Director's Corner by Ronald J. Sokol, MD

The CCTSI continues to lead the research efforts at the Anschutz Medical Campus and with all of the CCTSI partner institutions. We encourage you to peruse our most recent funded CTSA grant application on the home page of our website, to get a better understanding of the goals and operations of the evolving CCTSI. The following are just some of the examples of how the CCTSI is “setting the pace” for our members.

Earlier this month the CCTSI hosted the first meeting of the 7th cohort of the Leadership for Innovative Team Science (LiTeS) program. This year there are 28 participants in the LiTeS cohort who will be perfecting their team leadership skills and knowledge, all under the direction of Judith Albinio, PhD, President Emerita of CU. We are very excited about this year’s cohort as they will be working on projects suggested by campus leadership, including Executive Vice Chancellor Lilly Marks, Chancellor Don Elliman, and Dean Richard Krugman, MD. In April the teams will present the results of their projects to UC Denver and AMC leadership, demonstrating once again the ingenuity and innovations of our faculty members.

The 5th Annual Research Ethics Conference took place in the Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities. This conference attracted a wide array of participants given the topic was “Protecting Research Participants’ Privacy: Is it Possible? Is it Important?” This an evolving ethical dilemma, given the free voluntary exchange of personal information through social networking contrasting with the strict rules of privacy in HIPAA policies.

We encourage you to visit our website www.CCTSI.UCDenver.edu as there is up-to-date information on funding and training opportunities. Please note that the MicroGrants (up to $10,000 for CTRC research projects) and BERDseeds (up to 40 hours for biostatistical consultation) funding programs provide funds to assist junior investigators in performing their research, through a very easy and simple application process. CCTSI.UCDenver.edu outlines the policies – please contact the CCTSI Administrative office if you have any questions.

Local RFAs

Request for Applications: Improving Research Through Community-Academic Partnerships

The Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI) Community Engagement & Research and the Partnership of Academicians and Communities in Translation (PACT) are currently accepting applications for funding of Community Engagement and Research Pilot Grants of up to $20,000. This RFA is intended to support community-academic partnerships to perform pilot studies that will strengthen relationships and produce preliminary data for future competitive grant applications. Funded projects may encompass partnership development, project planning, capacity building (i.e. data collections and management, recruitment and outreach, etc.) as well as implementation of research projects within specified areas of emphasis (cardiovascular disease, childhood chronic conditions, social emotional health).

Download the RFA here: http://cctsi.ucdenver.edu/Funding/Pages/CommunityEngagementPilots.aspx

Important Dates/Deadlines:

10/14/2014: RFA Release Date
11/10/2014: Applicants’ Webinar/Conference Call (optional)
11/20/2014: Mandatory Intent to Apply Form Deadline
12/12/2014: Application Submission Deadline
03/27/2015: Notification of Award
04/03/2015: Mandatory Grantee Orientation (webinar)
05/01/2015: Award Start Date
04/30/2016: Award End Date

For additional information, contact: Sarah Lamp, Project Coordinator, slampe@cphe.org, 303-910-4682
University of Colorado Palliative Care and Aging Research Training (T32) Program

Applications for the **"NEW"** University of Colorado Palliative Care and Aging Research Training (T32) Program are now being accepted. The goal of this two-year research training program, supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), is to prepare postdoctoral (PhD and MD/DP) fellows for careers as palliative researchers. Applications for the first cycle just ended; however deadline for the second cycle will be February 2015. Potential candidates should contact Dr. Jean Kutner (PI) jean.kutner@ucdenver.edu prior to submitting an application.

Applications should demonstrate a relation to Palliative Care and Aging. For questions regarding application instructions and criteria for candidates please contact Shaleeta McDade at shaleeta.mcdade@ucdenver.edu.

2014 Scholar Award available: NIH K-12 Child Health Research Career Development Award Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine

A research training award designed to support junior faculty who are interested in an academic career in Child Health Basic science research will be available July 1, 2015. The award will require 75% time for research training and support for salary and some research expenses for up to two years. In selected cases, a third year may be awarded on a competitive basis. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply. Letter of Intent should be submitted to Bonnie Savone by email at: bonnie.savone@ucdenver.edu

Each letter of Intent will be pre-reviewed by the Program Director for compliance with application rules. A more detailed set of instructions for the full application will then be sent by email to the applicant.

The complete application is due December 1, 2014.

Questions about the program should be addressed to:

William W. Hay, Jr., MD, bill.hay@ucdenver.edu, Program Director or Stephen Daniels, MD, PhD stephen.daniels@childrenscolorado.org, Principal Investigator, for the NIH-UCD Department of Pediatrics K-12 Child Health Research Career Development Award Program

Research News

New Cardiovascular BioImaging Core Now Available for Research

The CCTSI is pleased to announce the development of a new core facility (the Cardiovascular BioImaging Core) on the Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) dedicated to cardiovascular research that utilizes state of the science ultrasound imaging. The Cardiovascular BioImaging Core was developed with funding from the University of Colorado School of Medicine Strategic Infrastructure for Research Committee (SIRIC) to meet the growing demand for advanced comprehensive cardiovascular imaging on the AMC. Although historically some of this type of imaging was currently carried out within the CCTSI Clinical Translational Research Center (CTRC), several factors limited the expansion of existing resources. One factor was that research demand was exceeding the capacity of the CTRC’s single available ultrasound machine and was hindering investigator productivity and the ability of the CTRC to accept new protocols. A second factor was that the current CTRC ultrasound machine was outdated and was being phased-out commercially as software is developed for the latest ultrasound/echo platforms. Finally, another limitation was mechanism to provide expertise on the newest cardiovascular imaging technology to investigators with up-to-date technical information on the measures they intend to utilize, nor were there procedures in place to appropriately analyze investigator images after they had been acquired. The new School of Medicine SIRIC funding combined with other local program support will mitigate these shortcomings.

1. The new Core will provide the latest instrumentation, highly skilled ultrasound personnel, and expert technical resources which will support investigators and train students, fellows and junior faculty. The Core has purchased a new state-of-the-art ultrasound machine and is supporting an additional ultrasound technician, and has a centralized imaging processing and analysis center, all which will increase both the capacity and the quality of the cardiovascular imaging research currently being performed. In addition to CCTSI support and resources, the Core will benefit from resources provided in kind by the Vascular Biology Initiative, Center for Women’s Health Research, and Divisions of Geriatrics and Cardiology. The cardiovascular imaging services range from standard limited echocardiography to the most advanced vascular and cardiac ultrasound measures. Vascular imaging services

Dr. Kerrie Moreau, Division of Geriatric Medicine, serves as the director of the vascular imaging side of the core, up until recently, Dr. Jennifer Dorosz, Division of Cardiology, served as the director of the cardiac imaging side of the core. Dr. Moreau has been conducting vascular research utilizing advanced ultrasound vascular imaging for ~15 years. She was trained as a vascular research sonographer and performs her own vascular imaging acquisition and analyses. She has trained the CTRC sonographers in brachial artery and femoral artery flow-mediated dilation for the determination of endothelial function, and carotid artery ultrasound for determining vascular compliance (arterial stiffness). She also currently trains investigators and their staff in vascular analysis using computerized edge-detection software, and is a consultant and mentor to many senior and junior faculty researchers, respectively, on campus and across the country in the development of their research protocols utilizing such imaging techniques. Dr. Ernesto Salcedo, Division of Cardiology and director of echocardiography, University of Colorado Hospital, will serve as the interim director of the cardiac imaging side of the Core until a replacement is announced.

More information about the Core and how to request imaging services for CV research protocols can be found at the following website:

http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/research/CVBioimagingCore/Pages/CVBioimagingCore.aspx

Upcoming Events
National Consortium Update

The new CTSAs for the group of CTSAs funded in 2009 and 2010 (does not include the CCTSI). The new RFA suggests a number of changes in the national program that the CTSIs will begin to assess for our future application in 2017-18. In addition, the national CTSI consortium of 64 CTSAs centers is working on several initiatives to streamline identification of research participant cohorts for multi-centered studies, to move towards IRB reliance agreements among CTSI institutions, and to develop pre-agreed upon conditions to improve the ability of institutions to execute contracts with sponsors for studies.

Please check out the full October 2014 newsletter from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) to get the latest updates from NCATS.