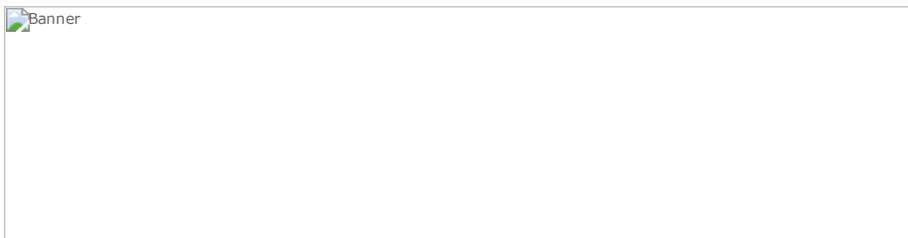




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April 2013 Connection

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Translational Science 2013 is Here!

Translational Science 2013, the premier meeting for all aspects of translational science, will be held next week on April 17-19 in Washington, DC. The meeting starts with advocacy training and our traditional Congressional visits, and is followed by a new grants workshop and the opening reception. Highlights over the next two days include:

- Plenary speakers such as Ezekiel Emanuel, MD, PhD, MPH; Christopher Austin, MD, Director of NCATS and others;
- Concurrent sessions covering education, mentoring, biostatistics, working with the FDA, and research with patient groups, as well as with the Department of Defense, and many other topics;
- New presentations by the Clinical Research Forum award-winning scientists (in collaboration with the Clinical Research Forum);
- A session offering meetings with NIH and PCORI program officers.

Although pre-registration is closed, you can still register via fax or phone, following the directions on the [meeting website](#).

Can't make the whole meeting? There is a special offer for a Friday half-day registration for only \$50, available only through [this link](#). Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to learn the latest science and to network with top leaders in the field! See you in Washington!

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News from ACTS

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News from ACTS

Washington Update

As part of Translational Science 2013, we will be holding advocacy training and Congressional visits on Wednesday, April 17. These sessions are excellent opportunities to learn and practice being an effective advocate. With budget cuts becoming the norm, the importance of translational research to the nation's health and economic strength must be communicated early and often!

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About ACTS

The ACTS mission is to advance research and education in clinical and translational science to improve human health. For more information, visit ctssociety.org

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Pre-registration is required for these activities, but if you missed it, you can still help. ACTS needs you to tell your story on how NIH cuts affect you, your colleagues, your research and training. If you are willing to share this information, please log on to the ACTS website [advocacy pages](#) and add your compelling commentary on the huge negative impact of NIH cuts! You can also contact your legislators to urge them to support research at NIH and AHRQ. For more information, see our "advocacy alerts" on the [ACTS webpage](#).

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ACTS Plans First Membership Meeting

Dr. Anantha Shekhar, ACTS President, announced that the first ACTS Membership meeting will held via teleconference on May 9, 2013 at 2 PM EDT. The call-in number is 1-800-944-8766 user code 19798#. This meeting is required by the new ACTS Bylaws. The first ACTS Annual Report will be available at the ACTS Exhibit at Translational Science 2013 and will be posted on the ACTS website. Please contact the ACTS office with any questions.

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New Meeting on Pediatric Surgical Innovation in Washington, DC, June 13, 2013

Our ACTS member colleagues at Children's National Medical Center in Washington DC, announced the first Pediatric Surgical Innovation Symposium to be held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Washington DC on June 13, 2013. This day-long symposium will be focused on critical issues in pediatric surgical innovation and medical devices for treatment of children. For more information, see the [meeting website](#).

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Translational Science News

Site Selection Complicates Rare-Disease Trials

A new survey indicates that nearly 70 percent of clinical development decision-makers consider finding and implementing qualified sites as among the hardest parts of launching rare-disease and orphan-drug trials. "Much of the success in patient recruitment is based on finding the appropriate site for the small patient populations we have to work with," said Angi Robinson, executive director, clinical trials management, at Premier Research, which conducted the survey. Robinson noted that the complications increase in cases when patients need to be brought in from outside Western markets. The survey of 50 biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies in North America and Europe found that regulatory requirements are also significant barriers to setting up trials. Still, almost 90 percent of the survey respondents said the number of patients they had to enroll for a rare-disease/orphan-drug trial was reasonable, with 46 percent using medical networks to assist with site or patient-recruitment efforts.

From "Site Selection Complicates Rare-Disease Trials"
PharmaTimes (03/21/13) Mansell, Peter

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Transforming Health Research on the High Plains

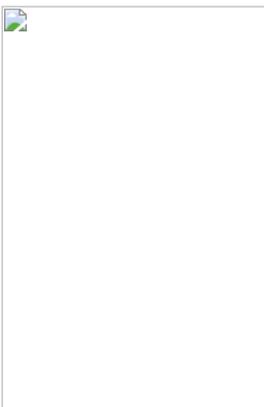
The High Plains Research Network (HPRN), a partnership of rural hospitals, clinics, and primary care practices in Colorado, seeks to enhance how care is provided to patients via research and quality improvement programs. The network is one example of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute's (PCORI) vision for research that engages members of the community. Last year, PCORI awarded HPRN a Pilot Project contract to continue its community-based effort dubbed "Boot Camp Translation." Spearheaded by HPRN Director Dr. Jack Westfall, the project will translate health research and recommendations into language accessible to the diverse communities in Colorado. "When research gets translated into local language, community members and patients are more engaged," Westfall says. "In eastern Colorado, this means presenting information in a way that incorporates the local rural ranch and farm flavor."

From "Transforming Health Research on the High Plains"
Southeast Sun Enterprise (03/21/13)

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Informatics Helps Drive Clinical and Translational Research

Clinical and translational science is now recognized as a national priority, and investigators are increasingly turning to computer science (CS), information science (IS), biomedical informatics (BMI), and information technology (IT) tools and methods to support high impact research. However, the ability to use these types of tools and methods requires engagement and support from multidisciplinary teams. This includes individuals with technical backgrounds in the IT and informatics domains. In a study led by Dr. Philip Payne at The Ohio State University College of Medicine and published in the online journal BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making, a group of researchers from several academic medical centers identified and examined critical issues surrounding organizational dynamics and leadership structures that impact the use of IT and informatics expertise to advance clinical and translational research. "We concluded that the presence of a formal, academic BMI unit is important to ensure IT and informatics are optimally used to support clinical and translational research. Furthermore, we found it is also equally important to recognize the differences and synergies between IT and informatics leaders and to ensure that informatics leadership is properly empowered to advance the clinical and translational research agenda," says Payne. Issues that may hinder access to IT and informatics tools and expertise include the frequent fragmentation of IT and informatics personnel and infrastructure across organizational units and insufficient institutional resources and financial support to sustain clinical and translational science-focused IT.



From "Informatics Helps Drive Clinical and Translational Research"
Medical Xpress (03/15/13)

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Academic Research Centers Join Forces to Improve Clinical Research

Academic research organizations are revamping how clinical research is conducted through participation in the Research Resonance Network. The network's host, Forte Research Systems, has announced a new online home for the group along with new tools intended to enhance the clinical research processes. Registration is now taking place to access the first resource to go live on the network, the Site Metrics Registry. This registry reflects seven years of effort largely steered by 20 leading academic medical centers, including the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation and Indiana University Simon Cancer Center. Under the leadership provided by the participating centers, the online Research Resonance Network Site Metrics Registry has started delivering value through its library of standard data definitions for multiple performance measurements, or "metrics." The registry contains metrics for assessing cycle times in IRB approval and contracting; measuring the size of clinical research operations in such areas as the number of open protocols and new subject accruals; and measuring effort in areas that include data management and budgeting.

From "Academic Research Centers Join Forces to Improve Clinical Research"
Digital Journal (03/07/13)

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Grant Opportunities

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is offering funding for the Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to encourage innovative and unconventional global health and development solutions. The foundation has committed \$100 million to encourage scientists worldwide to expand the pipeline of ideas to fight our greatest health challenges. Initial grants of \$100,000 are awarded two times a year. Successful projects have the opportunity to receive a follow-on grant of up to \$1 million. The grant program is open to anyone from any discipline, from student to tenured professor, and from any organization: colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies. The deadline for proposals for the next round of funding is May 7, 2013.

From "Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation"
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (03/14/13)

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International Rett Syndrome Foundation Translational Research Program

The International Rett Syndrome Foundation has announced the availability of Regular Research grants for international biomedical research to promote the understanding of MeCP2 in the pathogenesis of the neurobehavioral phenotype of Rett syndrome. The foundation has also made available HeART (Help Accelerate RTT Therapeutics) and ANGEL (Advanced Neurotherapeutic Grant of Excellence) grant awards to promote the development and testing of therapeutics to treat and reverse Rett syndrome and its symptoms. In addition, there are Mentored Training Fellowships available to support young scientists in both basic and clinical research in the field of Rett syndrome. Letters of intent for the basic, translational, and mentored training fellowship programs are due by July 1, 2013.

From "International Rett Syndrome Foundation Translational Research Program"
International Rett Syndrome Foundation (03/14/13)

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FARA: Phillip Bennett & Kyle Bryant Translational Research Award

The Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA), which is dedicated to curing Friedreich's ataxia through research, is accepting letters of intent (LOIs) for the Phillip Bennett and Kyle Bryant Translational Research Award, which emphasizes pre-clinical and clinical investigations that will advance treatments for FA. The specific goals of the research must target identification of biomarkers for FA that will elucidate disease variability, severity, and prognosis; facilitate drug screening, and/or optimize selection of patients and clinical endpoints for clinical trials; development of tools and technologies that can be directly used for therapy development; overcome existing obstacles to treatment and be directly applied to, or adapted for, delivery of potential therapeutics; pre-clinical development and testing of potential therapeutics, biologics, and devices in cells and animals; and clinical studies of patient outcome measures, potential interventions, or devices. The deadline for the LOI is May 15, 2013.

From "FARA: Phillip Bennett & Kyle Bryant Translational Research Award"
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (03/14/13)

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Diversifying the Training Experiences of the Biomedical Research Workforce

The National Institutes of Health is launching a new biomedical workforce-related initiative based on the Advisory Committee to the Director's (ACD) working group recommendations. The goal of the initiative is to expand current research training and enable research institutions to optimally prepare their trainees for a variety of research-related career outcomes. The ACD working group report revealed that while nearly half of U.S.-trained doctorates work in academia, an increasing proportion of newly trained doctorates finds employment opportunities in non-academic sectors and in other research-related occupations. It is vital that trainees be prepared for a diverse set of career outcomes and take advantage of existing resources. To this end, the Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) program will pilot awards through the NIH Common Fund and advocate new and innovative methods for preparing graduate students for research and research-related careers in the biomedical, behavioral, social, or clinical sciences. This could include scientific research institutions that collaborate with schools of business, public policy, or economics, or develop partnerships beyond academia and engage the private sector or nonprofits. All programs should seek to familiarize students and postdoctoral scientists with the wide variety of biomedical careers early in their training. BEST will encourage diverse training experiences through up to 15 BEST awards in fiscal year 2013 to support research institutions' program and administrative needs during the initial

stages of development and to create self-sustaining programs in collaboration with external support. Applications to the BEST funding opportunity are due in April and will likely be reviewed in the summer.

From "Diversifying the Training Experiences of the Biomedical Research Workforce"
NIH Extramural Nexus (03/08/13) Rockey, Sally

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NCIIA E-Team Grant

The National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance has announced a new E-Team Program, which offers early-stage support and funding of up to \$75,000 for collegiate entrepreneurs working on market-based technology inventions. The program is open to groups of students, faculty, and industry mentors working together to bring a technology-based invention (product or service) to market. The deadline for the application is May 10, 2013.

From "NCIIA E-Team Grant"
National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (03/07/13)

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Baxter Foundation Grants

The Baxter International Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Baxter International Inc., is offering funding for instances in which the goal is to achieve other goals, such as boosting community-based direct health services or the skills and availability of community health care providers, in areas where there are Baxter facilities. The deadline for the next round of funding is May 1.

From "Baxter Foundation Grants"
Baxter International Foundation (03/07/13)

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Burroughs Wellcome Fund-Career Awards for Medical Scientists

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is accepting applications for career awards for medical scientists. The five-year, \$700,000 awards for physician-scientists will help bridge advanced postdoctoral/fellowship training and the early years of faculty service. Submitted proposals must focus on basic biomedical, disease-oriented, or translational research; proposals in health services research or involving large-scale clinical trials are ineligible. The awards will be made to degree-granting institutions in the United States or Canada on behalf of the awardee. The application deadline is Oct. 1, 2013.

From "Burroughs Wellcome Fund-Career Awards for Medical Scientists"
Burroughs Wellcome Fund (03/07/13)

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Patient-Centered Coordinated Care Program

Funding opportunities are available at the Commonwealth Fund, which works to promote delivery system improvement and innovation. The Program on Patient-Centered Coordinated Care supports efforts that work to improve the quality of primary health care in the United States, including efforts to make care more centered around the needs and preferences of patients and their families. The program makes grants to strengthen primary care by promoting the collection and dissemination of information on patients' health care experiences and on physician office systems and practices that are associated with high-quality, patient-centered care; assist primary care practices with the adoption of practices, models, and tools that can help them both become more patient-centered and coordinate more closely with hospitals, specialists, and other public and private health care providers in their communities; and inform the development of policies to encourage patient- and family-centered care in medical homes. More information is available at <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Grants-and-Programs/Applicant-and-Grantee-Resources.aspx>

From "Patient-Centered Coordinated Care Program"
Commonwealth Fund (03/07/13)

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