



ACTS ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Connection

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Introducing the 2015-2016 ACTS Board of Directors



We are proud to announce the 2015-2016 ACTS Board of Directors, who took office at Translational Science 2015.

Dr. Rebecca Jackson was installed as President, and Dr. Harry Selker took office as President-Elect. Joining the Board of Directors as Directors-at-Large were Estela Estape, Katherine Hartmann, Robert Kimberly, Kathleen Stevens, and Robert Toto.

To see the full listing of 2015-2016 members, please visit the [Board of Directors webpage](#).

ACTS would like to extend its sincere gratitude to our outgoing President, Dr. Michael Lichtenstein, for his leadership and dedication to the Association, and to the outgoing Board members, Anantha Shekhar, Barry Collier, Sonali Patel, and Roy Weiner, for their service.

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Translational Science 2015 Wrap-Up

Thanks to our members and attendees for making Translational Science 2015, held in Washington, DC on April 16 - 18 such a success. This year, over 800 attendees gathered to share their research and network with each other to create the ultimate meeting experience.

Attendees listened to keynotes by speakers including Dr. Francis Collins, Dr. Garret FitzGerald and Mr. Geoffrey Smith, as well as participated in Mock Study Sections and Meetings with Program Officers. Over 100 advocates represented the interests of ACTS, AFMR, CR Forum and APSA in meetings with Congressional staff during Hill Visits. More than 400 individuals presented their research during poster and oral presentation sessions.

Plans for Translational Science 2016 are underway! Let us know what would make this meeting even more valuable to you by sending comments to info@actscience.org.

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Congratulations to the Translational Science 2015 Joint Awards Program Winners

April 2015

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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 actscience.org

The Association for Clinical and Translational Science

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In the sixth year of the Translational Science meeting, the sponsoring and partnering organizations of ACTS and AFMR acknowledged the outstanding contributions of investigators and educators in the field.

The following awardees were recognized at Translational Science 2015:

Team Science Award

Women's Health Initiative, Director: Jean Wactoski-Wende, PhD (pictured with ACTS President Michael Lichtenstein)

Edward H. Ahrens, Jr. Award for Patient Oriented Research

Garret A. FitzGerald, MD, FRS, University of Pennsylvania

ACTS Distinguished Investigator Award – Translation from Early Clinical Use to Applicability for Widespread Clinical Practice

Francis E. Marchlinski, MD, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

ACTS Distinguished Investigator Award – Translation from Clinical Use into Public Benefit and Policy

Kevin G. Volpp, MD, PhD, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

ACTS Distinguished Educator Award

Michael F. Fleming, MD, MPH, Northwestern University

AFMR Outstanding Investigator Award

Keith Anthony Josephs, Jr., MD, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

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[From the Hill--ACTS Advocacy News](#)



On Thursday, April 16th, nearly 125 grassroots advocates participated in the clinical and translational research community's 2015 Capitol Hill Advocacy Day. These volunteer advocates represented twenty-five states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The primary goal of these advocates was to educate policymakers about the value and importance of federal clinical and translational research programs. Advocates asked congressional office for support in critical and timely areas, namely:

- Providing the NIH, AHRQ, and other federal medical research programs with meaningful funding increases.
- Recognizing the importance of the full-spectrum of medical research.
- Protecting emerging opportunities, including the Clinical and Translational Science Awards, the Institutional Development Awards, and the Research Centers at Minority Institutions programs.

The message of advocates appears to be resonating on Capitol Hill. Recently, key legislators announced an interest in relaxing budget caps and improving the funding situation. To read a full recap of the visits to Capitol Hill, visit the [ACTS website](#).

Advocacy takes place all year long and is not confined to Capitol Hill Advocacy Day. Please consider becoming an [advocate today](#).

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News from ACTS

Share your exciting stories...Membership News!

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 Jointly Sponsored Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Institutional Predoctoral Training Program in the Neurosciences (T32)

News from ACTS

Share your exciting stories...Membership News!

Does your institution have news you want to share with the *ACTS Connection* readership? Do you have an investigator doing something innovative? Let us know! From innovative projects, star scholars and trainees, to award winning faculty, help us share the news that is important to you by submitting it through our [online form](#).

Your news may be shared on the ACTS website, and other ACTS social media sources!

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Translational Science News

NIH Expands Medical Scholars Program, Announces New Class

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has chosen 55 students from 37 U.S. universities for the fourth class in its Medical Research Scholars Program. This year-long residential program introduces medical, dental, and veterinary students to cutting-edge research as part of NIH's goal of training new clinician-scientists and biomedical researchers. Students are placed in NIH laboratories and clinics to conduct basic, clinical, or translational research in areas that align with their career interests and research goals. The students are mentored by full-time NIH investigators, and they participate in courses, journal club seminars, a structured lecture series, and clinical teaching rounds.

From "NIH Expands Medical Scholars Program, Announces New Class"
NIH Clinical Center (04/09/15)

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WHO Joins the Push for Greater Disclosure of Clinical Trial Data

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a position statement calling for greater transparency of clinical trial data. According to the agency, not fully reporting clinical trial data can lead to misinformation, increase health care costs, and distort public policy. In addition, the WHO said that "it is unethical to conduct human research without publication and dissemination of the results of that research." The WHO called on companies to update information already provided to trial registries and submit findings for publication in peer-reviewed journals within one year of completing the research.

From "WHO Joins the Push for Greater Disclosure of Clinical Trial Data"
Wall Street Journal (04/15/15) Silverman, Ed

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NIH, South African Medical Research Council Award \$8 Million in HIV, TB Grants

U.S. and South African scientists are receiving 31 grants from the National Institutes of Health and the South African Medical Research Council to help research HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and HIV-related co-morbidities and cancers. The grants, which total \$8 million in first-year funding, are the first issued through the South Africa–U.S. Program for Collaborative Biomedical Research. Some of the newly funded research projects focus on HIV prevention, especially in high-risk young women; identifying HIV-infected individuals and connecting them with medical care; and developing strategies to boost tuberculosis prevention and treatment strategies, especially among infected mothers and children.

From "NIH, South African Medical Research Council Award \$8 Million in HIV, TB Grants"
NIH News (04/13/15)

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Grant Opportunities

Collaborative Innovation Award, Clinical and Translational Science Award Program (U01)

A new funding opportunity announcement from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) aims to stimulate innovative collaborative research

in the NCATS' Clinical and Translational Science Award consortium. Research projects should focus on developing a new technology or approach that addresses an obstacle in science or operations that limits the efficiency and effectiveness of translation, and they should demonstrate whether it is effective in accelerating translation. In addition, the projects should advance collaboration, and what constitutes success of the proposed project should be able to be defined and measured. NCATS plans to allocate about \$9 million for the program in fiscal year 2016. Applications for the first round of funding are due by Feb. 3, 2016.

From "Collaborative Innovation Award, Clinical and Translational Science Award Program (U01)"
NIH Grants (04/02/15)

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Pre-Application for Collaborative Innovation Award, CTSA Program (X02)

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences is inviting pre-applications from individuals who plan to submit an application for the Collaborative Innovation Award, Clinical and Translational Science Award Program (U01). Although not required, the X02 pre-application is recommended. Individuals whose X02 pre-applications are deemed meritorious and programmatically relevant will be notified of the opportunity to submit a full application for the U01 program. Pre-applications for the first round of funding are due by June 24, 2015.

From "Pre-Application for Collaborative Innovation Award, CTSA Program (X02)"
NIH Grants (04/02/15)

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PCORI Offers Up to \$90 Million in Funding in Fourth Call for Pragmatic Clinical Study Proposals

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), under its Pragmatic Clinical Studies initiative, is offering up to \$90 million to support projects that evaluate the effectiveness of various care options in "real-world" settings. The initiative intends to support large, patient-centered studies that can produce applicable evidence that can help close information gaps for costly, burdensome health problems. PCORI identifies several research topics of particular interest, such as the effectiveness of comprehensive services to support infants after discharge from neonatal intensive care, and alternative models for treating chronic, nonspecific musculoskeletal pain. Letters of intent are due by May 1, 2015.

From "PCORI Offers Up to \$90 Million in Funding in Fourth Call for Pragmatic Clinical Study Proposals"
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (04/06/2015)

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Jointly Sponsored Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Institutional Predoctoral Training Program in the Neurosciences (T32)

The National Institutes of Health has issued a funding opportunity announcement for the Jointly Sponsored Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Institutional Predoctoral Training Program in the Neurosciences. The award supports research training in the neurosciences via institutional National Research Service Award research training grants at U.S. institutions of higher education. Recipients of the award will receive financial support for one or two years during their first two years of graduate research training. Applications are due by June 10, 2015.

From "Jointly Sponsored Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Institutional Predoctoral Training Program in the Neurosciences (T32)"
NIH Grants (04/07/15)

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