

Washington University School of Medicine

Digital Commons@Becker

ICTS Newsletters

Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences

2008

Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences News, Vol. 1, Issue 7

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/icts_newsletters



Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

"Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences News, Vol. 1, Issue 7" (2008). *ICTS Newsletters*. Paper 7
Washington University in St. Louis Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences.
https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/icts_newsletters/7

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences at Digital Commons@Becker. It has been accepted for inclusion in ICTS Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Becker. For more information, please contact vanam@wustl.edu.

ICTS NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Program Highlight</i>	2
<i>Bander Lecture</i>	3
<i>Last Month</i>	3
<i>Events/Announcements</i>	3
<i>In The News</i>	4
<i>Have You Met?</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- Bander Lecture Photo Gallery
- Two New ICTS Funding Programs Announced
- Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel Lecture Summary
- Have You Met Charles Rathmann?

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

BRAIN, BEHAVIOR & PERFORMANCE UNIT AIDS NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCHERS

BY GWEN ERICSON

Kurt Thoroughman, PhD, is a biomedical engineer interested in how our brains allow us to plan, control and learn movements. Although he has worked with healthy human subjects before, he and Jennifer Semrau, a graduate student in neuroscience, wanted to study movement impairment in Parkinson's patients.

To get the kind of advice and support they needed for this new research direction, they approached Joel Perlmutter, MD, who heads the ICTS Brain, Behavior and Performance Unit (BBPU).

Perlmutter says, "Our unit not only supports neuroscience research, but promotes collaborative translational research, making it unique in the country."

Some evidence suggests that Parkinson's disease damages parts of the brain that use sensory cues to learn new movements. Thoroughman and Semrau designed an experiment in which Parkinson's patients train on a tablet computer to move a stylus pen from one point to another. Then the device begins "tricking" them by giving odd visual cues. The researchers want to know how the patients learn to adapt their movements to such cues.

"Our goal is a better understanding of adaptive sensory and motor processing in people with Parkinson's," Thoroughman says. "This will allow us to refine and advance therapeutic techniques and rehabilitation strategies."

With the assistance of the ICTS, Perlmutter provided a research coordinator who helped the researchers put together a protocol. Then the BBPU helped recruit subjects with the aid of an extensive patient database.

Now patients participating in the study are being scheduled through the BBPU, a familiar place where they have come for previous clinical appointments. The BBPU staff monitor the patients to ensure their health during the experiment.

"Our interaction with the BBPU was instrumental in starting and conducting this project," Thoroughman says. "They had a great deal of communication and funding resources and a clinical history in running studies with Parkinson's patients."

The BBPU also helped Thomas Thach, MD, professor of anatomy and neurobiology, start up a new clinical and translational project to assess the use of botulinum toxin (brand name Botox) for treating dystonia involving the hand.

Otherwise known as writer's cramp, typist's cramp or pianist's cramp, the disorder causes the hand muscles to tighten involuntarily. Thach wanted to find out if botulinum toxin could selectively affect the stretch sensors in muscle and reduce the muscle tightness of dystonia. Working with Perlmutter and BBPU staff members, Thach is now recruiting patients for the study.

The BBPU is a 14,000 square-foot, self-contained facility with 18 examination rooms; laboratory facilities, including a clean lab; a social work interview room; and a model kitchen and bathroom set up to evaluate patients' abilities to perform daily activities. The staff can test muscle strength and measure movement, including gait, and they can conduct structured psychiatric interviews, neurologic assessments and kinematic measurement. For more information about the BBPU contact Johanna Hartlein at Johanna@wustl.edu or 314-362-0420.

BANDER LECTURE PHOTO GALLERY



Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel makes a point during his lecture.



Dr. DuBois and Dr. Emanuel



Dr. Emanuel, Dr. Steven Bander, Dr. Kenneth Polonsky, and Dr. James DuBois



Dr. Bradley Evanoff and Dr. Victoria Fraser



Dr. Emanuel, Alison Ebers (CRTC Staff) and Becky Evans (ICTS Business Director) share a lighter moment.



Refreshments were enjoyed by all.

ICTS FUNDING PROGRAMS: BUSINESS ETHICS & CORE USAGE

The ICTS announces two additional funding opportunities to complement the BJHF/ICTS Clinical & Translational Research Funding Program.

Bander Business Ethics in Medical Research Funding Program

The intent of this program is to promote innovative research that examines an ethical issue arising from the business or financial dimension of medical research, especially insofar as this dimension affects the quality of research or the well-being of patients enrolled in clinical trials. Anticipated awards will range from \$10,000 and \$20,000 for 1 year. One or 2 proposals will be funded in 2008.

Just-In-Time (JIT) Core Usage Funding Program

This program is intended to provide quick access to funding to use the

ICTS Cores for research advancing medical knowledge that can improve human health. A Letter of Support from the Director of the ICTS Core that will provide the requested service(s) is an essential part of the application and must corroborate the service(s) to be provided and the scientific relevance of the research. Applicants may request up to \$10,000 for up to 1 year for use of ICTS Core services. Applications will be accepted on a monthly basis with an initial due date of December 10, 2008. The ICTS expects to make available approximately \$100,000 for this program annually.

Deadlines, complete instructions and application forms for both of these programs are now available on the [ICTS website](http://www.icts.wustl.edu/funding/) (<http://www.icts.wustl.edu/funding/>).

EZEKIEL EMANUEL GIVES INAUGURAL BANDER LECTURE

“Health Care Band-Aids: How to Fix America’s Ailing Health Care System” was the topic of the ICTS Bander Program in Business Ethics in Medical Research inaugural lecture on November 6th. Approximately 100 people attended the captivating lecture by Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, MD, PhD, and Chair of the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health. The presentation was the first annual lectureship sponsored through a donation by Dr. Steven J. Bander, a nephrologist in Chesterfield, Missouri. Scheduled in partnership with Saint Louis University (SLU), Dr. Emanuel also gave a lecture at SLU on Friday morning, the same day his brother, Rahm Emanuel, accepted the job of White House Chief of Staff to President-elect Barak Obama.



Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel and Dr. Stephen Bander

Dr. Emanuel is an internationally known bioethicist and breast oncologist. He has published extensively on the ethics of clinical research, advance care directives, end of life care issues, euthanasia, health care reform, the ethics of managed care, and the physician-patient relationship. In addition to receiving numerous distinguished awards, he served on President Clinton’s Health Care Task Force, on the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC), and on the bioethics panel of the Pan-American Healthcare Organization.

Describing 4 categories of health care reform, Dr. Emanuel proceeded to build a case for his plan of guaranteed healthcare access. Using a value added tax, the plan would support a base level of portable health care for all Americans.

Dr. Emanuel has also published multiple books, including his latest *Healthcare, Guaranteed: A Simple, Secure Solution for America*, in which he outlines his innovative approach to comprehensive healthcare system reform, an approach he developed together with Victor Fuchs, professor of Economics at Stanford University.

For more information, see Dr. Emanuel’s slides posted on the Saint Louis University website at <http://www.slu.edu/x16621.xml>.

Investigators using ICTS Cores & Services to support their research should acknowledge the CTSA Grant

[UL1 RR024992](#)

Scholars and Trainees should acknowledge the appropriate CTSA Linked Grant

[KL2 RR024994](#) or
[TL1 RR024995](#)

The funding acknowledgement [statement](#) is posted on the ICTS website.

WHAT HAPPENED LAST MONTH?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER

-November 6: Inaugural ICTS Bander Lecture (see article above)

-November 6: *Human Imaging Unit*: Dr. Juhani Knuuti, MD, PhD gave a presentation “Multi-tracer and Multimodal Imaging Services for Pharma: Experiences at Turku PET Centre” in the Scarpellino Auditorium, MIR Building.

-November 17: BJHF/ICTS Clinical and Translational

Research Funding Program proposals were due. 119 proposals were submitted.

-November 24: *Center for Clinical Research Ethics*: Ana Iltis, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University presented a lecture entitled “Participants’ understanding of risks: Improving communication”.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- December 10: Initial deadline for ICTS Just-In-Time Core Usage grant applications. Future deadlines are the 10th of each month or the first working day thereafter.

- December 12 (9–10 am): *Human Imaging Unit*: Richard Ehman, MD, (Professor of Radiology, Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN) will give a presentation

titled “MR Elastography: A New Quantitative Imaging Biomarker”, Scarpellino Auditorium

- December 15: Deadline for Letter of Intent for ICTS Bander Business Ethics in Medical Research Funding Program

Institute of Clinical &
Translational Sciences

Washington University School of Medicine
Box 8066
660 South Euclid Ave
St. Louis, MO 63110-1010

Phone: 314-362-9829
Fax: 314-362-8015
E-mail: icts@dom.wustl.edu

We're On the Web!
icts.wustl.edu

IN THE NEWS:

Congratulations to our ICTS investigators with recent publications! We thank you for citing the CTSA Grant Number (UL1 RR024992). If you have used an ICTS resource, resulting publications must cite this grant number. If your publication cites this grant and is not included in this list, please notify Jae Allen at jallen@dom.wustl.edu.

Coffey, S.M., K. Cook, et al. (2008). "Expanded clinical phenotype of women with the FMR1 premutation." *Am J Med Genet A* **146A**(8): 1009-16.

Frei-Jones, M., R.C. McKinstry, et al. (2008). "Use of thalidomide to diminish growth velocity in a life threatening congenital intracranial hemangioma." *J Neurosurg Pediatrics* **2**(2): 125-9.

Gordon, P.H., Y. K. Cheung, et al. (2008). "A novel, efficient, randomized selection trial comparing combinations of drug therapy for ALS." *Amyotroph Lateral Scler* **9**(4): 212-22.

Gu, C. C., H. R. Flores, et al. (2008) "Enhanced detection of genetic association of hypertensive heart disease by analysis of latent phenotypes." *Genet Epidemiol* **32**(6): 528-38.

Karimi, M., N. Golchin, et al. (2008). "Subthalamic nucleus stimulation induced regional blood flow responses correlate with improvement of motor signs in Parkinson disease." *Brain*. **131**(Pt 10): 2710-9.

Kauwe, J. S., C. Cruchaga, et al. (2008). "Variation in MAPT is associated with cerebrospinal fluid tau levels in the presence of amyloid-beta deposition." *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. **105**(23): 8050-4.

HAVE YOU MET? CHARLES RATHMANN

Clinical trials are impossible to execute without participants. Recruiting willing participants is one of the most challenging aspects of executing clinical research today. Fortunately, the sole focus of the Washington University ICTS Recruitment Enhancement Core (REC) is assisting investigators and coordinators in their clinical trial recruitment efforts. Director Charles Rathmann is the innovative, energetic leader of this group of recruitment specialists.

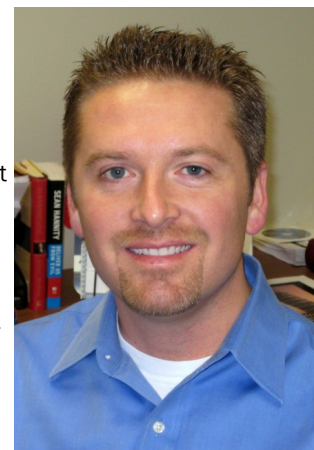
The REC provides a number of tools and targeted approaches to develop individualized strategic recruitment plans. One initiative is the Research Participant Registry, an upgrade of the successful Volunteer for Health program and database. Establishing infrastructure to successfully recruit study participants comes naturally to Charles. He spent 9 years in the pharmaceutical industry before coming to Washington University, gaining a strong portfolio of marketing and strategic planning experience with Pfizer Inc. The opportunity to start a new Core that could make such a positive impact on so many people in the clinical research process was simply too intriguing to pass up.

"As an institution, we owe it to the sponsors of the research that is conducted here to optimize recruitment and enrollment. Not only does that focus allow us to continue to move this medical community forward but it allows our researchers to ask and answer the difficult, cutting edge questions that are the foundation of clinical research."

"What makes it so fun for me is that recruitment is so similar to marketing - knowing where the population of potential participants can be found and then making them aware of the trials that are available. Studies show that most people would volunteer for clinical research if they were just simply aware of it." This proactive, targeted approach was shown to be extremely effective in a pilot study the REC conducted, doubling enrollment over a 12 month period (from 60% to 125%) in 2007 (see article November ICTS News, page 2).

In his free time, Charles enjoys spending time with his wife Carly and 3 year old son, Aidan as well as activities like fly fishing, a skill he acquired growing up in Alaska. He enjoys staying active by playing basketball and working out. If you pass by his office, you may hear him singing the praises of his Dallas Cowboys, since he considers himself Missouri's #1 Cowboys Fan.

For more information about the Recruitment Enhancement Core or how the REC can help you and your study staff, contact Charles at rathmann@wum.wustl.edu or 314-362-0897.



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