One of the areas of the CTSC that may not be as well-understood as others is the great work being done by the Practice Based Research Networks. These networks cultivate relationships among community healthcare providers with a goal of developing alliances of clinicians who engage in original research, support collaborative research across practices and institutions, and disseminate research findings into clinical practice. For those researchers who are interested in this area, the PBRN core has a Micro-Grant program available.

Supported by the CTSC, the PBRN Core introduced the Micro-Grant Program in 2010. Its goal is to catalyze research through the establishment of an easily accessible program for small pilot studies led by practice-based research network (PBRN) members and/or community partners, particularly those focused on clinical and translational research in community settings. This low-barrier funding mechanism supports collaborative PBRN pilot studies of $2500-$5000 that yield pilot data for extramural grant applications.

The Safety Net Providers Strategic Alliance (SNPSA) PBRN was funded through the Micro-Grant mechanism to conduct a multi-method study to better understand the needs of increasing numbers of elderly patients...
seeking care at their clinics. The PBRN Shared Resource's Clinical Research Facilitators served as research assistants for the study which determined how the clinics can more effectively engage elderly patients, assess unmet needs, and improve healthcare access. Participants were a sample of elderly patients who had frequently failed to return for follow-up care, who were queried using waiting room questionnaires, telephone surveys, and focus groups. The resulting data are now being analyzed. It is anticipated that findings will support grant applications to develop and test clinical care interventions to improve elderly patients' access, satisfaction with care, and clinical outcomes.

Applications for the PBRNSR Micro-Grant are accepted on a rolling basis. Practices or investigators that are current participants or are willing to join a CTSC-affiliated PBRN or community organization (existing or newly created) are eligible to apply. The PBRN Shared Resource strongly encourages proposals from new or inexperienced investigators. Proposals that represent a new collaboration or that develop infrastructure for translational research consistent with the goals of the PBRN Shared Resource are preferred. Award requests may include supplies, personnel, technical/software, etc.

For further information or to apply for a PBRN Micro-Grant, please contact Amanda Ross in the PBRN at: amanda.ross@case.edu.

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

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**Congratulations to the Recipients of the December CTSC Core Utilization Pilot Awards!**

Shu Chen, PhD
CWRU School of Medicine
"Identification of novel substrates of LRRK2, a Parkinson disease associated kinase"

Evren Gurkan-Cavusoglu, PhD
CWRU School of Engineering
"Analysis of the Cell Cycle Dynamics for fludarabine or ABT-737 resistant Nalm-6 cells"

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**Health Research presents: 2013 Community Engagement Symposium.**

**When:** Tuesday, March 19, 2013
**Where:** Ann Arbor, MI

The purpose of MICHRS's Annual Community Engagement Symposium is to enhance collaboration between researchers and community-based, nonprofit, and governmental organizations interested or engaged in clinical and health research. Academic and community partners will have opportunities to network, share their research and experience, and develop skills to become engaged and effective partners.

This theme of this year's symposium The Power of Partnerships: Improving Research and Health Outcomes will focus on the importance of community involvement and leadership in the research process and how both communities and researchers benefit from partnership approaches.

[Registration and more information]

**SUNY 'Conversations in the Disciplines' Workshop**
A conference on creativity and Innovation

**When:** June 10-11, 2013
**Where:** Getzville, New York (SUNY Buffalo)

The SUNY 'Conversations in the Disciplines' Workshop on Creativity and Innovation in the Biomedical Sciences is a workshop hosted by The University at Buffalo to help you reach the future ahead of your peers.
Youwei Zhang, PhD
CWRU School of Medicine
"Roles of long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) in DNA damage response"

Edward Medof, MD, PhD
CWRU School of Medicine
"Evidence for a plasma membrane complex containing C5a receptor (C5aR), IL-6-receptor (IL-6R), and vascular endothelial cell growth factor receptor-2 (VEGFR-2) that governs vascular endothelial cell (EC) viability and growth signaling"

Catherine Stein, PhD
CWRU School of Medicine
"Exploration of pathways underlying resistance to M. tuberculosis infection"

About the CTSC Core Utilization Pilot Program:

The CTSC Core Utilization Pilot Program supports investigator use of and familiarity with CTSC Core operations and personnel, in anticipation of applications for external funding using CTSC resources. Ideal uses may be to run tests on samples already collected; build cross-disciplinary collaborative programs; or develop enabling technologies, new therapeutic, diagnostic or outcomes and more.

The CTSC Core Utilization Pilot Grant has a rolling submission format. Applications are accepted year-round and submissions are reviewed monthly.

For more information on CTSC Pilots:

CTSC Pilot Program Office:
CTSC-Pilot-Coordinator@case.edu
Core Pilot Webpage

Clinical Research Summer Courses

The following Summer 2013 courses at CWRU could be of interest to individuals involved in clinical research, physicians, residents, fellows, research post-doctoral trainees, NIH K awardees, etc

CRSP 503 (1 credit hour)
Innovation and Entrepreneurship
May 15 and May 23, 2013, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

CRSP 401 (1-3 credit hours)
Introduction to Clinical Research
July 5-26, 2013, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

CRSP 406 (2 credit hours)
ntroduction to R Programming
Schedule is July 26-September 3, 2013, 9:00-11:50 a.m., Tuesdays & Fridays

For details on these courses please contact Angela Bowling at 216-368-2601
axb710@cse.edu
Visit the website
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.

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
- Link researchers across disciplines and institutions

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

CTSC Research Concierge Service:
BRB RM 109
csc-research-concierge@case.edu
216-368-0035

Many CTSC Services Available

The CTSC has a myriad of services available no matter the stage of your scientific career. In most instances, CTSC resources are just a phone call or email away. The CTSC staff is knowledgeable in many areas of research and can respond quickly.

Spanish Translation Service Available

The Case Center for Reducing Health Disparities offers a Spanish Translation Service. The service is offered to researchers in need of Spanish translations/adaptions and English back translations. Examples include: questionnaires, study instruments, fliers and consent forms.

All translations are handled on an individual basis and tailored to meet your specific needs.

Katrice D. Cain, MA, PC
Program Development Manager
Phone: 216-778-8467
kcain@metrohealth.org

Mary Ellen Lawless, MA, RN
Community Development and Programming
Phone: 216-778-1304
mel15@case.edu

Skin Diseases Research Center Request for Applications

The Skin Diseases Research Center plans to support four new Pilot and Feasibility projects for funding for one or two years with an annual budget of $20,000. Projects are supported with the understanding that the PI will subsequently apply for NIH or equivalent funding using preliminary data acquired during the P&F project period.

Deadline for application submission is April 1, 2013.
See the CTSC website for your many needs