Happy New Year!

On the heels of the good news from the CTSC renewal score, we met with the External Advisory Board on January 10th. We are privileged to be able to consult with these highly esteemed professionals and colleagues to assess the CTSC from various perspectives and better position our CTSA for even greater success.

I am pleased to share that the EAB was quite impressed with the progress of the CTSC thus far. We were commended for receiving such a high score on the competitive renewal and the group termed our accomplishments as "daunting."

With the support of the EAB, we have set our sights on our Urban Health Initiatives within the CTSC and increasing T1 research as it leads to discovery and commercialization.

Also, with a focus on our Translational Technologies Resources (TTR), we shared the hiring of two translational officers who, under the guidance of the Vice Dean of Research, Mark Chance, PhD, will help us transform the many discoveries within the CTSC into new translational technologies and treatments. This was viewed as a positive step from the news that the federal government, in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has formed the new National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) to:

Days before the 2012 New Year, Congress passed and the President signed landmark legislation championed by NIH Director Francis Collins, aimed at transforming the way human research is done.

A total of $576.5 million was appropriated this year to fund the new National Center for Advancing...
Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). NCATS will take the place of The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) and seeks developing new ways of conducting translational research.

You can read more about the NCATS development and more within this newsletter. We hope you have a prosperous and healthy 2012.

Pamela B. Davis, M.D., PhD.
Richard Rudick, M.D.

**Researchers Should Take Advantage of CTSC Research Concierge Services**

The Research Concierge Service (RCS) is the "Front Door" or entry way to all elements of the CTSC program. Through this "Front Door," researchers from all partner institutions can easily identify and access the CTSC’s vast resources. To the uninitiated researcher, and even to clinical research veterans, the complexities of modern clinical research present burdensome, ever-changing regulatory requirements and place ever increasing demands on the researcher and the researcher’s study team.

The RCS offers the researcher a single point of contact to 1) assist them, quickly and efficiently, at the initial project design stage and strategize the path forward; 2) shorten the amount of time researchers spend searching for valuable information; and 3) match researchers with the CTSC cores where core personnel can identify specific research needs and connect the researcher with the person whose specialized expertise can best support the project. The RCS also helps identify non-CTSC resources as well as provide education about the CTSC, the research process, and proposal development.

Another program linked to the RCS is the CTSC pilot program. Because of the special needs of pilot researchers, we have a designated Pilot Grant Coordinator within the RCS. In his role as Pilot Grant Coordinator, David Hellard ensures the successful administration of the Pilot Grant Program.

Since the CTSC of Cleveland involves multiple partners spread across the city, it was especially important to enable remote access to the RCS. To that end, the RCS collaborated with the BRIM to launch the Request

Translational Sciences (NCATS), and of that the largest program at NCATS will be the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs), which receive $487.8 million of the new institute's budget.

NCATS will serve as the home of many programs that were previously dispersed across the NIH in other venues. These include (1) the Office of Rare Diseases Research, (2) the CTSAs, (3) the Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases (TRND) program, and (4) the Cures Acceleration Network (CAN), which enables NCATS to fund research in new and innovative ways.

Read more about NCATS here

**Comparative Effectiveness Research Seminar Series**

**Siran Koroukian**, PhD, Associate Professor, Division of Health Services Research CWRU School of Medicine presents:

"**Strengths and Limitations of Population-Based Databases in Comparative Effectiveness Research**"

Thursday, February 23, 2011
4:00 p.m.
Frohring Auditorium (BRB 105)

**Core Utilization Pilot Is Now Rolling Deadline**

Beginning in February 2012, the CTSC Core Utilization Pilot Grant will move from a tri-annual to a rolling submission format. Instead of deadline dates occurring three times a year (April 1st, August 1st and December 1st), we will accept applications year-round and review submissions at least monthly.
Management System (RMS) in a staged fashion allowing for feedback from cores and researchers. A key function of the RMS is to facilitate appropriate responses based on the researchers' needs. Requests to the RCS can either be specific, and so routed directly to the appropriate services, or unfocused, requiring consultation with the RCS. Researchers can easily submit basic requests and send more difficult ones to the RCS for assessment.

The services of the RCS currently provided, both in-person and virtually, are:

- Answer questions about CTSC services
- Match research needs to core services
- Navigate inexperienced researchers on the nuts and bolts of getting a study underway (e.g., discussing formats and sections for protocols, data tools, managing data, locating needed data resources)
- Assist data flow design and identification of data tools for studies (not database development but help to find the appropriate database and support for this activity)
- Administer CTSC Pilot Funding Program
- Provide guidance on regulatory requirements as well as data safety and monitoring
- Provide education on the overall research process
- Respond to ad hoc requests from researchers, e.g.
  - Identify recruitment resources
  - Researcher assumes study responsibility due to researcher leaving institution - what to do next?
  - Researcher receives first NIH funding grant - what next?
- Link researchers across disciplines and institutions
- Create taskforces to better serve researchers
  - Facilitated IRB Review
  - Responsible Conduct for Research (RCR)
  - Survey and Analysis (BERD, CER, BSMR, Population Health/Outcomes Research Core)

Reaching out for new ideas and collaborations! How can we help you?

Contact the RCS:
  ctsc-research-concierge@case.edu
  ctsc-pilot-coordinator@case.edu
CWRU  BRB-109

Carolyn Apperson-Hansen
Director

Due to recent changes at the national level, we are carefully reviewing the RFA and will revise as needed. Therefore, the date to begin accepting applications through WebGrants for this funding opportunity has not been finalized yet but should be soon.

Please visit the CTSC website for updates regarding this important funding opportunity. We also encourage you to sign up for CTSC Membership through our website which will add you to our distribution list to receive important updates regarding available funding opportunities.

Do not hesitate to contact the Pilot Program Coordinator (ctsc-pilot-coordinator@case.edu) or the Research Concierge Service (ctsc-research-concierge@case.edu) with any questions you may have.

Congratulations to the Recipients of the August 2011 CTSC Core Utilization Awards

The Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine announces funding for first round of Urban Health Pilot Grants

The Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine is pleased to announce funding for a first round of Urban Health Pilot Grants. These awards support collaborations between CWRU faculty and students and community organizations to conduct pilot studies of programs that could ultimately have a significant impact on the health of area residents.
Read about the Urban Health Initiative funded projects

If you have a suggestion for a story in the CTSC Newsletter email justin.white@case.edu