American Health Council Names Doris M. Rubio, PhD to Education Board

Dr. Doris M. Rubio, Professor of Medicine, Biostatistics, Nursing, and Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Pittsburgh, has been selected to join the Education Board at the American Health Council. She will be sharing her knowledge and expertise on Health Services Research, Clinical and Translational Science, Biostatistics, and Psychometrics.

See the full news release here.

Engineering digestive system tissues: Significant progress

Important milestones have been reached in the quest to engineer replacement tissue in the lab to treat digestive system conditions -- from infants born with too-short bowels to adults with inflammatory bowel disease, colon cancer, or fecal incontinence.
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: July 7, 2017

While Congress remains at an impasse over healthcare reform, legislators have quietly and diligently worked to advance the annual appropriations bills. House appropriators have thus far marked up the following bills of interest; the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration (Ag-FDA), Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MilCon-VA), and Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations Bills. These measures continue the recent trend of federal investment in medical research and patient care programs. The House MilCon-VA bill currently calls for a funding increase of nearly...

See the full update on the ACTS Advocacy Page.

Next SACHRP Meeting [July 25th]

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SACHRP) will hold a meeting that will be open to the public. Information about SACHRP and the full meeting agenda will be posted on the SACHRP Website at: http://www.dhhs.gov/ohrp/sachrp-committee/meetings/index.html.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 25, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and Wednesday, July 26, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.
FY 2018 Appropriations Update

Before the July 4th recess, the House Appropriations Committee considered several of its FY 2018 measures, including bills for the departments of Veteran Affairs, Defense, and Agriculture (which includes FDA). Next week, the committee is scheduled to mark up the FY 2018 transportation funding bill, and may start to take some bills to the House floor.

Although there has been some discussion about a House committee mark-up of the Labor-HHS-Education bill (which funds NIH, CDC, HRSA and other health agencies) next week, it is not yet scheduled—and more likely to be considered later in the month. The House FY 2018 budget allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education bill is said to be about $5 billion less than the current fiscal year, so overall funding levels for programs contained in this bill will be challenging.

Stay up to date on happenings on The Hill by visiting the ACTS Advocacy Homepage.

Grants & Grant News

Lilly Endowment giving IU medical school $25M to fund life sciences initiatives

John Russell | Reporter
July 11, 2017 | IBJ

In a move intended to boost Indiana’s position as a life sciences research hub, Lilly Endowment Inc. is giving $25 million to the Indiana University School of Medicine to create a biomedical research center, establish a doctoral program in bioinformatics and hire at least 10 biomedical scientists. The two institutions announced the grant Tuesday afternoon, saying it is designed to attract top scientists to Indiana.

The collaboration will be called the Indiana Collaborative Initiative for Talent Enrichment, or INCITE for short.

See the full article here.

NIH awards $20 million to UVM and Maine Medical to address rural health challenges

July 12, 2017 | Vermont Business Magazine

A five-year, $20 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) Network grant will fund a joint program between the University of Vermont (UVM) and Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine to develop and sustain a clinical and translational research infrastructure improving rural and community health for residents of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The grant, awarded through the federally-funded IDeA program, enhances research efforts in states where NIH funding levels have traditionally been lower and rural and medically-underserved communities are a priority.

Read more here.

Increasing Use of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation in Traditional and Community Settings (R61/R33)
The purpose of this initiative is to support Phase 2 clinical trials to develop and test strategies to increase the utilization of cardiovascular rehabilitation (CR) and pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) in eligible patients. The objectives are to test novel promising approaches to increase use of CR and PR overall, to reduce disparities in their utilization, and to document improvement in key clinical and patient-centered outcomes from CR and PR performed in either traditional or non-traditional settings. Investigators with expertise in the areas of CR, PR, and implementation science should consider applying for this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).

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**Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) of Genomics Research Project Grant Program (R01)**

**R01 Research Project Grant**
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites Research Project Grant (R01) applications that propose to study the ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) of human genome research. Applications may propose studies using either single or mixed methods. Proposed approaches may include but are not limited to data-generating qualitative and quantitative approaches, legal, economic and normative analyses, and other types of analytical and conceptual research methodologies, such as those involving the direct engagement of stakeholders.

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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.