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Washington University

Volume 1, Issue 1

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ICTS News

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Embedded weblinks are designated by blue text and can be accessed in the online version of ICTS News at icts.wustl.edu.

Announcing: Institute of Clinical & Translational Sciences

The Clinical & Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program, which the National Center for Research Resources is leading on behalf of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, is focused on transforming how clinical and translational research is conducted. Under the direction of Dr. Kenneth S. Polonsky, the Adolphus Busch Professor and Head of the Milliken Department of Medicine, Washington University (WU) received a CTSA grant as of September 17, 2007.

Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences - ICTS

To meet the intent of the CTSA initiative, WU has created the Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS). The overall goal of the ICTS is to serve as the intellectual and physical home for clinical and translational research, clinical research training, and career development to help overcome the traditional boundaries between disciplines, departments and institutions.

Foundational elements for the CTSA include four prior clinical research and training grants (GCRC, K12, K30 and T32) and WU's BioMed 21 strategic initiative in multidisciplinary collaborative research in genome sciences, biological imaging, and clinical investigation. There are 15 key Program Functions that include specific goals, milestones and evaluation criteria for various ICTS services, cores and programs.

The ICTS leverages an unprecedented level of partnership with other academic, healthcare and key industrial and community partners. These elements are joined to complement WU core expertise to form this transformational new institute designed to reinvent and reinvigorate clinical and translational research and clinical research training.

Message from the Director

Dr. Kenneth S. Polonsky

We are pleased to unveil the first monthly issue of ICTS News. By highlighting the Programs, Cores, Services and people involved in the ICTS, we hope to provide you with ample opportunities to see how your research can benefit by becoming an ICTS member. We want to provide easy access to ICTS Services and Cores through use of our website, assistance from the Administrative Core, or personal contact with any of the individual Program Directors. We have established a simple ICTS member registration process which allows members from WU and our partner institutions access to diverse resources and an opportunity to identify like-minded investigators for collaborative research. Please register and join us in this exciting endeavor.

Program Highlight: Community Engagement

The ICTS has established the Center for Community-Based Research (CCBR), which initiated a 3-part Community Engagement program consisting of 1) Community Organizations 2) Community Health Care Practitioners and 3) Community-Based Recruitment and Retention programs. These programs are designed to solicit community input to increase relevance of research to community needs.

Katherine Mathews, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Obstetrics/Gynecology, heads the Community Organizations program, cultivating partnerships with community organizations and conducting needs assessments.

Jane M. Garbutt, MD, Research Associate Professor of Medicine, heads the Community Health Care Practitioners program, which expands community networks to increase opportunities for clinical research and education. One such effort is the Washington University Pediatric and Adolescent Ambulatory Research Consortium (WU PAARC), a network of 64 pediatricians in 29 practices.

Linda B. Cottler, PhD, MPH, Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Psychiatry, is Director of the CCBR and its component HealthStreet, a project that links populations that have been underrepresented in research to health information, physician referrals and clinical trials. HealthStreet will utilize a comprehensive outreach approach to reestablish trust between the lay and medical communities and will include a store front facility and an outreach component that reaches people in sites such as beauty shops, laundromats, bus stops and community agencies.

For further information or assistance in recruiting community participants contact Linda Cottler at cottler@epi.wustl.edu.

Find Information about all of the ICTS Cores & Services at icts.wustl.edu

ICTS Member Benefits

What benefits does ICTS membership provide?

1. Access to Core facilities, consulting services and education and funding opportunities. The ICTS includes Cores and Services applicable to all research study phases from the inception of a research idea to publication and eventual implementation in the community.
2. Increased exposure to collaborative relationships. Many of the ICTS programs are identifying individuals with specific expertise to develop networks of members with like or complementary interests.
3. Exposure to national opportunities available through other CTSA sites. Collaboration across CTSAs uncovers best practices for local adoption and implementation.
4. Opportunities in clinical and translational research training programs for students and junior faculty. The CTSA program and WU ICTS also focus on mentoring and training.
5. Eligibility to apply to ICTS pilot program funding.

How to Apply for ICTS Membership

Who Should Register?

ICTS members must be from an ICTS partner institution:

- Investigators who conduct or participate in clinical and/or translational research.
- Community and Industrial Partners that are collaborating with ICTS investigators.
- Students and trainees who wish to participate in ICTS educational or training programs.

Obligations of Membership:

- Acknowledge NIH Funding for publications/projects that use ICTS Cores or services.
- Provide requested information when using ICTS Cores and services.
- Log publications and awards resulting from use of ICTS Cores and services.
- Respond to ICTS tracking and evaluation requests for annual NIH progress report.

How do I register?

Fill out the simple registration form on the ICTS website (icts.wustl.edu). Faculty will be asked to attach a current NIH biosketch. All registrants will be asked to include a short summary of their area of clinical or research interest that will be published on the website.

ICTS Governing Council Leadership Convenes for first time

The ICTS Governing Council met for the first time February 4, 2008. Chaired by Dr. Larry Shapiro, Executive Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine, the council consists of leadership from each of the ICTS partner institutions (see membership list on the ICTS website).

The purpose of the Governing Council is to establish an organizational structure for the leadership of all of the participating institutions, community, health system and industry partners to promote clinical research and training in the region. Establishing enhanced interactions among these groups will strengthen the ICTS and speed the transformation of clinical research.

The ICTS creates a mechanism to build partnerships around issues that may include the ability to:

- Develop reciprocity for academic credit between institutions for educational courses
- Develop contracts to more seamlessly transfer funds and scholars between institutions
- Provide joint appointments across institutions
- Participate in joint strategic planning and joint grant development
- Develop systems and programs to facilitate interactions of trainees and investigators across institutions.

The meeting led to ongoing discussions exploring joint opportunities that will focus on critical community research initiatives. By working together and with the Community Engagement Advisory Board, the Governing Council expects to identify research initiatives of primary importance to our local area.

The Council will meet three times annually. The next meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2008.

"The ICTS Governing Council meeting was the first time leadership from so many area academic institutions, community organizations and industry partners have come together to promote clinical research and research education."

Larry J. Shapiro, MD

Executive Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine

What Has Happened To Date?

We've Been Busy Since September

With the first "annual" funding period covering only 8 1/2 months, the Annual Progress Report was due April 1, 2008. Examples of accomplishments featured in the report:

- All Programs and Cores were open to assist ICTS members.
- The ICTS member registration process was created. Over 270 registered.
- Based on NIH Progress Report rules, the research of 169 Investigators benefitted from one or more of the ICTS Cores or Services.
- The Novel Methodologies and Pilot Program was established, funding 15 proposals, distributing over $900,000.
- All governance committees were convened and are active (ex. ICTS External Advisory Board, Business Development Core Advisory Board, Community Advisory Board).
- The ICTS website went live and includes information about Cores and Services available to ICTS members.
- The website also supports searching the member database for collaborators.

Events & Announcements

Major ICTS Events

- June 12-13: *Clinical Research Ethics* hosts the "Best Practices in Mental Health Research Ethics" conference at Saint Louis University. Additional information and registration available at: http://www.mimhtraining.com/liveconferences/2008/05/05/192/
- June 19: (8 AM—12 PM) *Clinical Research Training Center* hosts a Career Development Retreat in Clopton Auditorium. For more information, contact Alison Ebers at aebers@im.wustl.edu or 314-454-8255.
- September 5: (8 AM—5 PM) *Community Engagement* hosts the South East Regional Conference at the Eric P. Newman Education Center.

CTSA Consortium Events

- June 23-24: Enhancing Clinical Investigation by Improving Clinical Research Management. Workshop concerning IRB and contract metrics hosted by NCRR in Bethesda, MD.

Ongoing ICTS Meetings

- August 8: (3—5 PM) ICTS Governing Council Meeting: Center for Advanced Medicine.

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Comments about ICTS News, suggested articles or questions should be directed to ICTS@im.wustl.edu or by contacting Jae Allen at 314-362-9331.

In The News:

-The April 29, 2008 Edition of the New York Times features an article entitled "Genes Explain Race Disparity in Response to a Heart Drug". Dr. Gerald W. Dorn, an ICTS Executive Committee member, was the Principal Investigator for the study of beta blockers and co-author of the online paper in Nature Medicine describing the results.

Clinical Research Training Center

- On Thursday, May 15th, the Clinical Research Training Center (CRTC), in conjunction with the Epidemiology & Prevention Research Group, hosted a joint graduation ceremony and reception in the Bernard Becker Medical Library's King Center. Ten Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) degrees, 3 Master of Psychiatric Epidemiology (MPE) degrees, 10 Certificates of Completion for the Predoctoral Program Intensive Track and one Certificate of Completion for the Core Curriculum in Clinical Investigation were conferred.

- 2008 Predoctoral Program: The CRTC Predoctoral Program accepted 33 applicants for 2008 : 8 to the intensive research track and 24 to the summer research track Orientation for both tracks was Tuesday, June 2nd 2008, with classes beginning the following week.

- Application dates: The Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Programs are no longer accepting applications for 2008. Generally, students interested in applying for either the summer or the intensive research track must do so online between November and March for the following summer or fall semester start date. Visit http://crtc.wustl.edu and click on the Predoctoral or Postdoctoral Program links for more information.

Have You Met? Johanna Hartlein

Johanna Hartlein, MSN, APN, is your key to the resources of the ICTS Brain, Behavior and Performance Unit (BBPU). Starting as a Nurse Coordinator, then earning her MS as a Family Nurse Practitioner in 2006, she has 10 years of experience in movement disorders. As the head clinical coordinator of the BBPU, she works for Director, Joel S. Perlmutter, MD.

The BBPU provides expert resources in neurologic, psychiatric and psychometric domains as well as muscle strength and function, quantified measures of movement, activities of daily living (ADL) and quality-of-life measures. Depending upon the level of support or expertise needed, the BBPU can provide consultation, collaboration, training and contract services for performing studies.

As your point of contact, Johanna can help you determine what services might be appropriate and connect you with the right BBPU resources, including one of two study coordinators she supervises, Laura Carpenter and Cassie Keppel. She also manages Dr. Perlmutter's neuroimaging and drug studies and independently sees patients clinically.

Her 2-year old daughter, Elena, and her (self-proclaimed) obsession with Bingo are important aspects of her life, but it's also clear she enjoys both her research and clinical work.

"I find this job challenging, rewarding and humbling because you constantly learn something new. I especially appreciate interacting with patients who have movement disorders and participating in research that could eventually help people like my Grandfather, who has Parkinson's Disease".

One challenge that the BBPU has faced is getting the word out that these services are available to ICTS researchers. Researchers conducting studies in neurologic and psychiatric areas may be aware of the expertise of the BBPU. But Johanna wants to highlight that the BBPU can also provide these valuable services to the wider medical community, who could potentially benefit from the contribution of support, testing and expertise provided by the BBPU.

Contact Johanna at Johanna@wustl.edu or 314-362-0420.