Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences News, Vol. 4, Issue 3
Introducing the ICTS Research Accelerator
A New Approach to Collaboration and Research Sharing

We are pleased to announce that the ICTS has launched the ICTS Research Accelerator, a novel web-based platform that helps to facilitate 1) easy and secure collaboration and 2) sharing of resources across the ICTS scientific community and beyond. This new tool is being offered as a joint effort among the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) institutions that comprise the Sharing Partnership for Innovative Research in Translation (SPIRiT) Consortium. Members of this Consortium currently include Johns Hopkins University, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, Washington University in St. Louis, and Yale University.

The Research Accelerator helps to facilitate collaborations and resource sharing in an easily accessible and secure platform that is available for use by faculty, students, post docs, research scientists, lab technicians, and others involved with scientific research. Getting started takes less than 2 minutes.

GO TO: http://icts.researchaccelerator.org/. Register using your e-mail address and obtain a unique password.

This tool allows you to:

- Quickly list resources to share (ex. data, reagents, cell lines, antibodies, transgenic animals, etc.)
- Permit ICTS researchers (or researches throughout the SPIRiT group) to browse, search, and access your shared resources for potential collaboration
- Invite discussions about a listing, create peer groups, and receive alerts when another colleague lists a relevant resource
- Post as much – or as little – descriptive information as you wish
- Develop collaborations on your own schedule, at your choosing, and with a level of disclosure that fits your needs and comfort level

We invite you to register and consider adding listings to help build the resources in the ICTS Research Accelerator to further advance collaborations toward advancing clinical and translational research.

Please note: If you request access to, or want to share materials, you need to follow your standard institutional procedures and contact the appropriate office at your institution to execute a Material Transfer Agreement or other applicable documents.

To provide feedback about the tool you may click the “suggestions” tab at the bottom of the ICTS.ResearchAccelerator.org home page or email contact@researchaccelerator.org with questions or suggestions about technical aspects of the platform. For local access and member specific questions, contact the ICTS at ICTS@dom.wustl.edu or Becky Evans, ICTS Business Director, at 314-362-9386.

Bander Business Ethics in Medical Research Lecture Held - Bernard Lo, MD

The ICTS Bander Program in Business Ethics in Medical Research hosted its fourth annual lecture on November 3, 2011 at the Washington University School of Medicine Farrell Learning and Teaching Center. Bernard Lo, MD, Professor of Medicine and Medical Director of the Medical Ethics Program at the University of California, San Francisco, spoke on "Partnerships Between Academic Health Centers and Industry: Opportunities, Challenges, and Pitfalls". Dr. Lo chaired the 2000 Institute of Medicine committee that produced the report of "Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education and Practice."

Over 60 faculty, trainees, scholars, and staff attended the lecture and the preceding reception. The annual lectureship program is sponsored through a donation from Dr. Steven J. Bander, a nephrologist in St. Louis. The lecture is a collaborative effort with the Bander Center for Medical Business Ethics in the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University.

Drs. Bernard Lo, Bradley Evanoff, Steven Bander, and James DuBois
Sixth Annual Research Training Symposium and Poster Session

On October 17, 2011 the School of Medicine-wide Research Training Symposium and Poster Session showcased the basic, clinical, and translational research projects conducted by junior faculty, residents, fellows, and training program scholars. The event, held in the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center, was once again co-sponsored by the ICTS Clinical Research Training Center (CRTC) and the Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) Office of Medical Student Research.

A total of 163 abstracts were compiled in a booklet and distributed at the event, and the poster session featured 140 posters presented by 142 scholars. Thirty-five WUSM faculty members participated by reviewing the projects, discussing the work, and providing the young investigators with valuable feedback and encouragement.

Prior to the symposium and poster session, keynote speaker Jerry A. Menikoff, M.D., J.D., Director of the Office for Human Research Protections at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, gave a separate lecture in Holden Auditorium titled: “The Ethics of Research Without Consent: Lessons from Quality Improvement.” In addition, Dr. Menikoff held a Town Hall Q&A session in Moore Auditorium facilitated by CRTC TL1 Predoctoral Program Trainee, Sumeeta Varma. As a WUSM alumnus, Dr. Menikoff was particularly comfortable and accommodating as he interacted with the WUSM academic community and leadership.

The afternoon symposium featured a welcome and introduction by Alison Whelan, M.D., Senior Associate Dean for Education at WUSM followed by Dr. Menikoff’s keynote address, “Why Doing Research Is So Special”. Five select scholars also presented their research to a large audience.

The next annual research symposium will be held in October 2012. Watch for announcements next summer from the CRTC and notices on the CRTC website http://crtcpostdoc.wustl.edu/.

HealthStreet Continues “Healthy” Partnership with St. Louis Public Schools

By Dan Martin, HealthStreet Community Project Manager

In collaboration with St. Louis Public Schools, the ICTS Center for Community-Engaged Research program, HealthStreet, held the second annual Art@HealthStreet contest in November 2011. This event provides an opportunity for students and teachers to discuss what it means to be “healthy” outside of the health classroom and in the art classroom by translating their thoughts and what they have learned about healthy lifestyles into visual arts. This year, there were 151 students from grades K-12 who submitted artwork with varying subjects including: nutrition, exercise, drug use, and healthy choices. Judging this year’s contest were renowned local professional artists and arts educators, Shannah Burton, Diane Davenport, Grace McCammond, and Maria Sweeney.

The winning art pieces were selected based on visual impact, artistic merit, and original concept.

An awards reception and open house will be held at HealthStreet January 12, 2012 (details below) with the artists, judges, family members and teachers attending. Winners from the various grades will receive gift cards to Barnes & Noble and certificates signed by St. Louis City Mayor Francis G. Slay. In addition to the various art pieces on display at HealthStreet until next summer, a traveling exhibit is being featured during December at the Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) Program in Occupational Therapy offices and will be displayed at the WUSM Farrell Learning and Teaching Center in March 2012.

For more information about Healthstreet or to provide services or educational messages to community residents, call 314-531-3034 or email Dan Martin at martind@epi.wustl.edu.

Join us in celebrating this year’s winners and all 151 outstanding artists!

RECEPTION
Thursday, January 12, 2012
5:00pm -7:00pm
HealthStreet
4306 Manchester Avenue.
St. Louis Mo 63110

Healthcycle - Maddie Kirwin, 9th Grade
Keeping a Healthy Mind – Kayla Towns, 7th Grade
National Children’s Study Reports Local Progress

By Nikki Weinstein, National Children’s Study Gateway Study Center, Community Liaison

The National Children’s Study (NCS) Gateway Study Center partnered with Our Community, Our Health to present its progress report to the community on November 2nd. The event was held on the Saint Louis University (SLU) campus at the Il Monastero. The program featured the NCS which began recruiting families last winter in St. Louis City for a 21-year research initiative. The event attendees included elected officials, representatives from community organizations, community health centers, and public health officials.

The NCS is the largest study of child health ever conducted in the United States. Researchers will follow more than 100,000 children from before birth to age 21 from diverse backgrounds and communities to learn about the effects of the environment and genetics on the growth, development, and health of children. “I am very excited with how things are going,” said Louise H. Flick, DrPH, principal investigator for the NCS Gateway Study Center and Professor of Epidemiology at the SLU School of Public Health. “Feedback so far has been quite positive. Our recruitment rate – families who are eligible and have agreed to participate in the study – is more than 60 percent, which is quite high. We’ve been pleased with the response of the community to this important research initiative.”

SLU’s School of Public Health, an ICTS partner institution, leads the NCS’ local collaborative. Other ICTS member institutions, including the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing and Washington University’s (WU) Schools of Social Work and Medicine are partners along with Battelle Centers for Public Health Research and Evaluation, implementing the NCS in St. Louis City. “We plan to continue to hold these community events at least annually to share specifics about the progress of the local effort and to give the community an opportunity to give comments, offer advice, and have questions answered,” Flick said. “We’re very pleased with the number and quality of comments we received at this event, and these will help shape our local effort as we move forward.”

In addition to the NCS report-out, Darcell P. Scharff, PhD, SLU School of Public Health Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Co-Director of Our Community, Our Health, provided opening remarks prior to Dr. Consuelo H. Wilkins’ presentation on the importance of research to the community and an overview of community-engaged research models. Dr. Wilkins is Director of the ICTS Our Community, Our Health program and Associate Director of the ICTS Center for Community-Engaged Research.

Representing community organizations, Kendra Copanas of the Maternal Child and Family Health Coalition, and Ron Tompkins of Nurses for Newborns discussed the maternal child health research initiatives in which their organizations are involved. The Maternal Child and Family Health Coalition is coordinating the Partnership for Preconception Health in conducting a needs assessment and planning process to determine the best way to improve preconception health and healthcare in the St. Louis Community.

Continued: Page 4

Behavior and Social Research Brown Bag 2 Seminar Series

What: New Brown Bag 2 Seminar Series Focused on Behavioral and Social Research
When: 2nd Wednesday (every other month), Beginning January 11, 2012
Time/Location: 12:00 – 1:00 pm / Holden Case Study Room, Farrell Learning and Teaching Center, First Floor
How to Get on Mailing List: RSVP to Irene Fischer at ifischer@dom.wustl.edu

Based on survey results from research coordinators, we are pleased to announce that the ICTS and the Division of Health Behavior Research in the WU Department of Medicine will host a Brown Bag 2 Seminar series focused on behavioral and social research. This new series is meant to complement the ICTS Brown Bag Seminars for Clinical and Translational Research based on requests from coordinators for this specialized topic area. The purpose of this Brown Bag 2 series is to provide a forum for coordinators involved in behavioral or social research in clinical and community settings to share best practices, network with experienced coordinators in the same field of research, and gain skills for career advancement in behavioral and social research. The seminar will be held every other month, on the second Wednesday of the month, starting January 11, 2012.

Examples of behavioral and social research specific topics to be covered include: HRPO submissions; participant recruitment, tracking, and retention; hiring, training, and supervising research assistants; database creation and management; survey development; focus groups; qualitative research methods; program evaluation; and data analysis. It is our intention to avoid duplicity of topics across the ICTS Brown Bag and the Brown Bag 2 seminars.

Please RSVP to Irene Fischer at ifischer@dom.wustl.edu if you are interested in attending the Brown Bag 2 Seminars for Behavioral and Social Research so you can be added to the email notification list. If you have suggestions for topics for either of the Brown Bag Seminars, please send them to the ICTS Research Navigator at ICTSNavigator@wustl.edu.
Bioinformatics Tutorials Available

The Washington University Becker Medical Library provides full, unrestricted access to the entire suite of bioinformatics tutorials from OpenHelix.

From OpenHelix.com: the goal of the OpenHelix is to enable researchers and students to find and use bioinformatics resources effectively and efficiently; to access training materials for use in classes and workshops; and to refresh one's understanding of useful tools. Movies, animated slides with scripts, handouts and exercises are all available to enhance understanding of bioinformatics software resources. The emphasis is on end-user training for bench biomedical researchers.

Over 100 tutorials cover topics ranging from Algorithms and Analysis to Variation and other medically-relevant topics. All you need to do to gain access to the tutorial suite is to click on "Register" in the upper right-hand corner of the OpenHelix website (www.OpenHelix.com). Use your “wustl.edu” email address to register for access. Non-Washington University researchers can access a subset of tutorials on the site which are freely available to everyone. Email Kristi Holmes at holmeskr@wustl.edu with any questions.

Subsidized Open Access Fees for WU Authors

Members of the Washington University Danforth Campus (WU) and the School of Medicine Campus (WUSM) have access to open access journals from publishers such as BioMed Central and PLoS (Public Library of Science). WU authors are entitled to a discount on author publication fees for open access articles, based on Becker Medical Library or WUSLibraries member/subscriber status. See “Subsidized Open Access Fees for WU and WUSM Authors” to view a list of publishers and/or journal titles that allow for discounted author fees for WU authors. Email Cathy Sarli at sarlic@wustl.edu with any questions.

ICTS Funding Program Updates

Pilots Across the SPIRiT (PATS) Program
Call for Proposals

Applications Due: January 17, 2012 (5:00 p.m. CST)
Award Decisions: March 2012
Award Start Date: June 1, 2012
Complete details, including application instructions and forms are available on the ICTS website at: http://www.icts.wustl.edu/funding/spirit_funding_program.aspx

Program questions may be addressed: icts@dom.wustl.edu, Jaimee Stagner (314-362-6325) or Becky Evans (314-362-9386)

Did you know?

Did you know that Sally Anderson has taken a new position with the Siteman Cancer Center? We are pleased that Sally accepted this promotion and will miss the skills and passion she brought to her role as the first ICTS Research Navigator.

Can you still get Navigator assistance? YES.

Inquiries directed to the ICTS Research Navigator, via e-mail or phone, are currently being monitored by the ICTS Administrative Core staff and triaged to the appropriate expert. To learn about services, visit the ICTS Cores and Resources website or contact the ICTS at 314-362-9829 or ICTSNavigator@wustl.edu for assistance.

National Children’s Study Cont’d from page 3

A primary goal of their work is to increase racial equity in health and pregnancy outcomes. Nurses for Newborns is involved with the Safe N’ Sound home safety and childhood injury prevention survey in partnership with SLU. The organization has a second research initiative with WU aimed at decreasing depression and increasing coping skills among mothers of young children. Both the Maternal Child and Family Health Coalition and Nurses for Newborns are recipients of 2010 Community/University Health Research Program (CUHRP) pilot awards, a program co-funded by WU, SLU and BJC Healthcare in addition to being facilitated by the St. Louis Regional Health Commission.

Our Community, Our Health is a joint program between WU and SLU to disseminate relevant and culturally appropriate health information, and to actively engage the St. Louis community in partnerships to help address local health disparities. For more information about the NCS in St. Louis, visit http://stlouis.nationalchildrensstudy.gov, and for Our Community, Our Health, visit www.ourcommunity-ourhealth.org.