ACTS Welcomes New Officers

Fred Meyers, MD, MACP | ACTS Secretary

Fred Meyers is associate dean for precision medicine and professor of internal medicine / hematology-oncology at UC Davis School of Medicine. He has served UC Davis as chief of hematology-oncology, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine and vice dean of the School of Medicine.

Welcome, Dr. Meyers!

David Center, MD | ACTS Treasurer

Dr. Center is Boston University’s Associate Provost for Translational Research and the Director of the Clinical and Translational Research Institute funded by the NIH. As a result he directs Boston University’s efforts to facilitate translational research in all venues and leads a major effort in identifying new areas of development.

Welcome, Dr. Center!

Translational Science Today

Scientists Discover a Key to a Longer Life in Male DNA

June 16, 2017 | New York Times
By Carl Zimmer | Matter

A common genetic mutation is linked to an increase in life span of about 10 years among men, researchers reported on Friday.
The mutation, described in the journal Science Advances, did not seem to have any effect on women. Still, it joins a short list of gene variants shown to influence human longevity.

By studying these genes, scientists may be able to design drugs to mimic their effects and slow aging. But the search for them has been slow and hard.

When it comes to how long we live, nurture holds powerful sway over nature. In 1875, for example, life expectancy in Germany was less than 39 years; today it is over 80.

Read the full article here.
Translational Science abstracts will be published soon!

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.

News from The Hill

CCTS Newsletter
Dale Dirks and Dane Christiansen
June 16, 2017

With the narrow passage of the American Healthcare Act (AHCA) by the House, all eyes turned to the Senate for guidance on any subsequent steps to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). The House proposal was met with strong condemnation by physician societies and patient organizations due to the lack of costs controls and protections for individuals with chronic diseases. These criticisms were compounded when the Congressional Budget Office announced that the AHCA would throw millions of Americans off of coverage and possibly increase premiums further.

Find a summary of key items from the Administration's FY 2018 Budget Request by visiting the ACTS Advocacy page.

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.

Grants & Grant News

Population Health Sciences Awards $275,000 in pilot grants to 11 projects
By Kris Newby | Stanford Center for Clinical & Translational Research and Education
May 31, 2017

The Stanford Center for Population Sciences has funded 11 additional pilot projects in 2017, bringing the year's total to 16. These grants support investigators whose work aims to improve the health of populations through health care system-based or community-based studies.

Read the full article here.

New NIH Grant Opportunities

Pre-application for a Biomedical Technology Research Resource (X02)
RFA-17-315

We are excited to announce the appointment of Emily Walvoord, MD, to the role of associate dean for student affairs. go.iu.edu/1AT4

New find studies the cerebellum plays a bigger role in mental health than we knew. @PsychToday Psychology Today

Proud to get congrats from Duncan Selbie @PHE_uk on my @wellcometrust CDCR Fellowship @PHE_NorthWest @LSTMnews @clinicalresearch

#Immunotherapyawareness @Dr_RaviMadan
The X02 pre-application is recommended first step in the application process for a new BTRR application. Potential applicants should read both FOAs. A pre-application can help applicants focus and refine their ideas and determine whether a BTRR is the appropriate means to support the work they have in mind. Investigators whose X02 pre-applications are judged to be meritorious and programmatically relevant will be notified of the opportunity to submit a full BTRR application under PAR-17-316.

Pediatric Early Phase Clinical Trials Network (UM1)
RFA-CA-17-027
UM1 Research Project with Complex Structure Cooperative Agreement
National Cancer Institute (NCI)
The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to enhance NCI's program for conducting early phase clinical trials in children with cancer, currently supported as the Children's Oncology Group (COG) Phase 1 & Pilot Consortium. The overall goal is to ensure that high priority novel agents can be tested in pediatric patients in a timely manner. Towards this end, applications are solicited for the Pediatric Early Phase Clinical Trials Network (PEP-CTN) to continue the clinical research activities now supported through the COG Phase 1 & Pilot Consortium.

Biomedical Technology Research Resource (P41)
PAR-17-316
P41 Biotechnology Resource Grants
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) encourages grant applications for national Biomedical Technology Research Resources (BTRR). These Resources conduct research and development of new or improved technologies driven by the needs of basic, translational, and clinical researchers. The Resources are charged to make their technologies available to the research community in a sustainable manner, to provide user training, and to disseminate the Resource's technologies and experimental results. Resources should be at the leading edge of their field with respect to both technology development and engagement of the relevant research community. New applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a pre-application in response to PAR-17-315. The pre-application process provides feedback on whether the proposed technology development is appropriate for the NIGMS BTRR program, and the potential competitiveness of a full application.

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.