ACTS Welcomes New President: Emma A. Meagher, MD

ACTS is pleased to welcome Dr. Emma Meagher into the position of President. Currently, Dr. Meagher serves the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine as Vice Dean, Clinical Research & Chief Clinical Research Officer.

Dr. Meagher’s educational interests are in the fields of translational research methodology to graduate, pre- and post-doctoral students and novel modalities for education in pharmacology to undergraduate medical (UME) students. To this end she directs the University of Pennsylvania pharmacology curriculum, is Program Director for the MTR and Co PI of the UPenn Clinical and Translational Sciences Award (CTSA).

Dr. Meagher’s research interests have focused on the development of novel therapeutics in dyslipidemia. Her clinical practice focused on cardiovascular risk modification with an emphasis on management of dyslipidemia, hypertension and women's cardiovascular health.

Dr. Meagher has published articles in numerous journals, including Nature Medicine, the Journal of Clinical Investigation, JAMA, The Journal of Biological Chemistry, The American Journal of Cardiology, Hypertension and the Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology. She has written numerous reviews and book chapters, and has lectured widely at medical meetings, both nationally and internationally.

ACTS would like to extend its sincere gratitude to our outgoing President, Dr. Harry Selker, for his leadership and dedication to the Association.

Robert P. Kimberly, MD, Accepts New Role as ACTS President-Elect

Dr. Kimberly currently serves as Director, UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

He is an internationally recognized translational scientist with substantial experience in the development and administration of large, multi-site and multiple-investigator scientific programs. His research group is interested in the role of genetic factors in the normal function of the immune system and in the development of autoimmune and immune-mediated inflammatory diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and systemic vasculitis.

The team has been a leader in developing several national and international research consortia for the study of human diseases, and they have demonstrated that certain low-binding alleles are enriched in SLE patients.

Join us in welcoming Dr. Kimberly in his new role!
Diabetes researcher Dr. Zhen Gu, left, with mentor Dr. John Buse, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Translational Science Today

Happy National Nurses Week!
Be Sure to Thank Your Nurses

The National Nurses Week 2017 logo was developed by ANA to celebrate the week and to recognize nurses working in the many fields of the health care profession.

Read more on the history of National Nurses Week by downloading this flyer.

NCSU, UNC RESEARCHERS USE MODIFIED INSULIN, RED BLOOD CELLS TO REGULATE BLOOD SUGAR

Researchers from North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have developed a new technique that uses modified insulin and red blood cells to create a glucose-responsive "smart" insulin delivery system. In an animal model study, the new technique effectively reduced blood sugar levels for 48 hours in a strain of mice that had Type 1 diabetes.

Read the full article here.

Journal of Clinical and Translational Science

First Issue of JCTS Published!

The first issue of the Journal of Clinical and Translational Science has been published.

Volume 1 - Issue 1 - February 2017 is now available for viewing!
JCTS’s mission is to provide a forum for the rapid communication of topics of interest and relevance to the large and diverse community of clinical and translational scientists with the goal of improving the efficiency with which health needs inform research and new diagnostics, therapies, and preventive measures reach the public. The Association for Clinical and Translational Science has partnered with the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA) and the Clinical Research Forum (CRF) to support the growth and development of JCTS.

Submit your article today to be featured in future issues of JCTS! Visit https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jcts.

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### News from The Hill

#### CCTS Newsletter
**Dale Dirks and Dane Christiansen**
May 5, 2017

The first week of May, Congress completed work on the eleven outstanding fiscal year (FY) 2017 spending measures by passing an omnibus appropriations package ahead of the expiration of a short-term Continuing Resolution. Just weeks before the appropriations package was passed, citizen scientists were on Capitol Hill for the Translational Science 2017 Advocacy Day to call on their legislators to finalize FY 2017 spending and provide meaningful increases for clinical and translational research and training/career development programs.

Read the full newsletter here.

#### NCATS "Advocacy Day" [June 30th]
*Inaugural event designed to strengthen patient and community engagement.*

NCATS will host its inaugural NCATS Advocacy Day - Partnering with Patients for Smarter Science on June 30, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at the John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. The goal is to inform patients and their advocates about NCATS and its programs, identify patient needs and collectively discuss ways for enhanced patient inclusion in NCATS' translational science activities. Admission is complimentary, but space is limited.

Read the full notice here.

#### Update on FY 2017 Appropriations and Health Reform

**Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations**

Even though it’s 6 months into the fiscal year, today Congress passed a week-long, level-funding continuing resolution. This action give legislators one more week to finish up the details on an omnibus spending package that encompasses 11 of the 12 annual appropriations bills. We are hearing that the pending omnibus bill provides increases for medical research funding, continues to support public health and health professions training programs, and is relatively free of controversial policy riders. More details...

Read the full memo from Dale Dirks & Dane Christiansen here.

### Grants & Grant News

#### PhD Student Development Program Gains Renewed Funding from NIH
*Published May 10, 2017*

University at Buffalo The State University of New York

Several University of Buffalo schools will continue receiving professional development resources and mentoring through a training grant provided by National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) will provide $2.3 million in funding to train 20 new biomedical and behavioral scientists from underrepresented groups between now and 2021.
New NIH Grant Opportunities

Paul B. Beeson Emerging Leaders Career Development Award in Aging (K76)
RFA-AG-18-006
K76 Emerging Leaders Career Development Award
National Institute on Aging (NIA)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites early-stage physician and other health-professional investigators with a commitment to aging to apply for this award to advance their research and leadership skills in their specialty and in the broader field of aging and geriatrics research. The National Institute on Aging is pursuing this initiative to recruit new investigators who have begun to establish research programs and who, through this award, will be ready to assume leadership roles in their field of expertise and will be poised to change theory, practice and health outcomes related to the health of older individuals. Unlike other mentored K awards, candidates for this award must have received competitively awarded research support as a PD/PI at the faculty level or have otherwise leveraged faculty-level research support to develop an independent line of research. They must show evidence of leadership in the clinical or research domain.

Neurosurgeon Research Career Development Program (NRCDP) (K12)
RFA-NS-17-010
K12 Physician Scientist Award (Program) (PSA)
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to invite applications to continue support of a national program of mentored research career development for junior neurosurgeon faculty at institutions nationwide that support neurosurgical research. The goal of the program is to expand the cadre of neurosurgeon investigators trained to conduct research into neurological disorders, making use of their neurosurgical training.

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.