

CCTS DIGEST

Center for Clinical and Translational Science

Providing solutions to sharpen science, improve human health, and address disparities and diseases disproportionately represented within the Deep South.



Did You Know?

NIH has named **Dr. Noni Byrnes** the new Director of the Center for Scientific Review (CSR), which handles the receipt and referrals of all applications to NIH as well as those to other agencies with the Department of Health and Human Services (e.g., CDC, FDA, etc.) and reviews ~75% of all NIH grant applications via 1600+ meetings per year. Dr. Byrnes joined the CSR as a Scientific Review Officer in 2000 and has taken on positions of increasing responsibility over the years, including serving as CSR Acting Director since May 2018. Prior to joining NIH, Byrnes worked in the pharmaceutical industry. As CSR Director, she leads a staff of more than 500 scientific, support, and contract personnel and manages an operating budget of more than \$130 million. One of her first acts was to launch a new blog called "**Review Matters**," in which she outlined her initial priorities: evaluating review and reviewer quality, addressing bias and strengthening confidentiality and integrity in peer review, and incentivizing peer review service. [More](#)

Featured Video

ASPIRE Design Challenge

Pain and the Opioid Crisis

- Over 25 million people in the US experience pain every day¹
- Opioid misuse and addiction is an on-going crisis in the US
 - More than 90 people die every day from opioid overdoses²
- Novel approaches³ are needed for:
 - Reversing opioid overdose
 - Treating addiction
 - Developing safe, addiction-free treatments for effective pain relief

Image credit: <https://www.healthcareworkforce.com/articles/333937.php>

1. 2012 National Health Interview Survey, 2012
2. MHAAR Multi-Source Wkly Rep. 2015.65 3465-3482
3. W. Engl. J. Med. 377: 293-304 (2017)

NCATS has released [an informational video regarding its ASPIRE \(A Specialized Platform for Innovative Research Exploration\) Design Challenge](#). Part of the NIH HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long Term) Initiative, the Challenge rewards innovative approaches toward the discovery, development and pre-clinical testing of next-generation treatments for pain, opioid use disorder, and overdose.

News/Announcements



March Forum Features CTSA Career Development Expert Dr. Joel Tsevat

If you mentor K and/or T scholars or you are a graduate student, postdoc, or early career stage investigator working in clinical or translational research, do not miss our next CCTS Monthly Forum, which takes place **THIS WEDNESDAY, March 13, 4-5:30pm**. **Dr. Joel Tsevat**, Director of the Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) KL2 program at The University of Texas (UT) Health Science Center, Director of the Center for Research to Advance Community Health (ReACH), and Professor of Population Health and Medicine at UT Austin Dell Medical School, will share his best tips for career success within the national CTSA program. [More](#)



CCTS Alum, Experts in the News

In case you missed it, several of our former CCTS trainees, awardees, and panel participants have made the news recently. We applaud their accomplishments, highlighted here to inspire the next generation of clinical and translational scientists, as well as the CCTS experts who supported these super stars along the way (many of whom have recently made the news as well!). [More](#)



Third Annual Translational and Transformative Informatics Symposium (ATTIS) Call for Abstracts

The theme for this year's ATTIS is "bioinformatics application," focusing on scientific findings and how they were enabled with bioinformatics and functional genomics techniques including genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, epigenomics and various other applications of next-generation sequencing. ATTIS will take place **March 28 at the Hilton Birmingham at UAB**. Both short podium presentations and poster presentations are invited.

[Submit an abstract here.](#) [More](#)

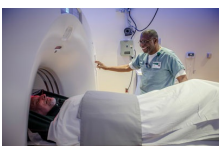


CCTS Partners UAB and Tuskegee Join Forces with Morehouse School of Medicine to Fund Pilot Projects Aimed at Reducing Cancer Disparities

This research collaboration is now accepting applications for joint projects between UAB's O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center and either Tuskegee University or the Morehouse School of Medicine. All faculty with expertise in basic, clinical/translational, or cancer control/population science and health outcomes are encouraged to apply. Junior investigators also welcome but must submit a detailed Career Development and Mentorship Plan.

Applications are due by April 8. [More](#)

Funding Opportunities



Enhance Your Research with a CCTS and/or Radiology Imaging Development Voucher

Do you have specimens that need processing, data that need analyzing, or subjects who require dietary, nursing, or regulatory

support? Would your project benefit from molecular, functional or anatomic images? The CCTS and UAB Dept. of Radiology voucher programs offer extra support that may help take your research to the next level. Investigators with a full-time faculty appointment at any CCTS Partner Network institutions are encouraged to apply. Each program offers up to \$5,000 in direct costs. [More](#)



T32 Pre- and Post-Doctoral Health Services, Outcomes and Effectiveness Research Training Program

This training program prepares independent investigators to pursue careers in health services outcomes research focused on translating research evidence into practice. Scholars are also trained in comparative effectiveness research methods for evaluating the benefits and harms of different treatment strategies and interventions on patient outcomes in real-world settings.

Submit applications for the pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships by 5pm CST, Friday, March 15th.



UAB-HudsonAlpha Genomic Medicine Post-Doctoral Training Program

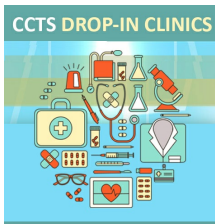
If you are a physician-scientist, we urge you to explore this opportunity. This T32 program prepares postdoctoral trainees for academic careers in genomic medicine. It enables postdocs from any area of medicine to obtain the skills necessary to conceive, plan, and conduct research in genomic medicine as well as present and publish their results. **Apply by April 1, 2019.** [More](#)



High-End Instrumentation (HEI) Grant Program (S10 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

The HEI Grant Program encourages applications from groups of NIH-supported investigators to purchase or upgrade a single item of expensive, specialized, commercially available instruments or integrated systems. Companion funding opportunity with **PAR-19-178** and **PAR-19-179**. **Apply by May 31, 2019.** [More](#)

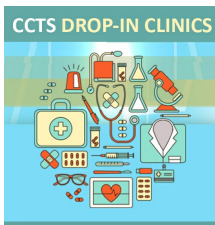
This Week's Learning Opportunities



CCTS Drop-In Clinics

Join us for the weekly Monday Drop-In Clinic for free consultations in Biostats, Epidemiology and Research Design. No appointment necessary. Bring laptop and study related questions.

March 11 | 10am-2pm | Edge of Chaos | [More](#)



CCTS Drop-In Clinics

Join us for the second Wednesday Drop-In Clinics for free consultations in Biostats, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD). No appointment necessary. Bring laptop and study related questions.

March 13 | 11:30am-1pm | PCAMS | [More](#)

CCTS Monthly Forum: CTSA Career Success

Do you mentor K and/or T scholars or you are a graduate student, postdoc, or early career stage investigator working in clinical or translational research? **Dr. Joel Tsevat**, Director of the Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) KL2 program at The University of Texas (UT) Health Science Center,



Director of the Center for Research to Advance Community Health (ReACH), and Professor of Population Health and Medicine at UT Austin Dell Medical School, will share his best tips for career success within the national CTSA program. Zoom available.

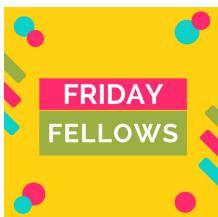
March 13 | 4-5:30pm | PCAMS | [More](#)



CCTS Research Orientation Program

New to research? Need to earn 4 AMA PRA Category 1 credits? Register for this event today! This basic overview of the clinical, regulatory, and financial aspects for conducting a research study is offered every 4th Thursday monthly. **Registration required.**

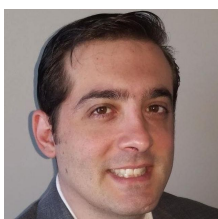
March 14 | 8am-12pm | PCAMS | [More](#)



CCTS Friday Fellows Meeting

This meeting provides the opportunity for investigators, trainees, and others interested in population and health outcomes research to discuss best practices. Share your latest project in a supportive "discipline agnostic" environment; find new collaborators; develop foundational skills in study design, outcomes measurement, and evaluation; and practice critical "soft" career skills such as public speaking, networking, and providing/accepting constructive feedback. Zoom available.

March 15 | 8-9:30am | PCAMS | [More](#)



Informatics Institute Powertalk Seminar Series

Tiago Colicchio, PhD, Assistant Professor at the UAB Department of Medicine and Informatics Institute, will discuss "Toward Designing Smarter Electronic Clinical Documentation Systems." Zoom available.

March 15 | 10:15-11:30am | Shelby 515 | [More](#)



Accessing Clinical Data for Research with i2b2

This hands-on training will help investigators learn how to access de-identified patient data, check study feasibility, develop hypotheses, and more. Query 18 different data types for over 1 million patients. **Registration required.** Attendees encouraged to obtain i2b2 access prior to training.

March 15 | 1-3pm | LRC 210A | [More](#)

Upcoming Events

MARCH

4th Annual CCTS Bioethics Forum

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome
March 18 | 9am-1pm | Medical Towers 634

CCTS Drug Discovery Seminar Series: Medicinal Chemistry - From Hit to Lead

March 18 | 12-1pm | PCAMS | Zoom Available

UAB Center for Exercise Medicine State of the Field Address by Alison Cernich, PhD

Registration requested
March 20 | 12-3:45pm | Wallace Tumor Institute 101

CCTS Friday Fellows Meeting

March 22 | 8-9:30am | PCAMS | Zoom Available

Informatics Institute Powertalk Seminar Series: Strategies to Study Rare Diseases with "Big Data"

March 22 | 10:15-11:30am | Shelby 515 | Zoom Available

CCTS Drug Discovery Seminar Series: Molecular Modeling

March 25 | 12-1pm | PCAMS | Zoom Available

Annual Translational and Transformative Informatics Symposium (ATTIS)

Registration required

March 28 | 8:30am-3pm | Hilton Birmingham at UAB

16th Annual Conference of the Midsouth Computational Biology & Bioinformatics Society (MCBIOS)

Registration required

March 28-30 | Hilton Birmingham at UAB

CCTS Friday Fellows Meeting

March 29 | 8-9:30am | PCAMS | Zoom Available

LA CaTS Professional Development Core: Clinical Research Evidence Generation in the Digital Era

Registration required

March 29 | 12-1pm | University Medical Center New Orleans | Video Conference Available

APRIL

CCTS Drug Discovery Seminar Series: Pharmacokinetics

April 1 | 12-1pm | PCAMS | Zoom Available

UAB Mentoring Week

April 1-5 | UAB

Accessing Clinical Data for Research with i2b2

Registration required

April 4 | 1-3pm | LRC 210A

CCTS Friday Fellows Meeting

April 5 | 8-9:30am | PCAMS | Zoom Available

Informatics Institute Powertalk Seminar Series: Concepts, Relations, and Properties of a Clinical Ontology

April 5 | 10:15-11:30am | Shelby 515 | Zoom Available

National Association of Advocates for Women in Science (AAWSM) 2019 Regional Conference

Registration required by March 21

April 5-6 | New Orleans

CCTS Drug Discovery Seminar Series: Preclinical Toxicology

April 8 | 12-1pm | PCAMS | Zoom Available

CCTS Research Training Program Begins

Registration required, \$150

April 9 | 7:45-12pm | PCAMS

CCTS Drug Discovery Seminar Series: Business Development

April 15 | 12-1pm | PCAMS | Zoom Available

Informatics Institute Powertalk Seminar Series: Big Data and EHRs: Why Is It So Hard?

April 16 | 10:15-11:30am | Cudworth 102 | Zoom Available

CCTS Drug Discovery Seminar Series: Clinical Trials

April 22 | 12-1pm | PCAMS | Zoom Available

[Complete listing of CCTS events](#)