Peer Support Makes All the Difference for Diabetic Patients

February 21st, 2017 | The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship

By Susan Ryan-Vollmar

When University of North Carolina MD/PhD students Nick Brazeau and Anna Kahkoska volunteered at the Open Door Clinic, which provides free medical care to residents of Alamance County who do not have health insurance, they were surprised to see just how many patients with diabetes were unable to control their blood sugar levels.

With support from their UNC School of Medicine mentors Dr. John Buse and Dr. Laura Young, and Open Door Clinic Director Tracy Salisbury, Brazeau and Kahkoska settled on shared medical appointments as a way of providing continuity of diabetes care for patients, along with education, social support, and a community built on shared experience."

Read the full article to learn more about Nick and Anna's work.
Rare diseases affect an estimated 25 million Americans. On Feb. 27, 2017, the National Institutes of Health will host Rare Disease Day at NIH to raise awareness about rare diseases, the people they affect, and research collaborations that are making a difference. The event will feature presentations, posters, exhibits, an art show and tours of the NIH Clinical Center - a hospital at which researchers are studying more than 500 rare diseases in partnership with nearly 2,250 unique patients. See the agenda here.

Mayo Clinic researchers discover link between aging, devastating lung disease
February 23, 2017 | Mayo Clinic
Megan Forliti

A Mayo Clinic study has shown evidence linking the biology of aging with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a disease that impairs lung function and causes shortness of breath, fatigue, declining quality of life, and, ultimately, death. Researchers believe that these findings, which appear today in Nature Communications, are the next step toward a possible therapy for individuals suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. See the full article here.

March For Science
Science, Not Silence

Scientists will convene on Washington, D.C. for the March for Science on April 22, 2017, immediately following the Translational Science meeting. The march is organized as a demonstration of support and call to safeguard the scientific community and the role it plays in providing insight into individual lives and the world. Details about the event are here. Please note the March for Science is not affiliated with the Translational Science meeting. See details about the event here.

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 T4 (translation to populations). JCTS aims to provide a forum for the rapid communication of relevant topics of interests 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 bale 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
Dale Dirks & Dane Christiansen

Newsletter: February 17, 2017
Before adjourning for the President’s Day recess, Senators worked to confirm as many nominees as possible to fill cabinet positions in the Trump administration. This activity included a party-line vote to confirm former Georgia Congressman Tom Price as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In his new role, Secretary Price will oversee the National Institutes... (see the full newsletter here).

Stay current on NIH Funding and Translational Science happenings in Washington, DC by visiting the ACTS Advocacy home page.

### Grants & Grant News

**Human Frontier Science Program**

Funding Frontier Research Into Complex Biological Systems.

Research grants are provided for teams of scientists from different countries who wish to combine their expertise in innovative approaches to questions that could not be answered by individual laboratories. Emphasis is placed on novel collaborations that bring together scientists preferably from different disciplines (e.g. from chemistry, physics, computer science, engineering) to focus on problems in the life sciences. Note, HFSPO funds only basic research. Applied applications, including medical research typically funded by national medical research bodies, will be deemed ineligible. See the full grant information here.

**New Grant Opportunities**

**Pre-application for the NIH-Industry Program: Discovering New Therapeutic Uses for Existing Molecules (X02)**

RFA-TR-17-001

X02 Preapplication National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

The NIH-Industry Program: Discovering New Therapeutic Uses for Existing Molecules [New Therapeutic Uses (NTU)] program is designed to develop partnerships between pharmaceutical companies and the biomedical research community to advance therapeutics development. This innovative program matches researchers with a selection of pharmaceutical industry assets to test ideas for new therapeutic uses with the ultimate goal of identifying promising new treatments for patients. The program was designed to enable efficient 3-way drug repositioning partnerships between academic, government, and pharmaceutical partners.

**IDEA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) (P20)**

PAR-17-160

P20 Exploratory Grants National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) invites applications for Institutional Development Award (IDEA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) awards from investigators at biomedical research institutions that award doctoral degrees in the health sciences or sciences related to health or at independent biomedical research institutes with ongoing biomedical research programs funded by the NIH or other Federal agencies within the IDEA eligible states. The purpose of the INBRE program is to augment and strengthen the biomedical research capacity of an IDEA-eligible state. The INBRE program represents a collaborative effort to support research between research intensive institutions and institutes, primarily undergraduate institutions, community colleges, and Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), as appropriate.

**Silvio O. Conte Centers for Basic Neuroscience or Translational Mental Health Research (P50)**

PAR-17-168

P50 Specialized Center National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages applications for Silvio O. Conte Centers for Basic Neuroscience or Translational Mental Health Research. The institute seeks teams of researchers working at different levels of analysis and employing integrative, novel, and creative experimental approaches to address high-risk, high-impact questions in basic neuroscience research, or in translational research with the primary objectives of: (a) advancing.
neuroscience research, or in translational research with the primary objectives of: (a) advancing the state of the science in basic brain and behavior research that will uncover and dissect the underlying mechanisms that will ultimately provide the foundation for understanding mental disorders; (b) supporting the integration and translation of basic and clinical neuroscience research on severe mental illnesses; and/or (c) advancing our understanding of the neurobehavioral developmental mechanisms and trajectories of psychopathology that begin in childhood and adolescence.

**Member Feature**

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.