilhite’s (pictured) COVID-19 Study. The timeliness of this study, and its importance, cannot be stressed enough. The



study asks New Mexicans, ages 18 years and older, to reflect on their experiences before and during the current pandemic. Through the use of a mixed-methods study model, New Mexicans can share their stories of how their work, health, & social lives are affected by COVID-19. While the pandemic has no doubt brought out challenges and barriers, we are also hoping to find stories of strength and resiliency from communities around New Mexico. This study has also allowed communities to talk about the importance of health research and be active participants, which Cynthia has been happy to be a part of and witness. Dr. Wilhite has already been invited to come back to these communities to share the findings of the study (in aggregate) and she has also proposed to work with communities, even suggesting communities take the lead with her support, on future grants if

they so wish to pursue these endeavors. To this end, there is a silver lining to the uncertainty the past year has brought, which is the platform COVID-19 has created to approach research from many different aspects to help New Mexicans in their pursuit of health.

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](mailto: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 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 [gmgarcia@salud.unm.edu](mailto:gmgarcia@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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@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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