CONNECTIONS

Director’s Corner: Ronald J. Sokol, MD
As many of you have probably heard, our Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) grant from the National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS) of the NIH, which supports much of the CCTSI functions, will be up for renewal next year with a grant submission deadline of May 25, 2017. We are beginning to organize our strategy and writing groups to respond to the latest Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) from NIH for the CTSA program. NCATS has recently added a new emphasis to the CTSA hubs’ role in providing for efficient and timely conduct of clinical trials and research studies in order to accelerate translating discoveries into better patient care. This involves improved and more rapid contracting with research sponsors, use of centralized or reliance IRB models, robust good clinical practice training of research personnel, use of informatics technologies to assess research subject cohort availability for multi-site studies and a coordinated network of CTSA hubs across the country (currently there are 62 CTSA hubs) to facilitate NIH and other sponsored multi-site clinical trials (dubbed the Trials Innovation Network). We are well positioned to respond to all of these important features of the new CTSA program and are in the process of implementing many of them.

We are also working with our hospital partners to develop electronic alerts to providers about research studies for their patients, electronic notification to patients about studies in which they may be interested in participating and use of other technologies to enhance clinical and translational research. The FOA for our upcoming grant application also changes how NIH funds can be used in the future to support our clinical research units, so we are examining new funding models to sustain our very important clinical research units. Workforce development, community engagement and lifespan research are also emphasized in the FOA—all areas in which the CCTSI excels.

Finally, we are working closely with the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, Children’s Hospital Colorado and UC Health leadership in developing the Research Marketplace concept of moving our discoveries to innovative products that can better treat our patients and to apply personalized/precision medical care to our communities. The new I-Corps@CCTSI training program, described in this newsletter, is one of the many ways we will push discoveries to cures.

So please join the CCTSI as a member (if you have not) and visit our website to explore the many terrific translational opportunities that await you within the CCTSI.

All the best,
Ron
Found in Translation

“Think of story as a mnemonic device for complex ideas.” - Annette Simmons

Here at the CCTSI, we understand the value of a good story, so we are continuing to develop and share features about the important research that’s happening at our institute though our series called Found in Translation.

Learn how a new study by CU Anschutz researchers, led by Jack Westfall, MD, confirms the success of CCTSI’s patient-engagement method called Boot Camp Translation, which turns complex medical screening guidelines into locally relevant health messages. The study was recently published in Health Affairs.

Read about CCTSI’s TL1 program and how it’s helping to foster the careers of CU Anschutz students and young investigators like Michelle Nelsen (at left).

If you have an idea for a story about a study or a researcher that illustrates the difference the CCTSI is making, contact Wendy Meyer.

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TL1 SUCCESS STORY

Chelsea Corser-Jensen was awarded the TL-1 pre-doctoral fellowship in the 2013-14 school year. A neuroscience doctoral student, Corser-Jensen was mentored by Kim Heidenreich, professor of Pharmacology and Neuroscience. Corser-Jensen received her PhD at the end of 2015 and recently took a job as a Medical Science Liaison (MSL) at Shire Pharmaceuticals in Boston, MA.

“Some of our graduates continue on in academia in translational research, but have a better understanding of why they are doing what they do as a result of their TL1 Award and mentoring. Some of our graduates go into industry, and we are happy to have that happen, knowing that these individuals bring a deeper understanding of translational research to an industry setting,” said TL1 Director John Tentler, PhD.

Corser-Jensen recently wrote to Tentler, “I’m certain I wouldn’t have even gotten the very first interview without my CCTSI experience. I really had to demonstrate in my interviews that I know what an MSL does and that I know I have the skills for the job. Thank you so much for all your support over the last few years!”

Kudos to Corser-Jensen and to all the mentors who make a difference in the TL1 Post-doctoral program at the CCTSI.
**I-Corps@CCTSI**

Do you want to learn how to accelerate the translation of your biomedical discoveries and health innovation into viable commercial products? Are you part of a team that wants to move your innovative idea off campus and into the real world? If so, then I-Corps@CCTSI may be for you.

The National Institutes of Health is offering this entrepreneurial training program at select Institutions across the country and has chosen the CCTSI to bring the I-Corps program to biomedical and translational researchers in Colorado.

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**I-CORPS@CCTSI OPEN HOUSE**

- **WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016**
- **12 NOON**
- **BUSHNELL AUDITORIUM, 8TH FLOOR, BUILDING 500**

Innovation Corps (I-Corps™) uses proven customer-discovery methodologies for startups. It was developed for academic researchers by serial entrepreneurs working with the National Science Foundation. It has been used to train hundreds of teams of innovators across the nation.

“I-Corps@CCTSI is a team-based short course designed for faculty, staff and students,” says Elaine Morrato, DrPH, MPH, CPH. “The program guides teams through the early stages of customer discovery where they can test the business model hypotheses for their technology or idea.”

The short course, designed for teams ready to move an idea/invention to market, will take place in the fall of 2016 on the Anschutz Medical Campus and will be led by Dr. Morrato, director of the Pragmatic Trials and Dissemination/Implementation Science research program.

I-Corps@CCTSI is proud to be working in partnership with CU Innovations (formerly the Technology Transfer Office) and the Children’s Hospital Colorado Center for Innovation.

[Click here](#) to join the email list for I-Corps@CCTSI. For additional information about the short course, contact [Elaine Morrato](#).

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**Leadership for Innovative Team Science (LITeS)**

On Friday, April 15, 2016, 23 members of the 2015-16 cohort of CCTSI’s senior leadership training program, LITeS, presented their final projects to a distinguished group of university leaders. Attendees were treated to four team presentations focused on *Envisioning the Clinical Translational Campus*.

Each year, participants in the LITeS program are tasked with completing group projects reflecting a theme related to clinical/translational science, or to academic health campus issues. This year's
project sponsors, Jean Kutner, MD, chief medical officer of University Hospital and Alison Lakin, RN, LLB, LLM, PhD, associate vice chancellor for Regulatory Compliance, posed the question, "How can we imbue our academic health care campus with a sense of mission that incorporates clinical and translational science as essential in all that we do?"

This question launched a yearlong leadership development program that that included engagement in four two-day sessions of success skills development and team science training. In addition, each of the past five LiTeS cohorts have compiled hours of research into recommendations to improve and encourage innovation on campus.

We are now seeking applications for the next LiTeS cohort. If you would like more information about nominating someone for the 2016-17 cohort, or to apply, please click here.

The culminating work by this year's cohort may be viewed, along with the work from teams past, on the CCTSI website.

CCTSI’s Annual Spring Pediatric Research Poster Session
On May 20, 2016, more than 120 researchers gathered in the Children’s Hospital Colorado Conference Center to present their child health-focused research at the CCTSI Annual Spring Pediatric Research Poster Session. “This was one of the best-attended sessions we’ve had,” said CCTSI session organizer Rose Heinemann. “We had 122 investigators present their work and more than 300 individuals either presenting or walking through the session and interacting with the researchers.”

Presenters included everyone from fellows, junior faculty, to mid-career and senior investigators. “I think this is the highlight of the academic year,” said Fred Suchy, MD, director of the Research Institute at Children’s Hospital Colorado. “You can see with the numbers of posters we have that we are bursting at the seams, which illustrates how robust we are in terms of child health research.”
Thanks to all of the sponsors of the poster session including Children’s Hospital Colorado Translational Research Center (CTRC) of the CCTSI; the Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, University of Colorado; Children’s Hospital Colorado Research Institute; and Children’s Hospital Colorado Nursing Research Department.

**Clear Communication**
Read the latest from Anthony S. Fauci, MD, director of National Association of Infectious Diseases, on the topic of *Zika and Beyond: Communicating about Crises*.

**Upcoming Events**

**Save the Date: Fourth Annual CCTSI Summit**
Mark your calendars for the Fourth Annual CCTSI Summit on August 17, 2016 at the Best Western Plaza Conference Center in Longmont, CO.

The aim of this year’s Summit is to engage faculty from the all CCTSI campuses who are interested in:
- Personalized Medicine and the use of Omics Technology
- Regenerative Science and Stem Cell Biology

We hope the daylong conference will foster new collaborations across campuses and across the research spectrum. Plan to spend the day, network and meet new colleagues. Stay tuned over the coming months for more details on the agenda and speakers.

**Conferences**
- [2nd Annual Conference for Statistical Methods in Imaging](#)
- [National Data Integrity Conference](#)
- [Best Practices of Biomedical Research: Improving Reproducibility and Transparency of Preclinical Research](#)
- [CSU Retractions Conference](#)

**Funding Opportunities**
- **CTRC MicroGrant Program**
  Do you need funding to pay for CTRC resources and services necessary to conduct your CTRC-approved protocol? Then you might be eligible for a CTRC MicroGrant. For more information, contact Pam Allen.

- **KL2 (K12) Research Scholar Awards**
  We anticipate having funding for three KL2 scholars in December 2016. A full RFA will be disseminated in early July. Click here for more information.

- **NIH Open Funding Opportunities**
  Check out NIH’s list of funding opportunities, RFAs and Program Announcements.