The National Cancer Institute Cancer Centers Program serves a vital purpose in today's cancer research. Hundreds of research studies are under way at 69 NCI-Designated Cancer Centers, located in 25 states and the District of Columbia.

"Precision medicine requires a detailed understanding of disease at the molecular and cellular level. The images collected here as part of the 2016 NCI Cancer Close Up project are examples of important microscopy-aided studies at the NCI-Designated Cancer Centers. Located in 35 states and the District of Columbia, the centers are the backbone of NCI's programs for studying and controlling cancer."

See the full gallery of the NCI Cancer Close Up here.

2016 IIMS Community Engagement Symposium: Engaging Patients, Families, and Communities in All Phases of Translational Research

Community Engagement (CE) increases the reach, effectiveness, uptake, implementation, and maintenance of clinical and translational research, but initiating a community and academic (CA) collaboration can be difficult. Time constraints, unfamiliarity with who may be eager to partner and how to initiate contact can hinder investigators. Community members face the same issues, plus mistakenly believe that their input is not valuable for research development. The IIMS holds an annual CE Symposium to (1) share examples of CA collaborations; (2) showcase different research projects; (3) identify CE methods for all research phases; and (4) build capacity for engaging in authentic CA collaborations. Investigators, practitioners, and community members interested in collaborating on basic lab science, clinical studies, pilot/exploratory, and community-partnered research were invited.

The 2016 CE Symposium included a plenary presentation by Arthur Kaufman, MD from University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, CE challenges and barriers discussions, poster fair, breakout sessions on community health concerns, and interactive activities highlighting the impact of health research. The event included free registration, meals, poster printing, and continuing education credits for Community Health Education Specialists and Community Health Workers.

The planning committee included UT-ISSCA’s Priscilla Library, South Central Area Health...
The planning committee included UTHSCSA’s Briscoe Library, South Central Area Health Education Center, Practice-Based Research Network Center, and University of Texas (UT) School of Public Health representatives. Committee members actively sought feedback from their community partners for the logo, tagline, event location, and program. The 116 attendees represented five counties. A total of 37% of attendees self-identified as community members. They represented the business, fine arts, health, health care, local government, policy making and/or social service sectors.

Faculty attendees (29%) represented UTHSCSA, Our Lady of the Lake University, Texas A&M-San Antonio, UT Austin, UT School of Public Health, UT Rio Grande Valley, and UT San Antonio. A better understanding of how community members and investigators can work together for community health improvement was reported by 92%.

With careful programming, CE symposia enhance community responsiveness by providing a "safe space" for airing the health concerns of individuals with varying experiences and knowledge. To view event details go to https://iims.uthscsa.edu/community.html.

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Reminder: JCTS Submissions Now Open!
Reminder that submissions are now open for Journal of Clinical and Translational Science (JCTS). Submit by following this link: journals.cambridge.org/cts/submit.
Journal of Clinical and Translational Science is an international peer-reviewed journal that will publish papers capturing the spectrum of research from T1 (translation from research lab bench to bedside) through to T4 (translation to populations). JCTS aims to provide a forum for the rapid communication of relevant topics of interest to the large and diverse community of clinical and translational scientists. The ultimate goal of JCTS is to improve the efficiency with which research and new diagnostics, therapies, and preventive measures, informed by health needs, are able to reach the public.

Specifically, JCTS will highlight outstanding work in the following areas:
- Basic Translational Research
- Clinical Research
- Education
- Research Methods
- Implementation
- Policy and Community Engagement
- Translational Research Design and Analysis

News from The Hill

Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Dale Dirks and Dane Christiansen

Before adjourning for the 4th of July recess, Congress took action on emergency supplemental funding to address the emerging public health threat posed by the Zika virus. Most notably, the House of Representatives passed a spending package that included $1.1 billion to support activities across the federal government, including new research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Senate was unable to advance the measure though due to disagreements over the level of funding (the administration has previously requested $1.8 billion) and the inclusion of controversial policy riders. It is expected that Congress will re-negotiate and work to finalize and pass a supplemental emergency Zika funding measure before adjourning until after Labor Day on July 15th. Find a summary of key funding items from the current package here.

Grants and Grant News

NIH staff from the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) have provided a new tutorial to help guide candidates in planning and submitting outstanding competitive grant proposals. The CSR partners, and TranslationalScience happenings.
writing a competitive grant application in a new video. The CSR link below is part of CSR's Insider's Guide to Peer Review for Applicants resource page.

See the Insiders Guide to NIH Peer Review Video here.

New Grant Opportunities

NIDCD Research Career Enhancement Award for Established Investigators (K18)
PAR-16-346

K18 Career Enhancement Award
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)
The purpose of the NIDCD Research Career Enhancement Award for Established Investigators (K18) program is to enable established, proven investigators to augment or redirect their research programs through the acquisition of new research skills to answer questions relevant to the hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech and language sciences.

NHLBI Research Career Development Programs in T4 Implementation Research (K12)
RFA-HL-17-016

K12 Physician Scientist Award (Program) (PSA)
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) encourages applications for institutional research career development (K12) programs that propose to support mentored research and career development experiences for scholars prepared to address the complex process of bridging research and practice in a variety of real-world settings with a focus on heart, lung, blood, and sleep (HLBS) diseases and conditions.

Clinical Research Education and Career Development (CRECD) Program (R25)
PAR-16-350

R25 Education Projects
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
The over-arching goal of this NIMHD R25 program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral and clinical research workforce.

Social Epigenomics Research Focused on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01)
PAR-16-355

R01 Research Project Grant
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support and accelerate human epigenomic investigations focused on identifying and characterizing the mechanisms by which social experiences at various stages in life, both positive and negative, affect gene function and thereby influence health trajectories or modify disease risk in racial/ethnic minority and health disparity populations.

Transition to Independent Environmental Health Research (TIEHR) Career Transition Award (K01)
PAR-16-360

K01 Research Scientist Development Award - Research & Training
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
The overall goal of the NIH Research Career Development program is to help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists is available in appropriate scientific disciplines to address the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. In addition to this opportunity, NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) support a variety of other mentored career development programs designed to foster the transition of new investigators to research independence. These other programs may be more suitable for particular candidates. NIH also supports non-mentored career development programs for independent investigators. More information about Career programs may be found at the NIH Extramural Training Mechanisms website.
Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) (R25)
PAR-16-361

R25 Education Projects
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
The over-arching goal of this NIGMS R25 program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral and clinical research workforce.

Member Highlight Stories

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for outstanding or groundbreaking work? Send ACTS your story to be highlighted in future versions of ACTS Connection. Submit stories to: info@actscience.org

Save the Date: Translational Science 2017

Translational Science 2017 will be held April 18-21, 2017 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC. Registration for TS17 is expected to open in December 2016.