Happy 50th Anniversary to MetroHealth's Clinical Research Unit!

Last month, MetroHealth System celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Clinical Research Unit with a symposium of its current investigators. The celebration marked a half-century commitment to innovation, discovery, and collaboration for one of our valued partners in health, and led me to reflect on the long history of excellence these two institutions share.

When the unit began in 1964, it focused on perinatology and was one of only two such units in the country with a specialty focus (and to this day, a strong component of Maternal Fetal Medicine persists with great work from its current director, Pat Catalano, MD, as well as Brian Mercer, MD, and Ed Chien, MD). Later, when the NIH funding cycle moved away from specialty units, the Metro unit combined with a University Hospitals unit to form a general clinical research center.

In 2007, the NIH began the Clinical and Translational Science Awards, prompting all of the clinical research centers at CWRU-affiliated hospitals to come together and create the groundbreaking Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative.

Even more about the CTSC Clinical Research Units...

"And then there is the question of how to test discoveries in patients. Our CTSC maintains Clinical Research Units at CCF, Metro, and UHCMC that are efficient sites for patient-based research. These are directed by Wilson Tang, MD, Pat Catalano, MD, and Jackson Wright, MD, PhD, respectively. These CRUs can help with first-in-man studies, study designs, and creating the informatics platforms necessary to record the clinical data."
Inaugural KL2 Reunion

On February 10, 2015 we held the first reunion of the KL2 scholars supported by the CTSC and its predecessor, the K12 award. Current scholars came and presented posters, listened to a keynote talk on industry and academia, and delivered - in rapid succession - their 2-minute "elevator speeches" designed to intrigue those listeners without scientific expertise.

Wow! What wonderful projects! This milestone allowed us to reflect upon the program, its success, and its larger implications.

This program was among the first to forge a citywide alliance among faculty based at MetroHealth, Cleveland Clinic, the Cleveland VAMC, University Hospitals, and CWRU in support of the next generation of patient based researchers.

Last week's reunion was the latest response by KL2 Program Director Raed Dweik, MD, to trainees' thirst for a learning community and a sense of place. It follows earlier innovations such as a boot camp for grantwriting, and placing KL2 scholar graduates on the admissions committee so they learn to review applications.

Overall, the progress of the program, and its participants, is stunning. More than 75% of KL2 graduates are now funded. Two of them, Kurt Lu, MD, and Rebecca Boxer, MD, were awarded a joint NIH U01 grant - evidence that they developed real teamwork. Several graduates have gone on to creative educational endeavors. Jim Spilsbury, PhD, MPH, was instrumental in securing approval for a PhD in clinical investigation at CWRU, in addition to prosecuting his R01-supported research. Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN, was-on top of her funded research-the nursing partner while the VAMC renewed its status as one of only five national VA Centers of Excellence in Primary Education.

Still other KL2 participants are exemplars in individual and team science. Vikas Gulani, MD, PhD, was a critical physician on the team that developed magnetic resonance fingerprinting, which is on the precipice of revolutionizing how we analyze magnetic resonance scans. He now mentors the next generation of KL2 scholars. Jayme Knutson, PhD, a member of the FES Center, was the first KL2 grad to receive an R01 grant from the NIH and works to restore upper arm function in patients with stroke.

The KL2 represents two important features of our school: first, it is highly collaborative across schools, disciplines, and institutions, and in this aspect, it was a pioneer; second, it is turning out another generation of eager researchers who will populate our faculty and make us proud. This all bodes well for our future. Congrats to the KL2 and all those associated with it!

Pam

Congratulations to the Inaugural KL2 Reunion Winners!

Jacqueline Chen & Jennifer Yu
Best Elevator Speeches

Daniel Ontaneda & Michal Fu
Best Poster Presentations

The winners were awarded an expense paid trip to a conference of their choice.
The winners were awarded an expense paid trip to a conference of their choice before the end of the grant year, May 31, 2015.

Congratulations to the December 2014 CTSC Core Utilization Pilot Award Recipients!

**Jessica Berthiaume, PhD**  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine  
"Positive metabolic remodeling drives the cardioprotective effect of high fat after myocardial infarction"

**Edward Gilmore, MD, PhD**  
University Hospitals Case Medical Center  
"Generation of mice with human PNKP mutations using CRISPR/Cas9 technology"

**Sanjay Gupta, PhD**  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine  
"Correlation of AMP-activated protein kinase phosphorylation status, and protein expression with prostate cancer progression to castration-resistance and metastasis in human archived specimens"

Community-Based Research Consult Service

The Case Center for Reducing Health Disparities is funded by the National Institutes of Health to offer a variety of services to faculty members, health care providers, student researchers, and community organizations. One of our many services include a Community-Based Research Consult Service to help researchers and organizations develop quality research.

The consult service has expertise in areas including, but not limited to: research project development, IRB application process, grants assistance and funding, survey development and refinement, needs assessment, data collection, program evaluation, best practices, focus group development, recruitment strategies, dissemination of findings, and Spanish Translation.

For additional information, visit the Center for Reducing Health Disparities website: [http://www.reducedisparity.org/](http://www.reducedisparity.org/).

For assistance, please contact Katrice Cain (216-778-8467 or kcain@metrohealth.org) or Mary Ellen Lawless (216-778-1304 or mel15@case.edu).

NIH Postpones New Biosketch Format Requirement until May 25, 2015

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently announced that a new biosketch format will be required for all applications submitted for FY2016 funding, and will be required beginning May 25, 2015. Originally, the requirement was to go into effect beginning January 25, 2015, but in response to input from the research community, the mandatory change in format was postponed.

The NIH has been piloting a planned modification of the biosketch since June 2012. The new format increases the page limit from 4 to 5 pages and increases the number of peer-reviewed publications from 15 to 20. The new format allows investigators to include a link to a complete listing of their publications in SciENcv or My Bibliography.

Visit the NIH website under the heading "Additional Format Pages" to obtain templates for the new biosketch format: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm).

Local Assistance Available with New Biosketch Formatting

Contact Kathy Blazer, Interim Director, Cleveland Health Sciences Library, (216-368-1361 or kcb2@case.edu) if interested in having Kathy conduct a departmental information session, or to answer individual questions.
Thank you to all of our readers for helping us become a 2014 Constant Contact All-Star!!!
Elizabeth Madigan and infectious disease control expert Irena Kenneley, PhD, APRN-BC, CIC, also from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, studied the myth and other barriers to getting immunizations. Their findings were explained in an article, "Barriers and Facilitators to Provision of Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccines in Home Health Care Agencies," published in Home Health Care Management & Practice.

Vaccinations are known to save lives, yet about 30 percent of Americans don't get a flu vaccine, Madigan said. The CDC reported in 2011 that 53,826 people died in 2010 from the flu, and that older people already battling illnesses are especially susceptible. "Deaths from flu and pneumonia are preventable with vaccinations," she said. "We need more continuing education to teach the importance of adult vaccinations."

To learn more about why people avoid getting immunized, the researchers studied five agencies from urban, rural and suburban areas recruited through the Home Care Practice-Based Research Network in Ohio.

A focus group at each agency addressed questions about flu and pneumonia immunizations and success rates. The researchers found that many home health care workers also bought into the myth that someone could get sick from a flu vaccine and were less likely to encourage patients to get one. Madigan wasn't surprised by the findings because health care training focuses on immunizations for children, not adults.

The study was supported by a Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative of Cleveland grant (UlITR00439) from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, a component of the National Institutes of Health.

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**Share Your Success Story With Us!**

[Click here](#) to tell us your own story!

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**Events**

**Social Network Analysis and Health Mini-Series**

**Lecture: Social Networks and Health**
Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 12:30-2:00pm  
CWRU, BRB Room 105  
Free and open to the public.

**Workshop: A Hands-On Introduction to Social Network Analysis and its Applications**
Thursday, May 7, 2015, 9:00am-4:00pm  
CWRU Kelvin Smith Library, Room LL06  
Regular workshop registration will be available on March 2, 2015 ($50 fee required).

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The Social Network Analysis and Health Mini-Series is a forum to enhance our understanding of social network theory and methods and their application within the field of health research. Social network analysis is a rapidly advancing methodology that is being increasingly applied in the health sciences.
Featuring Dr. Thomas Valente, Professor, Institute for Prevention Research, Department of Preventative Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of South California

Analysis is increasingly used by scientists across the prevention-to-treatment continuum to understand relational dynamics of complex health issues. The goals of the mini-series are to introduce this method through case examples that include applications related to a range of chronic and infectious diseases among adult and youth populations. The public lecture will orient faculty, fellows, students, clinicians, and the broader Cleveland community to applications of social network theory and methods. The full day workshop requires a $50 registration fee. Spaces are limited to 30 registrants for the workshop. A small number of workshop scholarships are available to support graduate students and non-faculty trainees/post-doctoral fellows. A letter from the student/trainee’s mentor is required to obtain the scholarship. The full day workshop is intended for researchers interested in applying social network analysis in their programs of research. Prior experience with the method is not required for participation. The workshop will provide a broader overview of social network analysis and an opportunity for participants to explore analytic software including UCINET, NETDRAW, Exponential Random Graph Models, and SIENA. Trial versions of the software will be available to participants for use during the workshop.

For more information go to: http://casemed.case.edu/ctsc

PI Toolkit: How to Find and Interpret Sponsored Project Financial Statements
Thursday, March 5, 2015
11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Wolstein Research Building, Room 1403

This session was created for faculty principal investigators who have active Sponsored Projects. Attendees will learn about financial statements that are available to them via Launchpad. We will be discussing key statements which should be reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure financial transactions occur in accordance with university and sponsor policies. Examples of reports that will be reviewed include Income and Expense Statements, Salary Analysis and Status of Funded Projects.

Registration is online at: http://research.case.edu/Education/Onlinecalendar.cfm

2015 PRCHN Seminars

Mark your calendars for these upcoming PRCHN Seminars.

3/11/15
The Role of Self-Management in Managing Epilepsy and Reducing Complications
Martha Sajatovic, PhD, CWRU

4/8/15
Choice Pantry Program
Daniel Remley, PhD, OSU
Research ShowCASE and Spring Intersections:
Discovery, Collaboration & Community
Friday, April 17, 2015
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Veale Convocation Center
Case Western Reserve University

Abstract Deadline: February 15, 2015 (Graduate Students, Post-docs, Professional Students, Faculty and Staff); February 16 - March 20, 2015 (Undergraduates)

The CWRU Office of Research and Technology Management and SOURCE (Support of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors) are pleased to announce the opening of the Call for Presentations for Research ShowCASE 2015.

We invite you to participate with other CWRU faculty, staff and students by presenting your work at Research ShowCASE 2015. The event will provide an opportunity for you to display your research in a traditional scientific poster or other creative means. We encourage University Hospitals, Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth Medical Center and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center researchers to participate.

In addition to the opportunity to display and share your work, undergraduate and graduate students, professional students and postdoctoral scholars are encouraged to participate in the research competition, which will include having your presentation evaluated and feedback provided. Prizes will be awarded to winning entries.

In order to display your work at Research ShowCASE, you will need to submit an online abstract describing your research. If you are a student or post-doc, your faculty advisor will need to approve your submission.

New this year:
- You will need to provide a brief description of your research in non-scientific terms
- You will be given the opportunity to provide a video abstract of your work in addition to the written abstract
- If you provide a 140-character title or description of your entry, we will tweet about your work

Abstract Submission Deadline: February 15, 2015 (for graduate students, post-docs, professional students, faculty and staff)

Undergraduate submissions will be accepted between February 16, 2015 and March 20, 2015.

Find out more and submit your abstract at: showCASE.case.edu

Diversity in Research
Tuesday, April 7, 2015
2:00 3:30 pm
Biomedical Research Building, Room 105
4 CREC

Diversity in Research explores the scientific, ethical, and legal bases for the inclusion of diverse participants in research and the recruitment and hiring of diverse research staff. Potential barriers to diversity in the research context are discussed.

This workshop meets the requirements of the CWRU Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity (OIDEO) for participation on CWRU search committees.

Registration is online at: https://research.case.edu/Education/Onlinecalendar.cfm
Translational Science 2015
Thursday, April 16 - Saturday, April 18
Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington D.C.

Exciting Updates for Translational Science 2015!
We’re only four months away from the year’s best opportunity for networking and learning - Translational Science 2015! We’re putting together a fantastic program for our attendees, and are looking for your participation to ensure that this event is as strong as ever.

Submit Your Abstract by January 20
Share your research with an audience of your peers and discover new opportunities for collaboration by submitting an abstract to present at Translational Science 2015. This is an excellent opportunity to show your colleagues what you have been working on and become more comfortable with presenting! Categories for submission are:

- Pre-Doctoral Trainee (TL1 Scholar)
- Pre-Doctoral Trainee (T32, F32, Foundation, Intramural or other)
- Post-Doctoral Trainee (T32, F32, Foundation, IDEA, Intramural awards)
- KL2 or IDEA Funded Scholar
- K-Funded Scholar
- Mid-Career and Senior Scientists
- Education/Career Development

Registration is Now Open
Hundreds of your colleagues will be coming to Washington, DC for Translational Science 2015 - register today and make sure you’re part of the excitement! Visit our website for more information, including hotel information.

Funding Opportunities

**Brocher Foundation**
Deadline: March 1, 2015

The Brocher Foundation, located on the shores of the Geneva Lake, in Hermance (Geneva-Switzerland), is calling for proposals for the 2016 residencies. The residencies last between one and four months. They give researchers the opportunity to work at the Brocher Centre on projects on the ethical, legal and social implications for humankind of recent medical research and new technologies. Every month a dozen of visiting researchers live and concentrate on their research project at the Foundation.

The Brocher Foundation offers to successful applicants a workplace and an accommodation in its premises. Breakfast and dinner are also provided every day. “Junior” visiting researchers can apply for an additional scholarship in order to cover their travel and local expenses in Geneva. To be eligible to this "Additional scholarship for Junior researchers", the applicant should be a PhD student or should have obtained his PhD degree within a maximum of five years and should not perceive any other income during the time spent at the Foundation.

Deadline for submission is March 1, 2015.

For more information on the terms and conditions and to submit a proposal visit the Brocher Foundation website.

**NEW Limited Submission: American Diabetes Association Pathway to Stop Diabetes**

**Key Deadlines:** March 2, 2015, 5:00pm (CWRU Internal Submission Deadline), July 1, 2015, 8:00pm EST.

To accelerate the research needed to discover solutions and ultimately cure this deadly epidemic, the American Diabetes Association has launched a bold initiative, Pathway to Stop Diabetes, to inspire a new generation of diabetes researchers. Pathway will provide crucial support to individuals focusing on innovative ideas and transformational approaches that will lead to ground-breaking discoveries in diabetes prevention, treatment and cures.
Pathway will support creative scientists early in their diabetes research careers, or investigators who are established in other disciplines but would like to expand their focus to diabetes research. Through awards of $1.625 million over the course of up to seven years, the program will provide researchers the freedom, autonomy, time and focus needed to explore new ideas.

For more information on this limited submission opportunity, visit the Office of Research Administration website.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
Application Deadline: March 3, 2015

The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced a new grant opportunity that encourages the publication of nonfiction books that apply serious humanities scholarship to subjects of general interest and appeal.

The new NEH Public Scholar awards support well-researched books in the humanities conceived and written to reach a broad readership. Books supported through this program might present a narrative history, tell the stories of important individuals, analyze significant texts, provide a synthesis of ideas, revive interest in a neglected subject, or examine the latest thinking on a topic. Most importantly, they should open up important and appealing subjects for wider audiences by presenting significant humanities topics in a way that is accessible to general readers.

The Public Scholar program is open to both independent scholars and individuals affiliated with scholarly institutions. It offers a stipend of $4,200 per month for a period of six to twelve months. The maximum stipend is $50,400 for a twelve-month period. Applicants must have previously published a book or monograph with a university or commercial press, or articles and essays that reach a wide readership.

Application Deadline for first cycle: March 3, 2015 For more information visit the NEH website.

Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)
Application Deadline: March 4, 2015

The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network is now accepting applications for the 2015 Young Investigator Awards. The $100,000 grants will cover costs associated with a two-year bladder cancer-specific research proposal. The purpose of this grant is to support the development of outstanding research scientists and clinical cancer research investigators who have demonstrated a commitment to improving the understanding and treatment of bladder cancer. Investigators may be working in basic, translational, clinical, epidemiologic, bioengineering or any other field, but must be working in a research environment capable of supporting transformational bladder cancer research.

Application Deadline: March 4, 2015

For more information visit the BCAN website.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
Improving Healthcare Systems - Spring 2015 Cycle
Letter of Intent (LOI) deadline: March 6, 2015

PCORI is seeking applications to study the comparative effectiveness of alternate features of healthcare systems (e.g., innovative technologies, incentive structures, service designs) intended to optimize the quality, outcomes, and/or efficiency of care for the patients they serve and that have the most potential for sustained impact and replication within and across healthcare systems. Healthcare systems encompass multiple levels (e.g., national, state and local health environments, organization and/or practice settings, family and social supports, and the individual patient) and include entities organized to deliver, arrange, purchase, and/or coordinate healthcare services. PCORI seeks to fund studies that will provide information of value to...
PCORI seeks to fund studies that will provide information of value to patients, their caregivers, clinicians, and healthcare leaders regarding which features of delivery systems lead to better patient-centered outcomes so they may ultimately impact healthcare delivery.

For more information visit the PCORI website.

NEW Limited Submission: NSF Collections in Support of Biological Research (CSBR)
Key Deadlines: March 23, 2015, 5:00pm (CWRU Internal Submission Deadline), July 13, 2015, 5:00pm EST (agency application).

The Collections in Support of Biological Research (CSBR) Program provides funds: 1) for improvements to secure, improve, and organize collections that are significant to the NSF BIO-funded research community; 2) to secure collections-related data for sustained, accurate, and efficient accessibility of the collection to the biological research community; and 3) to transfer collection ownership responsibilities.

The CSBR program provides for enhancements that secure and improve existing collections, result in accessible digitized specimen-related data, and develop better methods for specimen curation and collection management. Requests should demonstrate a clear and urgent need to secure the collection, and the proposed activities should address that need. Biological collections supported include established living stock/culture collections, vouched non-living natural history collections, and jointly-curated ancillary collections such as preserved tissues and DNA libraries.

For more information on this limited submission opportunity, visit the Office of Research Administration website.

Health Resources and Services Administration - Rural Health Program
Application Deadline: March 23, 2015

Funding Opportunity Number: HRSA-15-072
The purpose of the Rural Health Value Program is to inform rural health care providers and stakeholders such as HHS, Congress, states, and for-profit and nonprofit entities that set policies impacting rural health care providers about the impacts of changes in the health care delivery system, and to provide technical assistance to rural providers in identifying potential new approaches to health care delivery in their communities. The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) funds community health organizations to test innovative approaches to improving the delivery of care in their communities. Projects focus on a wide range of activities, including direct health care delivery, formation of networks to gain economies of scale and shared knowledge, implementation of quality of improvement strategies, and expansion of health care service delivery via telehealth. Evaluation of these awards documents outcomes and leads to the development of evidence-based practices that may be replicated in other communities. These best practices are shared with the broader rural health community primarily via the Rural Community Health Gateway. ORHP also funds technical assistance providers to work with grantees to implement best practices in their projects. There are numerous opportunities to learn from and highlight the innovations of these grantees, and to share information with the technical assistance providers who support them.

Application Deadline: March 23, 2015

For more information visit the Grants.Gov website.

American Cancer Society (ACS)
Application Deadline: April 1, 2015

The American Cancer Society is accepting proposals for research projects designed to generate new knowledge of the effects of the United States healthcare system services.
Studies investigating how one or more factors affecting access and outcomes interact - such as insurance status, costs, capacity, personal characteristics, provider characteristics, components of the healthcare delivery system, and other known factors - are encouraged. Studies may be at the state, state, or national levels, or otherwise involve large populations.

The program will award grants of up to $200,000 per year. Projects may not exceed a period of four years, although it is anticipated that most applications will require no more than two years to complete the research.

Application Deadline: April 1 and October 15 For more information visit the ACS website.

Ohio Development Services Agency, Ohio Third Frontier

Proposals Due: April 9, 2015, 2:00 pm

The Ohio Development Services has announced the latest RFP for the Ohio Third Frontier’s Technology Validation and Start-up Fund (TVSF) program. The goal is to create greater economic growth in Ohio based on start-up companies that commercialize technologies developed by Ohio institutions of higher education and other Ohio not-for-profit research institutions. The Technology Validation and Start-Up Fund has been designed to support protected technologies developed at Ohio research institutions that need known validation/proof that will directly impact and enhance both their commercial viability and ability to support a start-up company, and support Ohio start-up and Ohio young companies that license these validated/proven technologies from these Ohio research institutions.

Key dates for CY2015 Cycle 1 include:
Written Questions through April 2, 2015
Technology Transfer Office Qualification Document due by 2:00 P.M., April 2, 2015
Proposals due by 2:00 P.M., April 9, 2015
Review and Award approximately Summer 2015

For more information visit the Ohio Development Services Agency webpage.