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. Read on for several featured stories of interest: Our Participant/Client Interactions unit has begun recruiting for a clinical trial which has the potential to improve the long-term outcomes for patients with kidney outcomes. The study, led by Dr. Ashish Kataria, MD, FASN, of the Division of Nephrology, proceeds from the fact that a quarter of all kidney transplant recipients reject their transplanted kidneys. Dr. Kataria’s team aims to test a non-invasive and effective method for monitoring transplant recipients over time.

Next, our Community Engaged Research Core has completed a study which explores the value of social accountability, a topic which is gaining in importance as an educational concept during the coronavirus pandemic. The study, led by Dr. Amy Clithero-Eridon, Family & Community Medicine, analyzes how social accountability is interpreted within a medical school/health system context. CERC led the qualitative research analysis of this study, and has submitted several abstracts for publication.

Finally, we are excited to announce that the CTSC’s OPIOIDD function is now sharing some essential resources with UNM researchers, including an opioid-centric database of EHR data, and a library of well-described and validated resources and measures.

UNM has recently updated their COVID-19 guidance to mandate masks for all HSC individuals. We can expect the university to lift the mask mandate and require the vaccine on a yearly basis in the future. Meanwhile, please explore the University’s Bring Back the Pack COVID-19 guidance: https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu, as it provides important information to consider as we move into the fall semester.
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/.

All standard CTSC services are available. We encourage PIs to reach out to our Research Concierge (HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu) with questions and/or to setup a consultation with the CTSC team.

Every part of the CTSC is integral to our purpose and funding, and we aim to update each section of the CTSC newsletter monthly. 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 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.

If 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
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: Robert Rhyne, MD
Collaboration and Commercialization Module Lead: Eric Prossnitz, PhD
Translational Endeavors (TE) Component Director: Brandi Fink, PhD
Translational Workforce Development (TWD) Module Lead: Karlett Parra, PhD
Pilot Translational & Clinical Studies (PTC) Module Lead: Christos Argyropoulos, MD
Research Methods (RM) Component Director: Mark Unruh, MD
Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design (BERD) Module Lead: Mark Unruh, MD
PCI Begins Dr. Kataria’s Kidney Outcomes Trial

Dr. Ashish Kataria, MD, FASN, with the Division of Nephrology and his team of investigators are currently conducting a clinical trial investigating the post-transplant outcomes of recipients of kidney transplants. This is an observational study to evaluate post-transplant outcomes using TruGraf and Transplant Rejection Allograft Check (TRAC) monitoring, which are commercially available blood tests.

While there has been improvement in the short-term outcomes for patients with kidney transplants, there has been little improvement in long-term outcomes. According to The Kidney Project, almost 750,000 Americans are affected by kidney failure each year. The best treatment for kidney failure is kidney transplantation. However, a patient’s body views a transplanted kidney as a foreign object and therefore physicians must be vigilant regarding rejection of the transplanted organ. Studies have shown that 25% of kidney transplant recipients experience subclinical rejection of the transplanted kidney.

In this observational study participants will have TruGraf and TRAC testing, which aims to provide surveillance of the transplant viability without performing a biopsy. Only TruGraf has been validated as an effective and non-invasive method for monitoring kidney transplant recipients with stable renal function, which provides the immunologic status of patients without the potential harm and cost of a biopsy. TRAC is a donor-derived, cell-free DNA assay that provides physicians with actionable data for evaluating the rejection of the kidney transplant.

This observational study will assess the value of serial monitoring and changes over time that has not been previously investigated. In addition, no study has assessed TruGraf and TRAC in a serial and longitudinal fashion. While TruGraf and TRAC are both used to monitor kidney rejection, they have not been used together or in a consecutive manner.

This is a two-year, multi-site study with a national enrollment goal of 2,000 participants, in which UNM HSC will enroll approximately 75-100 participants. The PCI team at CTSC is offering full-study coordination to Dr. Kataria and his investigator team.

If you have questions about PCI services, please contact Donna Sedillo at dlsedillo@salud.unm.edu.
Social accountability is gaining in importance as an educational concept. To maximize the value, it is essential to know how it is interpreted from multiple stakeholder perspectives. In an effort to better understand the stories of social accountability during the coronavirus pandemic on a multi-dimensional, international level at different medical schools and health systems, Dr. Amy Clithero-Eridon, Principal Lecturer in Family & Community Medicine, Connie Hu, MS3, and their global colleagues in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are conducting the study "The Transformative Potential of Socially Accountable Education: Understanding Global and Local Perspectives." The CERC team has been leading them through the qualitative research analysis and research dissemination.

Based on preliminary analysis, one interviewee shared how the arts-based process made them think “deeper” about social accountability, specifically on the pandemic’s effects on perception of daily life:

"It made me think harder at how and why I think about the covid and social isolation and social accountability. Do more introspection on what motivates me."

Another interviewee reflected how the concept of social accountability is now more concrete and clearer with the use of visual representations:

"I think it made it more concrete. It can be abstract especially in sociology and overwhelming on a societal level. On an individual level it made it more clear."

The team has submitted an abstract to the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and another to the American Medical Association. This project is funded by New Frontiers.

**OPIOIDD Function Platform Shares Resources with UNM Researchers**

New Mexico has featured prominently in the explosive increase in opioid use, opioid use disorder (OUD), and related mortality that is a hallmark of this national crisis. UNM CTSC is poised to meet this challenge statewide, regionally, and nationally across the translational spectrum with services and infrastructure from the OPIOIDD function. The Opioid-use Populations with Integration, Outreach, Informatics, and Drug Discovery (OPIOIDD) function will provide a platform to support and accelerate culturally relevant research addressing this important national and regional issue.

We’re happy to announce that the OPIOIDD function website now provides direction for some of the initiatives available to researchers at UNM:

The Informatics OPIOIDD Database is an opioid-centric database of local and national EHR and administrative claims data focused on opioid use. Researchers submit a Data Request to access the database. Explore the database or request access here:

https://hsc.unm.edu/ctsc/programs/opioidd/opioidd-database.html

The Library of Resources and Measures houses resources and information for survey and questionnaire resources for opioid and substance use. This includes links to publicly available resources that are well described and validated.

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**Menu of Services & Resources**
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 fall 2021.

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

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.

The CTSC Informatics team has worked with several Investigators within the Cerner LHN on their research projects. If you would like to know more please contact Marguerite Valencia-Reed mvalencia-reed@salud.unm.edu or Harry Snow hsnow@slud.unm.edu for information.

**Community & Collaboration (C&C)**

**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 can 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](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](https://ascendhub.org).

**Translational Endeavors (TE)i**

**Translational Workforce Development (TWD)**

Translational Workforce Development has numerous course offerings and can even provide consultations as requested to assist you in your goals! Please request a consultation or additional
information on any courses offered. The TWD team may be reached via 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 Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC) is soliciting applications from all HS faculty
members—senior as well as junior investigators—in response to the following pilot Request For
Application.

We strongly encourage investigators to meet with the CTSC Research Concierge,
HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu, early in the planning and writing phases of their
proposals in order to discuss CTSC resources required. If you have any questions please do not
hesitate to contact Christina Anderson, CTSC Pilot Program Specialist, at
ChAnderson@salud.unm.edu.

Pilot Award
As part of our CTSC award, NIH has identified the need to speed the movement of clinical research
findings into the everyday practice of health care delivery. The purpose of this award is to support
pilot projects that utilize CTSC infrastructure to produce preliminary data for competitive NIH grant
proposals in clinical and translational (T1, T2, T3, and T4) research.

Linking Clinical Trials to Drug Discovery and Repurposing Award
This RFA is a solicitation of applications from active CTSC investigators for projects that will link
clinical research with drug discovery efforts in the Center for Molecular Discovery. The goal of this
program is to: 1) develop cell-based assays for use in high-throughput screening, 2) to use these cell-
based assays for the identification of drugs for clinical repurposing efforts, and 3) to utilize these
previously FDA

CTSC/DCI Kidney Pilot Project Award
The CTSC, in conjunction with Dialysis Clinic, Inc. (DCI), are soliciting applications for pilot projects
that will exemplify the CTSC mission of developing clinical and translational research with an
emphasis on kidney disease, hypertension, and/or kidney transplantation. The purpose of this RFA is
to support pilot projects that utilize the CTSC infrastructure to produce preliminary data for
competitive NIH grant proposals in kidney disease, hypertension, and/or kidney transplantation
clinical and translational (T1, T2, T3, and T4) research.

Innovation & Commercialization Award
The purpose of this RFA is to support innovative, high-risk/high-reward pilot projects to produce
preliminary data for competitive NIH proposals in clinical and translational research. Most awards will
be expected to seek NIH funding, most likely through an SBIR/STTR mechanism. These projects are
intended to provide the preliminary data and initial corporate relationships to develop technology
and move it towards successful commercialization.
Wicked Problems: Target Pilot Project Award

The National CTSA Network has identified a list of common and/or emerging problems (“wicked problems”) that require urgent scientific solution. The purpose of this RFA is to support pilot projects that tackle one of the targeted wicked problems listed below relating to data sharing and protection, big data, datasets or research collaboration:

- Data Sharing
- Big data to alter practice/diagnosis
- Use of multiple datasets
- Access to resources to address labor-intensive activities
- Privacy and data protection for research
- Removing institutional bottlenecks/sharing of resources
- Evaluating the impact of translational research efforts
- Implementing scientific review before studies are performed
- Dissemination and implementation Science
- EHR data integration
- Defining Impact for the CTSA Program
- Building a KL2 Scholar Community
- Addressing challenges in recruiting from rural sites
- Hub Stability

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 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](http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/biostatistics/index.html).

Regulatory Knowledge & Support (RKS)

The clinical research community is supported by the Federal Regulatory Support. This no cost service at the UNM HSC provides assistance with sponsor-investigator IND or IDE applications. This includes
personal consultation and helpful templates through online modules on a range of topics related to FDA regulated studies. The goal is to provide the research community with the tools, training and support needed to navigate the complex regulatory pathways that accompany translational research. As part of this support, the UNM CTSC regulatory manager, Rebecca Brito, serves as a liaison to assist investigators in 4 key areas:

1. **Early Regulatory Strategy Development:** We encourage early interaction as a means to develop a regulatory strategy that is appropriate for the complexity of each research project.

2. **Regulatory Submissions and Maintenance:** We provide templates and consultation in preparation, submission, and maintenance of regulatory applications to the FDA.

3. **ClinicalTrials.gov:** PRS administration that includes user account creation, maintenance, updates and consultation.

4. **Regulatory Education and Training:** We provide a variety of educational programs, including tailored educational seminars and recorded FDA webinars.

Assisting in these areas helps keep research studies on track and ensures a fluid process while developing each project. The goal of the UNM CTSC Regulatory Department is to help make each research project a success in translational science.

For more information on how we can help, please contact Rebecca Brito at rbrito@salud.unm.edu

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**Hub Research Capacity (HRC)**

**Integrating Special Populations (ISP)**

The aim of the CTSC ISP team aim is to identify, develop, and deploy strategies to involve populations who are underserved or otherwise underrepresented in all stages of research. Urging investigators to design scientifically sound CTR that includes special populations from the outset is of critical importance. To aid investigators in these efforts, ISP has developed the new specialized Rurally Engaged, Spanish speaking or Network Specialized Experts (RESPONSE) team led by experienced faculty with mixed-methods CTR expertise. This group will provide pre-proposal consultations. Consultations will focus on best practices and considerations in New Mexico’s special populations, and identify and connect investigators to potential engagement partners, collaborators, and UNM CTSC resources and services. The team coordinates closely with other CTSC cores (e.g., CERC, Translational Endeavors, KL2). Consults are currently available via web-based technology.

If you would like to request a consultation, please fill out the intake form at the following link.

[https://ctsctrials.health.unm.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=NNH84CWCAK](https://ctsctrials.health.unm.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=NNH84CWCAK)

For more information, please contact Jesus Fuentes at JEFuentes@salud.unm.edu

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

For more information on Integrating Special Populations, please use the following link:

[https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/Community-Engaged-Research-Core/integrating-special-populations.html](https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/Community-Engaged-Research-Core/integrating-special-populations.html)
**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 and Community Health Specialist, has been attending 13 community health councils virtually around the state consistently (see picture; gold stars represent health councils attended). 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. As the state starts to open up, more health councils are starting to hold in-person/hybrid meetings. Cynthia will wait a few more months to see how hybrid situations work, and the COVID-19 status around the state, before attending in person.

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**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 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.

Clinical Laboratory (T-Laboratory)

Using CTSC Lab Services

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.

**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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Notice Number</th>
<th>Organization(s)</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>RFA/PA/PAR #</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
<th>Activity Code(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Telehealth Strategies for Individuals with HIV and Substance Use Disorders</td>
<td>NOT-DA-21-019</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Feb 10, 2021</td>
<td>PA-20-184, PA-20-183, PA-20-200, PA-20-195, PA-20-194, PA-20-196, PA-20-146</td>
<td>Sep 8, 2024</td>
<td>R01, R02, R21</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Medical Consequences</td>
<td>NOT-DA-21-017</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Feb 4, 2021</td>
<td>PA-20-184, PA-20-183, PA-20-200, PA-20-195, PA-20-194, PA-20-196</td>
<td>Sep 8, 2024</td>
<td>R01, R02, R03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Complement in Basic Immunology (CIBI)</td>
<td>NOT-AI-21-008</td>
<td>NIAID</td>
<td>Feb 4, 2021</td>
<td>PA-20-185, PA-20-195</td>
<td>Jan 8, 2023</td>
<td>R01, R21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Long-Term Neurocognitive Consequences of COVID-19 in Individuals Living with HIV and Substance Use Disorders</td>
<td>NOT-DA-21-018</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Feb 3, 2021</td>
<td>PA-20-184, PA-20-183, PA-20-200, PA-20-195, PA-20-194, PA-20-196, PA-20-146</td>
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<td>R01, R03, R21</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Effects of smoking and vaping on the risk and outcome of COVID-19 infection</td>
<td>NOT-DA-21-011</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Jan 26, 2021</td>
<td>PA-20-184, PA-20-183, PA-20-200, PA-20-195, PA-20-194, PA-20-196, PA-20-146</td>
<td>Sep 8, 2024</td>
<td>R01, R03, R21</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest: Promoting Research on</td>
<td>NOT-AR-21-012</td>
<td>NIAMS</td>
<td>Jan 5, 2021</td>
<td>PA-20-185, PA-20-195, PAR-21-055</td>
<td>Nov 19, 2021</td>
<td>R01, R02</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research to Address Vaccine Hesitancy, Uptake, and Implementation among Populations that Experience Health Disparities</td>
<td>NOT-MD-21-008</td>
<td>NIMHD, NIAID, NIAMS, NCI, ORWH, NIMH, NINR, OBSSR, ODP, NHLBI, NIDCR, SGMRO</td>
<td>Dec 17, 2020</td>
<td>PA-20-183 PA-20-185</td>
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<td>R01</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Effects of smoking and vaping on the risk and outcome of COVID-19 infection</td>
<td>NOT-DA-20-084</td>
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<td>Mobile Health Solutions to rectify digital inequality in communities</td>
<td>RFA-DA-22-001</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Apr 27, 2021</td>
<td>R43/R44</td>
<td>Aug 14, 2021</td>
<td>R43/R44</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Emergency Awards for Limited Clinical Trials to Evaluate Therapeutic and Vaccine Candidates Against SARS-CoV-2</td>
<td>NOT-AI-20-065</td>
<td>NIAID</td>
<td>Aug 13, 2020</td>
<td>PAR-18-633</td>
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<td>HIV Health Impacts of COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Emergency Competitive Revisions to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements for Tissue Chips Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus</strong></td>
<td>NOT-TR-20-017</td>
<td>NCATS</td>
<td>Apr 9, 2020</td>
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<td>Jan 26, 2022</td>
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<td><strong>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements for Tissue Chips Research on</strong></td>
<td>NOT-TR-20-016</td>
<td>NCATS</td>
<td>Apr 9, 2020</td>
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<td>Jan 26, 2022</td>
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<td>Start Date</td>
<td>End Date</td>
<td>Funding Mechanism</td>
<td>Project Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Competitive Revision to Existing NIH Awards (Emergency Supplement - Clinical Trial Optional)</td>
<td>NIH, NCATS, NCIC, NHGRI, NIA, NIAAA, NIAID, NIAMS, NIBIB, NICHD, NIDCD, NIDDK, NIEHS, NIGMS, NIMH, NIMHD, NINR, NLM, ORWH, OSC</td>
<td>Mar 10, 2020</td>
<td>Sep 8, 2025</td>
<td>PA-20-135</td>
<td>333</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Intersection of Sex and Gender Influences on Health and Disease (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)</td>
<td>ORWH, NCCIH, NHGRI, NHLBI, NIA, NIAAA, NIAID, NIDA, NIDCR, NIEHS, NIMH, NINR</td>
<td>Sep 27, 2019</td>
<td>Nov 27, 2021</td>
<td>PA-20-272</td>
<td>R01</td>
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<td>Emergency Award: Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research on COVID-19 Consortium (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)</td>
<td>NIA, NIDA, ORWH, NIMH, NIAA, NIMHD, OBSSR, NEI</td>
<td>April 6, 2021</td>
<td>Nov 9, 2021</td>
<td>U01 Research Project (Cooperati ve Agreement s)</td>
<td>U01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Promoting Vaccine Access, Acceptance and Uptake among Children, Adolescents,</td>
<td>NICHD</td>
<td>June 28, 2021</td>
<td>May 8, 2024</td>
<td>PA-20-200, PA-21-221, PA-20-195, PA-20-194</td>
<td>R03, R21</td>
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<td><strong>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI)</strong></td>
<td><strong>HIV/AIDS in the Era of COVID-19: When Pandemics Collide</strong></td>
<td><strong>Limited Competition Emergency Awards: Shared Personal Protective Equipment Resources for COVID-19 Related Vaccine and Treatment Clinical Trials and Clinical Studies (S10 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NOT-AI-21-057</strong></td>
<td><strong>NIAID, NIMH, NIDA</strong></td>
<td><strong>PAR-21-276</strong></td>
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<td><strong>June 25, 2021</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reissue of PAR-20-256</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PA-20-185, PA-20-195</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Jul 16, 2021</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May 8, 2024</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Jul 16, 2022</strong></td>
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<td><strong>R01, R21</strong></td>
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<td><strong>S10</strong></td>
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</table>

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.

### 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.

The University Of New Mexico Mailing Address:
One University of New Mexico
MSC 08 4635
Albuquerque, NM 87131

From: Karen R Sheche <krsheche@salud.unm.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Regis R Lacher <rlacher@salud.unm.edu>
Subject: RE: August 2021 CTSC Newsletter

Do you want me to send it out this week Friday or next week Monday?

~~~~~Karen

From: Regis R Lacher <rlacher@salud.unm.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 12:46 PM
To: Karen R Sheche <krsheche@salud.unm.edu>
Subject: FW: August 2021 CTSC Newsletter

Here’s the newsletter to send out this month, please!

Regis

From: Richard S Larson <RLarson@salud.unm.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 12:44 PM
Regis,
This looks great- please send out. Going forward please include Michael Haederle on the distribution so he can capture any newsworthy item.
Thanks
Richard

From: Regis R Lacher <rlacher@salud.unm.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 12:36 PM
To: Richard S Larson <RLarson@salud.unm.edu>
Cc: Carla N Cordova <CNCordova@salud.unm.edu>
Subject: August 2021 CTSC Newsletter

Good afternoon Dr. Larson,

Below is this month’s CTSC newsletter for your feedback.

Best,
Regis
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. Read on for several featured stories of interest: Our Participant/Client Interactions unit has begun recruiting for a clinical trial which has the potential to improve the long-term outcomes for patients with kidney outcomes. The study, led by Dr. Ashish Kataria, MD, FASN, of the Division of Nephrology, proceeds from the fact that a quarter of all kidney transplant recipients reject their transplanted kidneys. Dr. Kataria’s team aims to test a non-invasive and effective method for monitoring transplant recipients over time.

Next, our Community Engaged Research Core has completed a study which explores the value of social accountability, a topic which is gaining in importance as an educational concept during the coronavirus pandemic. The study, led by Dr. Amy Clithero-Eridon, Family & Community Medicine, analyzes how social accountability is interpreted within a medical school/health system context. CERC led the qualitative research analysis of this study, and has submitted several abstracts for publication.

Finally, we are excited to announce that the CTSC’s OPIOIDD function is now sharing some essential resources with UNM researchers, including an opioid-centric database of EHR data, and a library of well-described and validated resources and measures.

UNM has recently updated their COVID-19 guidance to mandate masks for all HSC individuals. We can expect the university to lift the mask mandate and require the vaccine on a yearly basis in the future. Meanwhile, please explore the University’s Bring Back the Pack COVID-19 guidance: https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu, as it provides important information to consider as we move into the fall semester.

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/.

All standard CTSC services are available. We encourage PIs to reach out to our Research Concierge (HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu) with questions and/or to setup a consultation with the CTSC team.

Every part of the CTSC is integral to our purpose and funding, and we aim to update each section of the CTSC newsletter monthly. 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 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.
If 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  
**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**

*PCI Begins Dr. Kataria’s Kidney Outcomes Trial*
Dr. Ashish Kataria, MD, FASN, with the Division of Nephrology and his team of investigators are currently conducting a clinical trial investigating the post-transplant outcomes of recipients of kidney transplants. This is an observational study to evaluate post-transplant outcomes using TruGraf and Transplant Rejection Allograft Check (TRAC) monitoring, which are commercially available blood tests.

While there has been improvement in the short-term outcomes for patients with kidney transplants, there has been little improvement in long-term outcomes. According to The Kidney Project, almost 750,000 Americans are affected by kidney failure each year. The best treatment for kidney failure is kidney transplantation. However, a patient’s body views a transplanted kidney as a foreign object and therefore physicians must be vigilant regarding rejection of the transplanted organ. Studies have shown that 25% of kidney transplant recipients experience subclinical rejection of the transplanted kidney.

In this observational study participants will have TruGraf and TRAC testing, which aims to provide surveillance of the transplant viability without performing a biopsy. Only TruGraf has been validated as an effective and non-invasive method for monitoring kidney transplant recipients with stable renal function, which provides the immunologic status of patients without the potential harm and cost of a biopsy. TRAC is a donor-derived, cell-free DNA assay that provides physicians with actionable data for evaluating the rejection of the kidney transplant.

This observational study will assess the value of serial monitoring and changes over time that has not been previously investigated. In addition, no study has assessed TruGraf and TRAC in a serial and longitudinal fashion. While TruGraf and TRAC are both used to monitor kidney rejection, they have not been used together or in a consecutive manner.

This is a two-year, multi-site study with a national enrollment goal of 2,000 participants, in which UNM HSC will enroll approximately 75-100 participants. The PCI team at CTSC is offering full-study coordination to Dr. Kataria and his investigator team.

If you have questions about PCI services, please contact Donna Sedillo at dlsedillo@salud.unm.edu.

CERC Exploring Social Accountability from Multiple Stakeholder Perspectives

Social accountability is gaining in importance as an educational concept. To maximize the value, it is essential to know how it is interpreted from multiple stakeholder perspectives. In an effort to better understand the stories of social accountability during the coronavirus pandemic on a multi-dimensional, international level at different medical schools and health systems, Dr. Amy Clithero-Eridon, Principal Lecturer in Family & Community Medicine, Connie Hu, MS3, and their global colleagues in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are conducting the study “The Transformative Potential of Socially Accountable Education: Understanding Global and Local Perspectives.” The CERC team has been leading them through the qualitative research analysis and research dissemination.

Based on preliminary analysis, one interviewee shared how the arts-based process made them think “deeper” about social accountability, specifically on the pandemic’s effects on perception of daily life:

"It made me think harder at how and why I think about the covid and social isolation and social accountability. Do more introspection on what motivates me."
Another interviewee reflected how the concept of social accountability is now more concrete and clearer with the use of visual representations:

"I think it made it more concrete. It can be abstract especially in sociology and overwhelming on a societal level. On an individual level it made it more clear."

The team has submitted an abstract to the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and another to the American Medical Association. This project is funded by New Frontiers.

**OPIOIDD Function Platform Shares Resources with UNM Researchers**

New Mexico has featured prominently in the explosive increase in opioid use, opioid use disorder (OUD), and related mortality that is a hallmark of this national crisis. UNM CTSC is poised to meet this challenge statewide, regionally, and nationally across the translational spectrum with services and infrastructure from the OPIOIDD function. The Opioid-use Populations with Integration, Outreach, Informatics, and Drug Discovery (OPIOIDD) function will provide a platform to support and accelerate culturally relevant research addressing this important national and regional issue.

We’re happy to announce that the OPIOIDD function website now provides direction for some of the initiatives available to researchers at UNM:

The Informatics OPIOIDD Database is an opioid-centric database of local and national EHR and administrative claims data focused on opioid use. Researchers submit a Data Request to access the database. Explore the database or request access here: https://hsc.unm.edu/ctsc/programs/opioidd/opioidd-database.html

The Library of Resources and Measures houses resources and information for survey and questionnaire resources for opioid and substance use. This includes links to publicly available resources that are well described and validated.

**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
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 fall 2021.

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

Informatics

Cerner Real World Data: Cerner Learning Health Network
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.

The CTSC Informatics team has worked with several Investigators within the Cerner LHN on their research projects. If you would like to know more please contact Marguerite Valencia-Reed mvalencia-reed@salud.unm.edu or Harry Snow hsnow@slud.unm.edu for information.

Community & Collaboration (C&C)

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

Translational Endeavors (TE)i

Translational Workforce Development (TWD)

Translational Workforce Development has numerous course offerings and can even provide consultations as requested to assist you in your goals! Please request a consultation or additional information on any courses offered. The TWD team may be reached via 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 Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC) is soliciting applications from all HS faculty members— senior as well as junior investigators— in response to the following pilot Request For Application.

We strongly encourage investigators to meet with the CTSC Research Concierge, HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu, early in the planning and writing phases of their proposals in order to discuss CTSC resources required. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Christina Anderson, CTSC Pilot Program Specialist, at ChAnderson@salud.unm.edu.
**Pilot Award**

As part of our CTSC award, NIH has identified the need to speed the movement of clinical research findings into the everyday practice of health care delivery. The purpose of this award is to support pilot projects that utilize CTSC infrastructure to produce preliminary data for competitive NIH grant proposals in clinical and translational (T1, T2, T3, and T4) research.

**Linking Clinical Trials to Drug Discovery and Repurposing Award**

This RFA is a solicitation of applications from active CTSC investigators for projects that will link clinical research with drug discovery efforts in the Center for Molecular Discovery. The goal of this program is to: 1) develop cell-based assays for use in high-throughput screening, 2) to use these cell-based assays for the identification of drugs for clinical repurposing efforts, and 3) to utilize these previously FDA

**CTSC/DCI Kidney Pilot Project Award**

The CTSC, in conjunction with Dialysis Clinic, Inc. (DCI), are soliciting applications for pilot projects that will exemplify the CTSC mission of developing clinical and translational research with an emphasis on kidney disease, hypertension, and/or kidney transplantation. The purpose of this RFA is to support pilot projects that utilize the CTSC infrastructure to produce preliminary data for competitive NIH grant proposals in kidney disease, hypertension, and/or kidney transplantation clinical and translational (T1, T2, T3, and T4) research.

**Innovation & Commercialization Award**

The purpose of this RFA is to support innovative, high-risk/high-reward pilot projects to produce preliminary data for competitive NIH proposals in clinical and translational research. Most awards will be expected to seek NIH funding, most likely through an SBIR/STTR mechanism. These projects are intended to provide the preliminary data and initial corporate relationships to develop technology and move it towards successful commercialization.

**Wicked Problems: Target Pilot Project Award**

The National CTSA Network has identified a list of common and/or emerging problems (“wicked problems”) that require urgent scientific solution. The purpose of this RFA is to support pilot projects that tackle one of the targeted wicked problems listed below relating to data sharing and protection, big data, datasets or research collaboration:

- Data Sharing
- Big data to alter practice/diagnosis
- Use of multiple datasets
- Access to resources to address labor-intensive activities
- Privacy and data protection for research
- Removing institutional bottlenecks/sharing of resources
- Evaluating the impact of translational research efforts
- Implementing scientific review before studies are performed
- Dissemination and implementation Science
- EHR data integration
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 website: http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/biostatistics/index.html.

Regulatory Knowledge & Support (RKS)

The clinical research community is supported by the Federal Regulatory Support. This no cost service at the UNM HSC provides assistance with sponsor-investigator IND or IDE applications. This includes personal consultation and helpful templates through online modules on a range of topics related to FDA regulated studies. The goal is to provide the research community with the tools, training and support needed to navigate the complex regulatory pathways that accompany translational research.

As part of this support, the UNM CTSC regulatory manager, Rebecca Brito, serves as a liaison to assist investigators in 4 key areas:

1. **Early Regulatory Strategy Development**: We encourage early interaction as a means to develop a regulatory strategy that is appropriate for the complexity of each research project.

2. **Regulatory Submissions and Maintenance**: We provide templates and consultation in preparation, submission, and maintenance of regulatory applications to the FDA.

3. **ClinicalTrials.gov**: PRS administration that includes user account creation, maintenance, updates and consultation.

4. **Regulatory Education and Training**: We provide a variety of educational programs, including tailored educational seminars and recorded FDA webinars.
Assistant in these areas helps keep research studies on track and ensures a fluid process while developing each project. The goal of the UNM CTSC Regulatory Department is to help make each research project a success in translational science.

For more information on how we can help, please contact Rebecca Brito at rbrito@salud.unm.edu

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<th>Hub Research Capacity (HRC)</th>
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<td>Integrating Special Populations (ISP)</td>
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The aim of the CTSC ISP team aim is to identify, develop, and deploy strategies to involve populations who are underserved or otherwise underrepresented in all stages of research. Urging investigators to design scientifically sound CTR that includes special populations from the outset is of critical importance. To aid investigators in these efforts, ISP has developed the new specialized Rurally Engaged, Spanish speaking or Network Specialized Experts (RESPONSE) team led by experienced faculty with mixed-methods CTR expertise. This group will provide pre-proposal consultations. Consultations will focus on best practices and considerations in New Mexico’s special populations, and identify and connect investigators to potential engagement partners, collaborators, and UNM CTSC resources and services. The team coordinates closely with other CTSC cores (e.g., CERC, Translational Endeavors, KL2). Consults are currently available via web-based technology.

If you would like to request a consultation, please fill out the intake form at the following link.

[https://ctsctrials.health.unm.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=NNH84CWCAK](https://ctsctrials.health.unm.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=NNH84CWCAK)

For more information, please contact Jesus Fuentes at JEFuentes@salud.unm.edu

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

For more information on Integrating Special Populations, please use the following link: [https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/Community-Engaged-Research-Core/integrating-special-populations.html](https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/Community-Engaged-Research-Core/integrating-special-populations.html)

| 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 and Community Health Specialist, has been attending 13 community health councils virtually around the state consistently (see picture; gold stars represent health councils attended). 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. As the state starts to open up, more health councils are starting to hold in-person/hybrid meetings. Cynthia will wait a few more months to see how hybrid situations work, and the COVID-19 status around the state, before attending in person.
The 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 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.

Clinical Laboratory (T-Laboratory)

Using CTSC Lab Services

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-CTSRCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Notice Number</th>
<th>Organization(s)</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>RFA/PA/PAR #</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
<th>Activity Code(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Needs</td>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Announcement ID</td>
<td>Due Date</td>
<td>Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Modeling Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the Causative Virus SARS-CoV-2</td>
<td>NIGMS</td>
<td>Feb 25, 2021</td>
<td>NOT-GM-21-019</td>
<td>Dec 16, 2021</td>
<td>R01, R03, R21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Telehealth Strategies for Individuals with HIV and Substance Use Disorders</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Feb 10, 2021</td>
<td>NOT-DA-21-019</td>
<td>Sep 8, 2024</td>
<td>R01, R03, R21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Medical Consequences of Smoking and Vaping Drugs of Abuse in Individuals with HIV and COVID-19</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Feb 4, 2021</td>
<td>NOT-DA-21-017</td>
<td>Sep 8, 2024</td>
<td>R01, R02, R03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest</td>
<td>NIAID</td>
<td>Feb 4, 2021</td>
<td>NOT-AI-21-008</td>
<td>Jan 8, 2023</td>
<td>R01, R01, R21</td>
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<td>NOSI:</td>
<td>Complement in Basic Immunology (CIBI)</td>
<td>NIDCR</td>
<td>Feb 3, 2021</td>
<td>PA-20-185, PA-20-195</td>
<td>May 28, 2023</td>
<td>R01, R21</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Long-Term Neurocognitive Consequences of COVID-19 in Individuals Living with HIV and Substance Use Disorders</td>
<td>NOT-DA-21-018</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Feb 3, 2021</td>
<td>PA-20-184, PA-20-183, PA-20-200, PA-20-194, PA-20-196, PA-20-146</td>
<td>Sep 8, 2024</td>
<td>R01, R21</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): NIDCR Support for Research on the Physiological Involvement of Oral Cavity in Coronavirus</td>
<td>NOT-DE-21-001</td>
<td>NIDCR</td>
<td>Jan 26, 2021</td>
<td>PA-20-185, PA-20-195</td>
<td>May 28, 2023</td>
<td>R01, R21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Notice Number</td>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Application Due Date</td>
<td>Funding Opportunity Dates</td>
<td>Project Due Dates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Aging-Relevant Behavioral and Social Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)</td>
<td>NOT-AG-21-015</td>
<td>NIA</td>
<td>Jan 26, 2021</td>
<td>May 28, 2023</td>
<td>R01, R03, R21, U19, P01, R21/R3</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Effects of smoking and vaping on the risk and outcome of COVID-19 infection</td>
<td>NOT-DA-21-011</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Jan 26, 2021</td>
<td>Sep 8, 2024</td>
<td>R01, R03, R21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest: Promoting Research on COVID-19 and Rheumatic, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases</td>
<td>NOT-AR-21-012</td>
<td>NIAMS</td>
<td>Jan 5, 2021</td>
<td>Nov 19, 2021</td>
<td>R01, R02</td>
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<td>Impacted NIMH Research</td>
<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research to Address Vaccine Hesitancy, Uptake, and Implementation among Populations that Experience Health Disparities</td>
<td>NOT-MD-21-008</td>
<td>NIMHD, NIAID, NIAMS, NCI, ORWH, NIMH, NINR, OBSSR, ODP, NHLBI, NIDCR, SGMRO</td>
<td>Dec 17, 2020</td>
<td>PA-20-183 PA-20-185</td>
<td>Jan 8, 2022</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Effects of smoking and vaping on the risk and outcome of COVID-19 infection</td>
<td>NOT-DA-20-084</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Oct 27, 2020</td>
<td>PA-20-183 PA-20-200 PA-20-195</td>
<td>Sep 8, 2024</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mobile Health Solutions to rectify digital inequality in communities affected by drug addiction (R43/R44 Clinical Trial Optional)</td>
<td>RFA-DA-22-001</td>
<td>NIDA</td>
<td>Apr 27, 2021</td>
<td>R43/R44</td>
<td>Aug 14, 2021</td>
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<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Simulation Modeling and Systems Science to Address Health Disparities</td>
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<td>NIMHD, NCI, NIDA, NLM, ODP, OBSSR, NIMH, NIAMS</td>
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<td>R01</td>
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<tr>
<th>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Competitive Revision and Administrative Supplements to Existing NICHD HIV Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Understand HIV Health Impacts of COVID-19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NICHD</td>
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<td>Jul 2, 2021</td>
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<td>PA-20-272</td>
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<td>PA-18-935</td>
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<td>NOT-OD-20-018</td>
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<tr>
<th>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): NIDCD is Interested in Supporting Research on the Impact of</th>
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<tr>
<td>NIDCD</td>
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<td>Jun 4, 2020</td>
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<td>PA-18-334</td>
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<td>PA-19-270</td>
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<td>Sep 8, 2022</td>
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<td>R01, R21, R41/R42, R43/R44</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19 on Mission Specific Sensory and Communication Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Emergency Competitive Revisions to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements for Tissue Chips Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Competitive Revision to Existing NIH Awards (Emergency Supplement -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Trial Optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Award: Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research on COVID-19 Consortium (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)</td>
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</table>
**When Pandemics Collide**


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](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/COVID-Related.cfm).

**Citing the CTSC**

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

![CTSC Grant Number: UL1TR001449](https://example.com/ctsc-grant-number)

Thank you!

**HS in the News**

For additional Health Sciences news, please visit: [http://hscnews.unm.edu/](http://hscnews.unm.edu/)
**News or corrections?**
Please contact [the Newsletter Team](mailto:).

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Albuquerque, NM 87131