

## Clinical & Translational Science Center Newsletter

March 2022

### Letter from the Director



Dear Colleagues,

Spring is almost here and with it warmer temperatures. As we head into the end of the third quarter it's time to start planning your research projects for FY2023. New funding opportunities can now be found online at <https://hsc.unm.edu/research/news/funding-ops.html>.

I am pleased to tell you about some of the high impact studies that the CTSC is supporting.

With support from our clinical trials unit (PCI) Dr. Akshay Sood, conducts the "Keeping rural minority 'essential' workplaces open safely during the COVID-19 pandemic: The role of frequent point-of-care molecular workplace surveillance for miners" (The Miners' Pandemic Project). As a community-engaged NIH-funded research project, the Miners' project's long-term goal is to mitigate the spread of the pandemic in miners, a population of high-risk and vulnerable to COVID-19. The study objective is to provide proof of-principle for frequent point-of-care molecular testing as a workplace surveillance tool to monitor and prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 infection in this unique population.

Our Community Engagement Research (CERC) team assisted Dr. Esme Finlay's project "Exploring Professional Identify Formation (PIF) in Palliative Medicine." CERC has since completed interviews and qualitative analysis and the team presented their work at the Annual Assembly of Hospice and Palliative Care, where they were awarded the highest scoring scientific poster. The objectives in this project are to identify experiences that impact PIF for Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) physicians and construct a preliminary model for PIF in this field.

Dr. Jessica Gross of the CTSC BERD Core assisted Dr. Castillo in developing the methods for a study done by Dr. Eliseo Castillo a current KL12 Scholar at the CTSC. He is the principal investigator of a pilot study entitled: Targeting the Gastrointestinal tract in Metabolic Syndrome: proof of concept. This study investigates the relationship between Metabolic Syndrome and gastrointestinal tract health, with the ultimate goal of developing diagnostic criteria that will lead to early intervention.

CTSC Informatics has been working with a team of investigators including Drs. Christos Argyropoulos, Walter Dehority, Elizabeth Yimenez and Hamza Mir on statistical and machine learning approaches to understanding COVID-19 in children. The collaboration began last Fall with the N3C pediatric COVID challenge. N3C is the National COVID-19 Cohort Collaborative, a national shared data resource available to all HSC investigators for use in research on COVID. The N3C challenge was a world-wide big-data competition to help predict children who are most at risk of developing COVID-19 complications. Two groups from UNM participated in the challenge, which ended last December.

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](mailto:RLarson@salud.unm.edu)) to start a dialogue.

Masks are still required indoors for all individuals at the HSC. Stay abreast of the current policies by exploring the University's Bring Back the Pack COVID-19 guidance:

<https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu>.

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](mailto:HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu)) with questions and/or to setup a consultation with the CTSC team.

If 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:** TBD  
**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

## ***Participation Clinical Interactions (PCI)***

Dr. Akshay Sood, Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, conducts the “Keeping rural minority ‘essential’ workplaces open safely during the COVID-19 pandemic: The role of frequent point-of-care molecular workplace surveillance for miners” (The Miners’ Pandemic Project).

As a community-engaged NIH-funded research project, the Miners’ project’s *long-term goal* is to mitigate the spread of the pandemic in miners, a population of high-risk, rural essential workers who are susceptible and vulnerable to COVID-19, partly based on exposure to particulate air pollution and who are predominantly racial/ethnic minorities in New Mexico. The study *objective* is to provide proof-of-principle for frequent point-of-care molecular testing as a workplace surveillance tool to monitor and prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 infection in this unique population.

Participants are recruited at all mine sites in this longitudinal study. Intervention mine participants are recruited from a coal mine in McKinley County, NM, and the control mine participants are recruited from a coal mine at Campbell County, WY. Both surface coal mines, operated by the same company, have similar engineering, administrative and personal protective measures in place, including SARS-CoV-2 symptom & fever screening. Frequent point-of-care rapid antigen testing is performed on self-collected nasal swabs at the intervention site. COVID-19 seroprevalence (baseline and 3, 6, and 12 m) is measured as the primary outcome at both sites. The PCI and CERC service cores support this study.

If you have any questions about PCI services, please contact George Garcia, [gemgarcia@salud.unm.edu](mailto:gemgarcia@salud.unm.edu).

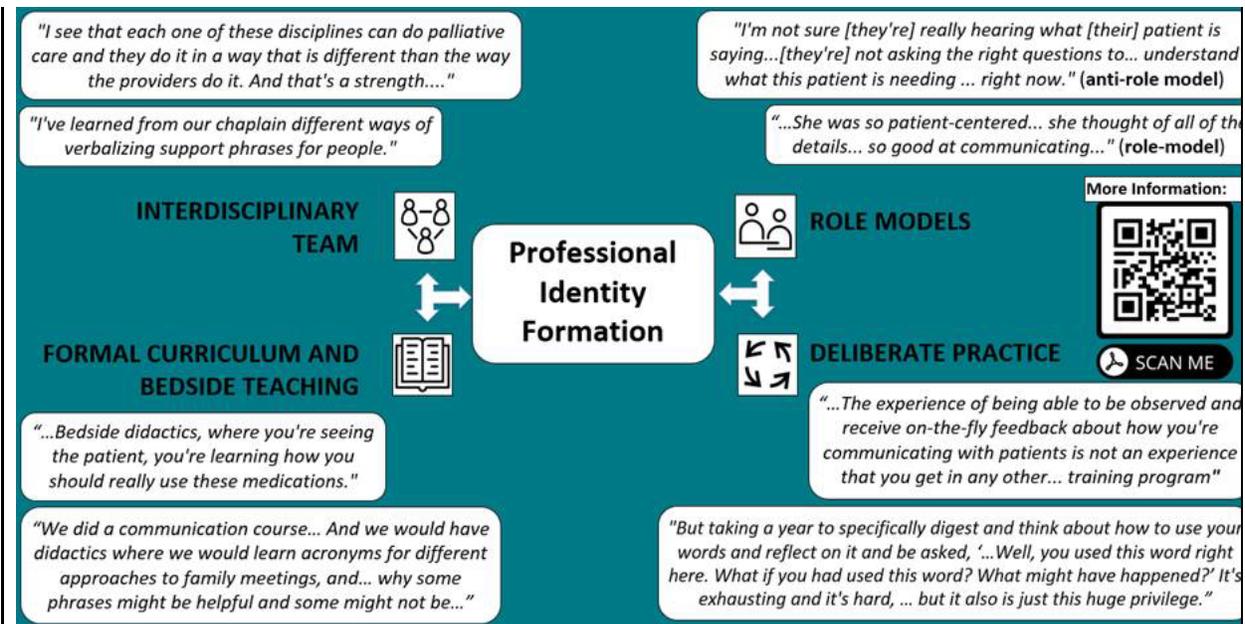
<http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/participant-clinical-interactions/index.html>

## ***Community Engagement and Research Core (CERC)***

### **Understanding Professional Identity Formation in Hospice and Palliative Medicine**

Last year, we highlighted Dr. Esme Finlay’s project "Exploring Professional Identify Formation (PIF) in Palliative Medicine." We have since completed interviews and qualitative analysis and the team presented our work at the Annual Assembly of Hospice and Palliative Care, where we were awarded the highest scoring scientific poster.

Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) is a relatively new field, achieving its status as a distinct specialty with board certification in 2006. The drivers of PIF in this field are not well understood. Our objectives in this project are to identify experiences that impact PIF for HPM physicians and construct a preliminary model for PIF in this field. CERC conducted semi-structured interviews with 10 HPM physicians in New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado: 100% were non-Hispanic white, 70% were female, and 30% male. Their primary disciplines were Internal, Family, and Emergency Medicine, Surgery, and Pediatrics. Thematic analysis revealed four key themes:



In conclusion, PIF in HPM requires supportive and patient-centered role models from various backgrounds, including interdisciplinary team members, didactics, communication curriculum and ample opportunities to explore new skills through deliberate practice.

Reference: Lee N, FitzGerald E, Martinez JM, Rishel Brakey H, Finlay EF. Micro-mentors, Communication Ninjas, and the DNR Fairy: Stories of Becoming in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Annual Assembly of Hospice and Palliative Care, 2022.

For more information about CERC services, please contact Donna Sedillo at: [dlsedillo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:dlsedillo@salud.unm.edu)

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

Dr. Eliseo Castillo is an assistant professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Internal Medicine, and a current KL12 Scholar at the CTSC. He is the principal investigator of a pilot study entitled: Targeting the Gastrointestinal tract in Metabolic Syndrome: proof of concept. This study investigates the relationship between Metabolic Syndrome and gastrointestinal tract health, with the ultimate goal of developing diagnostic criteria that will lead to early intervention. Dr. Jessica Gross of the CTSC BERD Core assisted Dr. Castillo in developing the methods for this study.

Metabolic Syndrome is a cluster of conditions that, together, increase an individual's risk of heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes. It affects a third of people in the US and a quarter of people worldwide. Given its high prevalence and potentially severe consequences, it is important to develop clear diagnostic criteria that permit early intervention. However, Metabolic Syndrome can be defined in multiple ways, complicating clinical diagnosis. Evidence suggests that the gastrointestinal tract plays a central role in Metabolic Syndrome pathogenesis. Dr. Castillo's collaborative study compared intestinal permeability, intestinal inflammation, and fecal metabolite levels (including fecal lipids) between patients with and without Metabolic Syndrome. The researchers found that, while there were no significant differences in intestinal permeability or inflammation between the two groups,

there were significant differences in levels of glycerolipids, glycerophospholipids, and sphingolipids. The results further our understanding of gut microbiota-host interaction and suggest that levels of these fecal lipids can be used for diagnosis.

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

## ***Informatics***

CTSC Informatics has been working with a team of investigators including Drs. Christos Argyropoulos, Walter Dehority, Elizabeth Yimenez and Hamza Mir on statistical and machine learning approaches to understanding COVID-19 in children. The collaboration began last Fall with the N3C pediatric COVID challenge. N3C is the National COVID-19 Cohort Collaborative, a national shared data resource available to all HSC investigators for use in research on COVID. The N3C challenge was a world-wide big-data competition to help predict children who are most at risk of developing COVID-19 complications. Two groups from UNM participated in the challenge, which ended last December. Dr. Argyropoulos's group along with the CTSC will be extending the research done during the challenge in the coming months using the N3C platform to answer particularly important clinical questions: predicting the need for hospitalization for patients who test positive in an outpatient setting, evaluate methods for predicting the need for respiratory and cardiovascular interventions in hospitalized patients, including children with MIS-C (Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children, a particularly serious complication of pediatric COVID disease, and finally predict the development of the PASC (Post Acute COVID Sequelae, the formal term for "Long COVID") syndrome among the survivors of the acute disease.

If you would like to get a research question feasibility count or have potential research data questions please contact Marguerite Valencia-Reed [mvalencia-reed@salud.unm.edu](mailto:mvalencia-reed@salud.unm.edu) or Harry Snow [hsnow@salud.unm.edu](mailto:hsnow@salud.unm.edu).

## **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 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

### ***Data Requests & "Using Data Courses"***

The CTSC's Informatics core has helped hundreds of clinical researchers leverage UNMH's electronic health records and other medical databases to find eligible subjects for clinical trials, evaluate medical practice trends, and conduct longitudinal research projects upon nationwide cohorts. If you are interested in finding out more about how to use big data in your research please read the descriptions of our "Using Data Courses" <https://hsc.unm.edu/ctsc/training/training-catalog.html> , you may also register on this same webpage to attend the course. If you are interested in an overview for your staff or faculty zoom meeting please contact [mvalencia-reed@salud.unm.edu](mailto:mvalencia-reed@salud.unm.edu) to arrange for a presentation.

Informatics also supports REDCap, if you have any questions about REDCap, please contact the REDCap Support Team at [HSC-CTSCREDCap@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-CTSCREDCap@salud.unm.edu).

<https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/informatics/index.html>

## Community & Collaboration (C&C)

### Team Science & Commercialization

*"Benefits of team science included enhanced insights from multidisciplinary perspectives, increased scholarly productivity and impact, and mentoring of newer faculty by those with greater experience".*

(Dana DeHart, Team science: A qualitative study of benefits, challenges, and lessons learned, The Social Science Journal, Volume 54, Issue 4, 2017, Pages 458-467, ISSN 0362-3319, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soscij.2017.07.009>. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0362331917300708>)

As Team Science becomes the primary mode of operation for researchers, clinicians, and academia, the CTSC Health Hackathon is a fun approach to experience the principals of team science. This weekend event promotes diversity in collaboration across healthcare, engineering, and business with multidisciplinary teams working in intense collaboration, in the hopes of creating a viable new start-up / innovation.

CTSC and our collaborating sponsors invite clinicians, engineers, entrepreneurs, programmers, scientists, faculty and students bring their skills, passions, and expertise to the **3rd annual CTSC Health Hackathon, March 25-27, 2022** at Domenici North on the HSC campus.

**The event is FREE, but space is limited. *Register Early!***

#### THE HACKATHON EXPERIENCE



Need more inspiration? Take a look at one of the winning teams from the 2020 CTSC Health Hackathon, [UNM HealthCast interview](#) with Dr Pavan Muttli and Thuvia Systems LLC

**Questions? Go to the [CTSC Health Hackathon website](#), or send an email to [hsc-hackathon@salud.unm.edu](mailto:hsc-hackathon@salud.unm.edu)**

CTSC invite you to participate in our other Team Science focused activities:

- CTSC Translational Synergy Meetings, these forums highlight research, ongoing studies, clinical and translational methods, and collaboration opportunities on a specific topic and includes presentations from invited speakers. February 2022 Synergy meeting will focus on COVID-19 Research and Omicron variant updates as a joint presentation with DOIM Grand Rounds. [Contact Melanie Hazlett](#), CTSC Team Strategist, to request more information about the Spring 2022 CTSC Synergy Meetings.
- The HSC CTSC office supports many Commercialization efforts by participating with [The ASCEND \(Accelerating Solutions for Commercialization and Entrepreneurial Development\) Hub](#). The focus of this program is to increase entrepreneurship and commercialization of basic medical science in the mountain west states. Visit the ASCEND Hub website to learn more about what resources are available to you: <https://ascendhub.org>.

<https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/programs/team-science.html>

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ChAnderson@salud.unm.edu).

Reminder of the new timeline for pilot submissions in March.

**November 11, 2021 Request for Applications Release Date**

January 21, 2022 IRB Submission Deadline

*Note: Any application without IRB submission prior to this date will be administratively disqualified*

**March 18, 2022 Application Deadline in Camino**

IRB Approval Deadline

*Note: Any application without IRB approval by this date will not be considered for funding.*

April 11, 2022 Notice of Intend to Fund/Decline

May 13, 2022 Announce Awards

**June 1, 2022 Funding Begins**

**May 31, 2023 Funding Ends**

### 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

#### **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.

Based on a NIH-style competitive application process, a scientific review panel selects scholars to develop their research portfolios by receiving 75% salary support for up to five years. The goal of this

program is to foster the discipline of clinical research and, by increasing clinical research capacity, to expedite clinical and translational research.

<https://hsc.unm.edu/ctsc/programs/mentored-career-development.html>

## 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)

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](https://www.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](mailto:rbrito@salud.unm.edu)

## Hub Research Capacity (HRC)

### Integrating Special Populations (ISP)

The aim of the CTSC ISP team 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.

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>

### CHN (Community Health Network)

The dissemination of study findings back to patients and communities is such an important part of the research process. Literature shows that participants want to receive findings that could be particularly beneficial to their health or a family member's health, it fulfills a social contract between researchers and participants, and furthermore promotes health changes that benefit society as a whole (Purvis et al., 2017). Cynthia Killough, the Community Health Specialist, is passionate about New Mexicans leading healthy lives and is on a mission to share study findings of principal investigators that collaborate with our community engagement team.

Over the past few months Elizabeth Dickson, PhD, RN (pictured), has been sharing the findings of her study about sexual health education (SHE) in NM middle and high schools with health councils around the state. Dr. Dickson is faculty at UNM's College of Nursing and interested in how SHE is taught around the state. When SHE is taught effectively it can improve adolescent health outcomes, increase protective behaviors, reduce risk behaviors, and reduce homophobia and bullying. Before the pandemic, Dr. Dickson was conducting focus groups around the state to gather youth perspectives on their own SHE experiences with the help of the Community Engagement and Research Core team. During the pandemic interviews were conducted online. The main findings of the study showed that 1. youth want and need SHE in school, 2. current SHE has not been helpful, and 3. the person teaching SHE matters. Dr. Dickson's presentations have been so well received by the health council's members

and has inspired members to approach their own school boards in their districts to change and have more say in how SHE is taught to the youth in their communities. Dr. Dickson also put together a report outlining the study in further detail with added resources for community members, policy makers, and parents (to receive a copy please feel free to email Dr. Dickson:

[EDickson@salud.unm.edu](mailto:EDickson@salud.unm.edu)). Dr. Dickson's work is so important in changing the landscape of adolescent health in NM and we are so grateful she is sharing study results back to communities to enact positive changes for New Mexicans and health research.



<http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/community-health-network/index.html>

## 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 [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. The 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](mailto: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](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 # | Expiry Date | Activity Code(s) |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Emergency Awards: RADx-UP - Social, Ethical, and Behavioral Implications (SEBI) Research on Disparities in COVID-19 Testing among Underserved and Vulnerable Populations (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)</b> | <a href="#">RFA-OD-22-005</a> | OD, NCATS, NCCIH, NCI, NEI, NHGRI, NHLBI, NIA, NIAAA, NIAID, NIAMS, NIBIB, NICHD, NIDA, NIDCD, NIDCR, NIDDK, NIEHS, NIGMS, NIMH, NIMHD, NINDS, NINR | Feb 17, 2022 |               | May 3, 2022 | U01              |
| <b>Emergency Award: RADx-UP Community-Engaged Research on Rapid SARS-</b>   | <a href="#">RFA-OD-22-006</a> | OD, NCATS, NCCIH, NCI, NEI, NHGRI, NHLBI, NIA, NIAAA, NIAID, NIAMS, NIBIB, NICHD, NIDA, NIDCD,  | Feb 17, 2022 |               | May 3, 2022 | U01              |

|  |                               |  |              |  |              |                                      |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>CoV-2 Testing among Underserved and Vulnerable Populations (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)</b>  |                               | NIDCR, NIDDK, NIEHS, NIGMS, NIMH, NIMHD, NINDS, NINR |              |  |              |                                      |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Addressing Accessibility Inequities with COVID Home-Based Testing for Individuals with Visual Impairment</b> | <a href="#">NOT-EY-22-010</a> | <a href="#">NEI</a>                                  | Feb 4, 2022  |  | Mar 9, 2024  | R41/R42, R15, 333, R01, R43/R44, R21 |
| <b>Urgent Award: COVID-19 Mental Health Research (R01 Clinical Trial Required)</b>   | <a href="#">PAR-22-112</a>    | <a href="#">NIMH</a>                                 | Jan 31, 2022 |  | Dec 24, 2022 | R01                                  |
| <b>Urgent Award: COVID-19 Mental Health Research (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)</b>   | <a href="#">PAR-22-113</a>    | <a href="#">NIMH</a>                                 | Jan 31, 2022 |  | Dec 24, 2022 | R01                                  |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research on barriers to care and risk of HIV-associated comorbidities among vulnerable</b>                   | <a href="#">NOT-HL-22-010</a> | <a href="#">NHLBI</a>                                | Jan 31, 2022 |  | May 8, 2025  | R01                                  |

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|--|-------------------------------|---|--------------|--|--------------|-----|
| population groups  |                               |   |              |  |              |     |
| Evaluating the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic-related Food and Housing Policies and Programs on Health Outcomes in Health Disparity Populations (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)   | <a href="#">RFA-NR-22-001</a> | NINR, NIDA, NIMH, NIMHD, OBSSR, ODP         | Jan 25, 2022 |  | Apr 8, 2022  | R01 |
| HEAL Initiative: Secondary Analysis and Integration of Existing Data Related to Acute and Chronic Pain Development or Management in Humans (R21 Clinical Trials Not Allowed) | <a href="#">RFA-DE-22-011</a> | NIDCR, NCATS, NCCIH, NCI, NIA, NIAMS, NICHD | Jan 21, 2022 |  | Apr 1, 2022  | R21 |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Urgent Competitive Revisions to IDeA and NARCH Programs for SARS-CoV-2  | <a href="#">NOT-GM-22-026</a> | <a href="#">NIGMS</a>                       | Jan 21, 2022 |  | Mar 22, 2022 | 333 |

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|---|---|--|--------------|--|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Surveillance Studies</b>   |   |  |              |  |              |               |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Enhancing Research on Deciphering Mechanisms of COVID-19-Associated Coagulopathy</b>  | <a href="#">NOT-<br/>HL-23-<br/>003</a> | <a href="#">NHLBI</a>  | Jan 21, 2022 |  | Jul 6, 2022  | R01           |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): COVID-19 Pandemic Mental Health Research</b>  | <a href="#">NOT-<br/>MH-<br/>22-100</a> | <a href="#">NIMH</a>   | Jan 19, 2022 |  | Jan 8, 2025  | R21, R34, R01 |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) within the Mission of NIAAA</b> | <a href="#">NOT-<br/>AA-22-<br/>002</a> | <a href="#">NIAAA</a>  | Dec 2, 2021  |  | May 8, 2024  | 333           |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplements for Research on Sex and/or Gender Influences</b>   | <a href="#">NOT-<br/>OD-<br/>22-030</a> | ORWH, NIDA, NEI, NIDCD, NIEHS, NHGRI, NIMH, NIAID, NINR, NICHD, NHLBI, NCCIH, NIAAA, SGMRO, NCATS, NIDCR, NIAMS, ORIP, | Dec 2, 2021  |  | Jan 27, 2023 | 333           |

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| (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional)  |                               | NIDDK, NIBIB, NIA     |              |   |              |               |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Announcing the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus | <a href="#">NOT-DA-21-041</a> | <a href="#">NIDA</a>  | Apr 15, 2021 | <a href="#">PA-20-272</a><br><a href="#">PA-18-935</a><br>(Urgent Supplement)   | Mar 31, 2022 | 333           |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Telehealth Strategies for Individuals with HIV and Substance Use Disorders   | <a href="#">NOT-DA-21-019</a> | <a href="#">NIDA</a>  | Feb 10, 2021 | <a href="#">PA-20-184</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-183</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-200</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-194</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-196</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-146</a> | Sep 8, 2024  | R01, R03, R21 |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Medical Consequences of Smoking and Vaping Drugs of Abuse in Individuals with HIV and COVID-19                                       | <a href="#">NOT-DA-21-017</a> | <a href="#">NIDA</a>  | Feb 4, 2021  | <a href="#">PA-20-184</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-183</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-200</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-194</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-196</a>                              | Sep 8, 2024  | R01, R02, R03 |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI):  | <a href="#">NOT-AI-21-008</a> | <a href="#">NIAID</a> | Feb 4, 2021  | <a href="#">PA-20-185</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a>  | Jan 8, 2023  | R01, R21      |

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| <b>Complement in Basic Immunology (CIBI)</b>   |                               |                       |              |   |              |                     |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Long-Term Neurocognitive Consequences of COVID-19 in Individuals Living with HIV and Substance Use Disorders</b>                       | <a href="#">NOT-DA-21-018</a> | <a href="#">NIDA</a>  | Feb 3, 2021  | <a href="#">PA-20-184</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-183</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-200</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-194</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-196</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-146</a> | Sep 8, 2024  | R01,<br>R03,<br>R21 |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplements for the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program to Address COVID-19 Public Health Needs</b> | <a href="#">NOT-TR-21-017</a> | <a href="#">NCATS</a> | Feb 3, 2021  | <a href="#">PA-20-272</a>   | Aug 17, 2024 | 333                 |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): NIDCR Support for Research on the Physiological Involvement of Oral Cavity in Coronavirus</b>  | <a href="#">NOT-DE-21-001</a> | <a href="#">NIDCR</a> | Jan 26, 2021 | <a href="#">PA-20-185</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a>  | May 28, 2023 | R01,<br>R21         |

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| <b>Disease 2019 (COVID-19)</b>   |                               |                      |              |   |              |                                  |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Aging-Relevant Behavioral and Social Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)</b> | <a href="#">NOT-AG-21-015</a> | <a href="#">NIA</a>  | Jan 26, 2021 | <a href="#">PA-20-183</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-184</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-185</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-200</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-194</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-196</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a><br><a href="#">PAR-19-374</a><br><a href="#">PAR-19-314</a><br><a href="#">PAR-19-070</a><br><a href="#">PAR-19-071</a><br><a href="#">PAR-20-070</a> | May 28, 2023 | R01, R03, R21, U19, P01, R21/R33 |
| <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-21-011</a> | <a href="#">NIDA</a> | Jan 26, 2021 | <a href="#">PA-20-184</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-183</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-200</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-194</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-196</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-146</a>   | Sep 8, 2024  | R01, R03, R21                    |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplements for COVID-19 Impacted NIMH Research</b>                              | <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>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><br><a href="#">PA-20-200</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a>   | Sep 8, 2024  | R01, R03, R21                    |

|  |                               |   |              |   |             |                                     |
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| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Simulation Modeling and Systems Science to Address Health Disparities</b>  | <a href="#">NOT-MD-20-025</a> | <a href="#">NIMHD</a> , <a href="#">NCI</a> , <a href="#">NIDA</a> , <a href="#">NLM</a> , <a href="#">ODP</a> , <a href="#">OBSSR</a> , <a href="#">NIMH</a> , <a href="#">NIAMS</a> | Aug 13, 2020 | <a href="#">PA-20-185</a>   | May 8, 2023 | R01                                 |
| <b>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</b> | <a href="#">NOT-HD-21-037</a> | <a href="#">NICHD</a>   | Jul 2, 2021  | <a href="#">PA-20-272</a><br><a href="#">PA-18-935</a><br><a href="#">NOT-OD-20-128</a><br><a href="#">NOT-OD-20-118</a><br><a href="#">NOT-OD-20-018</a>   | May 8, 2022 | 333                                 |
| <b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): NIDCD is Interested in Supporting Research on the Impact of COVID-19 on Mission Specific Sensory and Communication Disorders</b>                             | <a href="#">NOT-DC-20-008</a> | <a href="#">NIDCD</a>   | Jun 4, 2020  | <a href="#">PA-18-334</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-185</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-184</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-196</a><br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a><br><a href="#">PA-19-270</a><br><a href="#">PA-19-271</a><br><a href="#">PA-19-273</a><br><a href="#">PA-19-272</a> | Sep 8, 2022 | R01,<br>R21,<br>R41/R42,<br>R43/R44 |
| <b>Emergency Competitive Revision to</b>   | <a href="#">PA-20-135</a>     | <a href="#">NIH</a> , <a href="#">NCATS</a> , <a href="#">NCCIH</a> , <a href="#">NCI</a> , <a href="#">NHGRI</a> , <a href="#">NIA</a> ,   | Mar 10, 2020 | <a href="#">PA-20-135</a>   | Sep 8, 2025 | 333                                 |

|   |                               |   |               |  |              |          |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---------------|--|--------------|----------|
| Existing NIH Awards (Emergency Supplement - Clinical Trial Optional)  |                               | <a href="#">NIAAA</a> , <a href="#">NIAID</a> ,<br><a href="#">NIAMS</a> , <a href="#">NIBIB</a> ,<br><a href="#">NICHD</a> , <a href="#">NIDCD</a> ,<br><a href="#">NIDDK</a> , <a href="#">NIEHS</a> ,<br><a href="#">NIGMS</a> , <a href="#">NIMH</a> ,<br><a href="#">NIMHD</a> , <a href="#">NINR</a> ,<br><a href="#">NLM</a> , <a href="#">ORWH</a> ,<br><a href="#">OSC</a> |               |  |              |          |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Promoting Vaccine Access, Acceptance and Uptake among Children, Adolescents, Pregnant and Lactating Women, and Persons with Disabilities | <a href="#">NOT-HD-21-038</a> | <a href="#">NICHD</a>   | June 28, 2021 | <a href="#">PA-20-200</a> ,<br><a href="#">PA-21-221</a> ,<br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a> ,<br><a href="#">PA-20-194</a> | May 8, 2024  | R03, R21 |
| Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) HIV/AIDS in the Era of COVID-19: When Pandemics Collide   | <a href="#">NOT-AI-21-057</a> | <a href="#">NIAID</a> , <a href="#">NIMH</a> , <a href="#">NID</a><br>A   | June 25, 2021 | <a href="#">PA-20-185</a> ,<br><a href="#">PA-20-195</a>   | May 8, 2024  | R01, R21 |
| Limited Competition Emergency Awards: Shared Personal Protective Equipment Resources for COVID-19 Related   | <a href="#">PAR-21-276</a>    | <a href="#">NIAID</a>   | Jul 16, 2021  | Reissue of <a href="#">PAR-20-256</a>  | Jul 16, 2022 | S10      |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Vaccine and Treatment Clinical Trials and Clinical Studies (S10 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

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>.

## 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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