



HEALTH
SCIENCES
CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL
SCIENCE CENTER



CTSC Grant Number:
UL1TR001449
KL2 Grant Number:
KL2TR001448

Clinical & Translational Science Center Newsletter

February 2022

Letter from the Director



Dear Colleagues,

New funding opportunities can now be found online at <https://hsc.unm.edu/research/news/funding-opps.html>.

I am pleased to tell you about some of the high impact studies that the CTSC is supporting.

With support from our clinical trials unit (PCI) Dr. Jaoa (Pedro) Teixeira, Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, is conducting the RAMIC trial to examine the efficacy of ramipril on patients with COVID-19 infection to improve the survival and reduction in need for admission to intensive care unit or invasive mechanical ventilation. This multicenter trial has the potential to be an extremely important step in the fight against COVID-19 because, if the results are positive, it would provide a safe, relatively inexpensive, and readily available oral treatment option to help prevent patients with COVID-19 from developing severe disease.

Our Community Engagement Research (CERC) team assisted Dr. Kathryn Frieze (a KL2 scholar), and MD/PhD student Amanda Collar, with research and analysis which had led to the recent publication: Sexual Enrichment Aids: A Mixed Methods Study Evaluating Use, Hygiene, and Risk Perception among Women. The study examined the potential risks and hygiene practices of women who use sexual enrichment aids (SEAs). In this study 79.9% of women reported using a SEA and among these women, 31.8% indicated that they share SEAs with their sexual partner. Highlighting the need for increased patient-centered education regarding evidenced-based safe SEA use and hygiene.

Additionally, CERC, as part of the OPIOIDD Function of the CTSC, is supporting a study that will examine implementation outcomes and feasibility of the use of the ECHO model to expand Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in rural primary care settings. PI, Dr. Julie Salvador developed a 12-week online education and mentorship intervention using ECHO aimed at supporting the entire primary care clinic in order to start or expand treatment using MOUD, psychosocial treatments and recovery support. Results from qualitative interviews and post-session questionnaires provide evidence of feasibility and acceptability of MOUD ECHO to support expansion of this treatment. The collaboration between the study PI and CTSC has led to the submission of an

R01 randomized study to examine the effectiveness of the MOUD ECHO in rural primary care settings across 10 western states that have been hardest hit by opioid overdose.

Informatics is offering to help researchers with research question feasibility count or other potential research data questions. Team member Harry Snow recently worked on the feasibility of a research question using our IBM Watson MarketScan database to answer the broad question of chronic disease implications of natural disasters.

Every part of the CTSC is integral to our purpose and funding, and we aim to update each section of the CTSC newsletter monthly. Each PI has a personal, professional investment in the information we provide. Please submit that information to our team. The CTSC is here for your support.

The dedicated faculty, staff, and students at CTSC continue their research projects and look for innovative ways to support our communities. If you are interested in a rigorous quantitative rural research project focused on COVID-19, please contact me (RLarson@salud.unm.edu) to start a dialogue.

Masks are now required indoors for all individuals at the HSC. Stay abreast of the current policies by exploring the University's Bring Back the Pack COVID-19 guidance:

<https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu>.

The Health Sciences Center Office of Research website contains information on specific research-related updates (including the Research Continuity Guidelines for both [Laboratories & Research Facilities](#) and [Clinical Trial Research Faculty & Staff](#)) and can be accessed through the following link: <https://hsc.unm.edu/research/>.

All standard CTSC services are available. We encourage PIs to reach out to our Research Concierge (HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu) with questions and/or to setup a consultation with the CTSC team.

If you have any questions about our assets and services, please contact the CTSC Research Concierge at HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu. If you have any issues finding the information that you need, please reach out to [the CTSC Newsletter Team](#) and they will get back to you.

As always, thank you so much for your continued support of the Clinical & Translational Science Center!

Warm regards,

Richard S. Larson, MD, PhD

PI, CEO and Director, Clinical & Translational Science Center

CTSC Leadership

CTSC Director, CEO & Principal Investigator: Richard S. Larson, MD, PhD

Associate Director, CTSC: Matthew Campen, PhD

Associate Director, CTSC: Nancy Pandhi, MD, PhD, MPH

Chief Administrative Officer: Carla Cordova, MPH

Administrative Component Director: Beth Tigges, PhD, RN, PNP, BC

Tracking & Evaluation Module Lead: Beth Tigges, PhD, RN, PNP, BC

Quality & Efficiency Module Lead: Beth Tigges, PhD, RN, PNP, BC

Informatics Component Director: Christophe Lambert, PhD

Community & Collaboration Component Director: Mark Unruh, MD

Community Engagement Module Lead: Nancy Pandhi, MD, PhD, MPH

Collaboration and Commercialization Module Lead: Eric Prossnitz, PhD
Translational Endeavors (TE) Component Director: Christopher Abbott, MD
Translational Workforce Development (TWD) Module Lead: Karlett Parra, PhD
Pilot Translational & Clinical Studies (PTC) Module Lead: Corey Ford, MD, PhD
Research Methods (RM) Component Director: Mark Unruh, MD
Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design (BERD) Module Lead: Mark Unruh, MD
Regulatory Knowledge & Support (RKS) Module Lead: Corey Ford, MD, PhD
Hub Research Capacity (HRC) Component Director: Nancy Pandhi, MD, PhD, MPH
Integration of Special Populations (ISP) Module Lead: Nancy Pandhi, MD, PhD, MPH
Participant Clinical Interactions (PCI) Director: Christopher Abbott, MD
Network Capacity (NC) Component Director: Hengameh Raissy, PharmD
Trial Innovation Network (TIN) Module Lead: Hengameh Raissy, PharmD
Drug Discovery & Repurposing Core Lead: TBD
Opioid-Use Populations with Integration, Outreach, Informatics, and Drug Discovery (OPIOIDD) Module Lead: Kimberly Page, PhD, MPH
KL2 Mentored Career Development Component Director: Matt Campen, PhD
Clinical Laboratory Medical Director: Qian-Yun Zhang, MD, PhD

Featured Stories

Participation Clinical Interactions (PCI)

Dr. Jaoa (Pedro) Teixeira, Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, is conducting the RAMIC trial to examine the efficacy of ramipril on patients with COVID-19 infection to improve the survival and reduction in need for admission to intensive care unit or invasive mechanical ventilation.

The RAMIC trial evaluated the use of a medication used to treat high blood pressure, ramipril, in patients newly diagnosed with COVID-19 to see if the drug decreases the risk of developing severe COVID-19. Ramipril is an angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor, which is one of the most common type of drugs used to treat high blood pressure worldwide. It is thought that the angiotensin system plays an important role in development of severe COVID-19, in part, because the virus binds to a protein called ACE-2 in order to enter cells. This multicenter trial has the potential to be an extremely important step in the fight against COVID-19 because, if the results are positive, it would provide a safe, relatively inexpensive, and readily available oral treatment option to help prevent patients with COVID-19 from developing severe disease.

This is a multicenter effort that plans to enroll up to 510 patients. This study is a randomized-controlled trial. This study will follow patients for 28 days and evaluate clinical outcomes along with safety data to determine the efficacy and safety of the investigational agents. The CTSC is supporting this study on many levels, first is it is a Trial Innovation Network (TIN) study (TIN being a NIH CTSA initiative to increase federal trial success), CTSC regulatory support and PCI coordination.

If you have any questions about PCI services, please contact George Garcia, gmgarcia@salud.unm.edu.

<http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/participant-clinical-interactions/index.html>

Community Engagement and Research Core (CERC)

Dr. Kathryn Frieze, assistant professor, Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, and KL2 Scholar in the CTSC was the principal investigator for the study: Sexual Enrichment Aids: Research for Chlamydia and Hygiene (SEARCH). The CTSC CERC team assisted Dr. Frieze, and MD/PhD student

Amanda Collar, with the research and analysis of the project which lead to the recent publication: Sexual Enrichment Aids: A Mixed Methods Study Evaluating Use, Hygiene, and Risk Perception among Women. ([Collar AL, Fuentes JE, Rishel Brakey H, Fietze KM. Sexual Enrichment Aids: A Mixed Methods Study Evaluating Use, Hygiene, and Risk Perception among Women. J Sex Res. 2021 Dec 17:1-10. doi: 10.1080/00224499.2021.2015568.](#))

The paper details the results of a mixed-methods approach to better understand sexual behavior of women who self-identify as having sex with men, with women or with women and men. The study examined the potential risks and hygiene practices of women who use sexual enrichment aids (SEAs) such as dildos or vibrators to enrich sexual experiences. SEA use is common among women, in this study 79.9% of women report using a SEA and among these women, 31.8% indicated that they share SEAs with their sexual partners. While the majority of women (81.8%) wash their SEAs, there is not consensus regarding the perceived risk associated with SEA use. This highlights the need for increased patient-centered education regarding evidenced-based safe SEA use and hygiene that can be tailored to individual patients, who may engage in different SEA sexual behaviors based on sexual practices.

For more information about CERC services, please contact Donna Sedillo at: dlsedillo@salud.unm.edu

Opioid-Use Populations with Integration, Outreach, Informatics, and Drug Discovery (OPIOIDD)

Dr. Julie Salvador, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry is the principal investigator for “ECHO-F Model for Expansion of MAT in Rural Primary Care”. This study examines implementation outcomes and feasibility of the use of the ECHO (Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes) model to expand Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in rural primary care settings, with a focus on the treatment of opioid use disorder.

Opioid misuse and dependence have been a major public health challenge for many years. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2019, 1.6 million people in the U.S. were diagnosed with OUD, and almost 50,000 people died from overdoses involving opioids. Buprenorphine is the standard of care for treatment of opioid use disorder in office-based primary care settings; often combined with psychosocial support. However, uptake of this treatment has been slow due to a number of addressable barriers including providers’ lack of training, staffing concerns, stigma and the need for ongoing support and consultation.

While the Dr. Salvador’s larger study is ongoing there are preliminary results from a sub-study which examined acceptability and feasibility of an online ECHO model intervention developed to support rural primary care clinics to expand opioid treatment using evidence-based methods. This study developed a 12-week online education and mentorship intervention using ECHO aimed at supporting the entire primary care clinic in order to start or expand treatment using MOUD, psychosocial treatments and recovery support. Results from qualitative interviews and post-session questionnaires provide evidence of feasibility and acceptability of MOUD ECHO to support expansion of this treatment. However, barriers to participation present an important threat to feasibility. Understanding feasibility and acceptability is an important component of research on the impact of ECHO to expand treatment for opioid use disorder.

The CTSC Community Engagement and Research Core (CERC) is pleased to support this important research to expand knowledge of the impacts of treatment for opioid use disorder. The OPIOIDD Function of the CTSC works closely with CERC to expand provider engagement and to reach communities in New Mexico impacted by the opioid crisis. The collaboration between the study PI

and CTSC has led to the submission of an R01 randomized study to examine the effectiveness of the MOUD ECHO in rural primary care settings across 10 western states that have been hardest hit by opioid overdose.

For more information about CERC services, please contact Donna Sedillo at: dlsedillo@salud.unm.edu

Informatics

The Informatics core often work with researchers to determine the feasibility of potential research questions. Harry Snow recently worked on the feasibility of a research question using our IBM Watson MarketScan database to answer the broad question of chronic disease implications of natural disasters. He looked at MarketScan data around the time of two hurricanes in Louisiana to see whether patients in general experienced an exacerbation of their chronic conditions. He used his experience working with our data sources to find the one that provided the best information.

If you would like to get a research question feasibility count or have potential research data questions please contact Marguerite Valencia-Reed mvalencia-reed@salud.unm.edu or Harry Snow hsnow@salud.unm.edu.

Menu of Services & Resources

- [Biostatistics Support](#)
- [Brain & Behavioral Disorders](#)
- [Citing the Clinical & Translational Science Center](#)
- [Clinical Trials Participant Clinical Interactions](#)
- [Community Engagement](#)
- [Community Health Network](#)
- [Database Mining](#)
- [Drug Repurposing](#)
- [KL2 Scholars](#)
- [Intramural Funding](#)
- [Laboratory Services](#)
- [Pilot Funding](#)
- [Trial Innovation Network](#)
- [Quality & Efficiency](#)
- [Regulatory Knowledge & Support](#)
- [Rural Health Research](#)
- [Team Science & Commercialization](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Vulnerable Populations](#)

Administration

Tracking & Evaluation (T&E)

The Tracking and Evaluation Team is piloting a new "Common Metric" called the Median Accrual Metric. This metric is intended to look at our CTSC's ability to recruit and retain research participants. This metric will look at the entire calendar year for 2020 and will be reported in fall 2021.

Quality & Efficiency (Q&E)

The Quality and Efficiency Team continues to work on two specific process improvements initiatives. These two projects concluded in June of 2021 and will be evaluated for how the projects impacted our CTSC.

Informatics

Data Requests & "Using Data Courses"

The CTSC's Informatics core has helped hundreds of clinical researchers leverage UNMH's electronic health records and other medical databases to find eligible subjects for clinical trials, evaluate medical practice trends, and conduct longitudinal research projects upon nationwide cohorts. If you are interested in finding out more about how to use big data in your research please read the descriptions of our "Using Data Courses" <https://hsc.unm.edu/ctsc/training/training-catalog.html> , you may also register on this same webpage to attend the course. If you are interested in an overview for your staff or faculty zoom meeting please contact mvalencia-reed@salud.unm.edu to arrange for a presentation.

Informatics also supports REDCap, if you have any questions about REDCap, please contact the REDCap Support Team at HSC-CTSCREDCap@salud.unm.edu.

<https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/informatics/index.html>

Community & Collaboration (C&C)

Team Science & Commercialization

Why pursue Team Science?

Team-based research is helpful when tackling complex problems. Teams often produce better work because they take on more ambitious projects, bring complementary knowledge and apply diverse research methods.

"...a growing body of research confirms that when people work together, smartly, it can unleash energy that boosts creativity, productivity, engagement, communication, and efficiency."

"Each individual has unique gifts, and talents and skills," says John J. Murphy, a specialist in business transformation and author of *Pulling Together: 10 Rules for High-Performance Teamwork*. "When we bring them to the table and share them for a common purpose, it can give companies a real competitive advantage." {*The Importance of Teamwork (as proven by science)* published September 25, 2021 in TEAMWORK BY TRACY MIDDLETON}

The CTSC Team Science & Commercialization programs focus on providing team science opportunities and encourage interdisciplinary partnerships across UNM to improve healthcare across New Mexico.

CTSC invite you to participate in the Spring 2022 Team Science focused activities:

- **2022 CTSC Health Hackathon, March 25-27. [Registration is now open!](#)** The CTSC Health Hackathon is a fun approach to intense collaboration, problem-solving, and innovation. This multi-day event invites clinicians, engineers, entrepreneurs, programmers, scientists, faculty and students bring their skills & expertise to innovate, design, and create new

solutions/products to address healthcare problems. **The event is FREE, but space is limited. Register Early!** Questions? Send an email to hsc-hackathon@salud.unm.edu.

THE HACKATHON EXPERIENCE



- CTSC Translational Synergy Meetings, these forums highlight research, ongoing studies, clinical and translational methods, and collaboration opportunities on a specific topic and includes presentations from invited speakers. February 2022 Synergy meeting will focus on COVID-19 Research and Omicron variant updates as a joint presentation with DOIM Grand Rounds. [Contact Melanie Hazlett](#), CTSC Team Strategist, to request more information about the Spring 2022 CTSC Synergy Meetings.
- The UNM HSC CTSC office supports many Commercialization efforts by participating with [The ASCEND \(Accelerating Solutions for Commercialization and Entrepreneurial Development\)](#) Hub. The focus of this program is to increase entrepreneurship and commercialization of basic medical science in the mountain west states. Visit the ASCEND Hub website to learn more about what resources are available to you: <https://ascendhub.org>.

<https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/programs/team-science.html>

Translational Endeavors (TE)i

Translational Workforce Development (TWD)

Translational Workforce Development has numerous [course offerings](#) and can even provide consultations as requested to assist you in your goals! Please request a [consultation](#) or additional information on any courses offered. The TWD team may be reached via HSC-CTSCTWDTraining@salud.unm.edu.

For information regarding TWD, please visit our webpage: <https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/training/index.html>

Pilot Awards

The UNM Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC) is soliciting applications from all HS faculty members— senior as well as junior investigators— in response to the following pilot Request For Application.

We strongly encourage investigators to meet with the CTSC Research Concierge,

HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu, early in the planning and writing phases of their proposals in order to discuss CTSC resources required. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Christina Anderson, CTSC Pilot Program Specialist, at ChAnderson@salud.unm.edu.

Reminder of the new timeline for pilot submissions in March.

November 11, 2021

Request for Applications Release Date

January 21, 2022

IRB Submission Deadline

Note: Any application without IRB submission prior to this date will be administratively disqualified

March 18, 2022

Application Deadline in Camino

IRB Approval Deadline

Note: Any application without IRB approval by this date will not be considered for funding.

April 11, 2022

Notice of Intend to Fund/Decline

May 13, 2022

Announce Awards

June 1, 2022

Funding Begins

May 31, 2023

Funding Ends

Pilot Award

As part of our CTSC award, NIH has identified the need to speed the movement of clinical research findings into the everyday practice of health care delivery. The purpose of this award is to support pilot projects that utilize CTSC infrastructure to produce preliminary data for competitive NIH grant proposals in clinical and translational (T1, T2, T3, and T4) research.

Linking Clinical Trials to Drug Discovery and Repurposing Award

This RFA is a solicitation of applications from active CTSC investigators for projects that will link clinical research with drug discovery efforts in the Center for Molecular Discovery. The goal of this program is to: 1) develop cell-based assays for use in high-throughput screening, 2) to use these cell-based assays for the identification of drugs for clinical repurposing efforts, and 3) to utilize these previously FDA

CTSC/DCI Kidney Pilot Project Award

The CTSC, in conjunction with Dialysis Clinic, Inc. (DCI), are soliciting applications for pilot projects that will exemplify the CTSC mission of developing clinical and translational research with an emphasis on kidney disease, hypertension, and/or kidney transplantation. The purpose of this RFA is to support pilot projects that utilize the CTSC infrastructure to produce preliminary data for competitive NIH grant proposals in kidney disease, hypertension, and/or kidney transplantation clinical and translational (T1, T2, T3, and T4) research.

Innovation & Commercialization Award

The purpose of this RFA is to support innovative, high-risk/high-reward pilot projects to produce preliminary data for competitive NIH proposals in clinical and translational research. Most awards will be expected to seek NIH funding, most likely through an SBIR/STTR mechanism. These projects are intended to provide the preliminary data and initial corporate relationships to develop technology and move it towards successful commercialization.

Wicked Problems: Target Pilot Project Award

The National CTSA Network has identified a list of common and/or emerging problems (“wicked problems”) that require urgent scientific solution. The purpose of this RFA is to support pilot projects

that tackle one of the targeted wicked problems listed below relating to data sharing and protection, big data, datasets or research collaboration:

- Data Sharing
- Big data to alter practice/diagnosis
- Use of multiple datasets
- Access to resources to address labor-intensive activities
- Privacy and data protection for research
- Removing institutional bottlenecks/sharing of resources
- Evaluating the impact of translational research efforts
- Implementing scientific review before studies are performed
- Dissemination and implementation Science
- EHR data integration
- Defining Impact for the CTSA Program
- Building a KL2 Scholar Community
- Addressing challenges in recruiting from rural sites
- Hub Stability

Mentored Career Development Program (KL2)

The KL2 program equips a cohort of independent faculty with the training and support needed to conduct exceptional clinical and translational research. KL2 Scholars receive training and mentorship in multi-disciplinary, team-based, and patient-oriented clinical and translational research. KL2 Scholars become leaders and innovators in their respective professional fields and departments.

Based on a NIH-style competitive application process, a scientific review panel selects scholars to develop their research portfolios by receiving 75% salary support for up to five years. The goal of this program is to foster the discipline of clinical research and, by increasing clinical research capacity, to expedite clinical and translational research.

<https://hsc.unm.edu/ctsc/programs/mentored-career-development.html>

Research Methods (RM)

Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD)

Biostatistics Consultation Services Available at CTSC

The Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) Core provides consultation and services, novel tools and methods intended to solve problems, and address barriers to the conduct of clinical and translational research. Services are open to all Health Sciences investigators (staff, students, and faculty) to understand the methodological aspects of their research for planning their projects, including power analysis, sample size, and research design for intermural and extramural grant submissions.

If you have a current pilot study that requires biostatistical support, please schedule appointments as soon as possible.

Are you interested in applying for a pilot study? It is strongly recommended that you make an appointment with one of our biostatisticians prior to your submission. Our expert biostatisticians can help in the initial stages of project development.

Appointments are available; but do fill up quickly. To schedule an appointment, please contact HSC-CTSCbiostats@salud.unm.edu. Services are offered Monday through Friday.

Please visit our web site: <http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/biostatistics/index.html>.

Regulatory Knowledge & Support (RKS)

The clinical research community is supported by the Federal Regulatory Support. This no cost service at the UNM HSC provides assistance with sponsor-investigator IND or IDE applications. This includes personal consultation and helpful templates through online modules on a range of topics related to FDA regulated studies. The goal is to provide the research community with the tools, training and support needed to navigate the complex regulatory pathways that accompany translational research. As part of this support, the UNM CTSC regulatory manager, Rebecca Brito, serves as a liaison to assist investigators in 4 key areas:

1. **Early Regulatory Strategy Development:** We encourage early interaction as a means to develop a regulatory strategy that is appropriate for the complexity of each research project.
2. **Regulatory Submissions and Maintenance:** We provide templates and consultation in preparation, submission, and maintenance of regulatory applications to the FDA.
3. **[ClinicalTrials.gov](https://www.clinicaltrials.gov):** PRS administration that includes user account creation, maintenance, updates and consultation.
4. **Regulatory Education and Training:** We provide a variety of educational programs, including tailored educational seminars and recorded FDA webinars.

Assisting in these areas helps keep research studies on track and ensures a fluid process while developing each project. The goal of the UNM CTSC Regulatory Department is to help make each research project a success in translational science.

For more information on how we can help, please contact Rebecca Brito at rbrito@salud.unm.edu

Hub Research Capacity (HRC)

Integrating Special Populations (ISP)

The aim of the CTSC ISP team aim is to identify, develop, and deploy strategies to involve populations who are underserved or otherwise underrepresented in all stages of research. Urging investigators to design scientifically sound CTR that includes special populations from the outset is of critical importance. To aid investigators in these efforts, ISP has developed the new specialized Rurally Engaged, Spanish speaking or Network Specialized Experts (RESPONSE) team led by experienced faculty with mixed-methods CTR expertise. This group will provide pre-proposal consultations. Consultations will focus on best practices and considerations in New Mexico's special populations, and identify and connect investigators to potential engagement partners, collaborators, and UNM CTSC resources and services. The team coordinates closely with other CTSC cores (e.g., CERC, Translational Endeavors, KL2). Consults are currently available via web-based technology.

For more information on Integrating Special Populations, please use the following link:

<https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/Community-Engaged-Research-Core/integrating-special-populations.html>

CHN (Community Health Network)

The Community Health Network (CHN) continues to make connections with our neighboring communities in rural New Mexico. Cynthia Killough, the program manager & CTSC's Community Health Specialist, has been attending as many virtual community health council meetings around the state as possible. These meetings provide a wealth of information about health disparities and concerns that are important to rural communities. The meetings also provide a way for Cynthia to introduce health research at UNM and help break down stigma associated with research in general.

At the end of 2021, Cynthia took some time to reflect and celebrate successes in her work as a community liaison. Cynthia attended the last Catron County Health Council (CCHC) meeting of the year which marked two years of her attendance with them. Catron County was the first health council meeting Cynthia attended, in-person pre-pandemic, when she first started her position in 2019. The health council meeting was held at the only health clinic in the town of Reserve, NM, 207 miles south west of Albuquerque. The CCHC was so welcoming and left a very good first impression of health councils in general. Since her first meeting with the CCHC, Cynthia has been able to promote CTSC projects and invite community members to participate in research. Cynthia has also learned a lot about health priorities in the county such as mental and behavioral health and has been able to connect the council with researchers at UNM to assist them in their endeavors. Community engagement takes time to build relationships and trust and we are grateful to communities like Catron County who have been so welcoming and assist CTSC as well.



Picture of members at Catron County Health Council in February 2020.

<http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/community-health-network/index.html>

Network Capacity (NC)

Trial Innovation Network (TIN)

The Trial Innovation Network is a collaborative initiative within the CTSA Program and is composed of three key partners: the CTSA Program Hubs, the Trial Innovation Centers (TICs), and the Recruitment Innovation Center (RIC).

The vision for the Trial Innovation Network is to innovatively address critical roadblocks in clinical research and accelerate the translation of novel interventions into life-saving therapies.

The Trial Innovation Network is a collaborative national network with a focus in three main areas: operational innovation, operational excellence, and collaboration. The Trial Innovation Network will leverage the expertise and resources of the CTSA Program. The Trial Innovation Network will feature a single IRB system, master contracting agreements, quality by design approaches, and a focus on evidence-based strategies to recruitment and patient engagement.

The goal of the Trial Innovation Network is to not only execute trials better, faster, and more cost-efficiently but, importantly, to be a national laboratory to study, understand and innovate the process of conducting clinical trials.

The University of New Mexico CTSC has been a part of the Trial Innovation Network and as a result has been a participating site in several studies that impact a variety of disease states. This import work has helped connect physicians at the University of New Mexico with the clinical trials specific to their specialty. This effort has encouraged new investigators to become engaged in clinical research. This collaboration is part of the larger mission to move innovated research from the bench, to the bedside, and ultimately out into the communities in which we live.

For more information on the Trial Innovation Network, please contact George Garcia at gemgarcia@salud.unm.edu.

Drug Discovery & Repurposing Core (DDRC)

The DDRC is a Resource for Rapidly Translating Existing Drugs into New Clinical Trials

Do you have ideas about ways to repurpose existing FDA-approved drugs? The CTSC is here to help. The Drug Discovery and Repurposing Core DDRC collaborates with UNM investigators other CTSCs to improve health outcomes by providing unique resources for rapidly translating existing drugs for use in new clinical trials. DDRC provides access to and operation of state-of-the-art technology in drug rescue, repurposing, and repositioning through innovative tools that support investigators and start-up companies. Additionally, DDRC provides support and guidance in translating pilot projects from preclinical proof-of-principle to clinical proof-of-concept as well as helps to develop first-in-human clinical trials.

For additional information or to become a DDRC member, please visit the DDRC (formerly DR3N) webpage: <https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/dr3n/index.html>.

Clinical Laboratory (T-Laboratory)

Using CTSC Lab Services

The CTSC Translational Laboratory (T-Laboratory) is comprised of 6,000 square feet of wet-lab space, located in the newly renovated CTSC Building. The T-Laboratory offers state-of-the-art equipment and technical assistance with laboratory techniques for UNM HS investigators. The experienced staff of the T-Laboratory provide specialized laboratory support, customized to meet the needs of the investigators in all aspects of research including protocol/assay development, budget preparation, and testing of patient samples for various assays. The T-Laboratory provides sample preparation and technical support for other non-CTSC resources such as UNM Shared Flow Cytometry and High

Throughput Screening Resource, and KUSAIR Small Animal Imaging. In addition, our staff will provide training to UNM HS investigators staff on molecular techniques, clinical techniques, or equipment. There are three options for utilization of CTSC T-Laboratory Services:

- Option A: Full Service Sample Testing
- Option B: Equipment Utilization by Investigator
- Option C: Preparation of Investigator’s Experiments or Train Investigator’s Staff to Perform Assays and Equipment.

Additionally, the CTSC Clinical Laboratory develops and carries out research-related sample analyses for UNM HS investigators, researchers throughout the United States and world, as well as corporate funded research projects.

For questions, please contact HSC-CTSCResearchConcierge@salud.unm.edu.

Funding Opportunities Specific to COVID-19

There are several significant funding opportunities available through the CTSC to address the COVID-19 pandemic. CTSC monitors these opportunities for our HSC faculty on a weekly basis and includes additional information from the NIH COVID-19 funding site for your convenience.

Some of these funding opportunities require an active grant or cooperative agreement. They may also need a Letter of Support from Dr. Larson, the CTSC PI. Please contact Michelle Parra (MMParra@salud.unm.edu) if you are interested in applying for any of the COVID-19 funding opportunities listed below.

Recent Active Funding Opportunities Specific to COVID-19 are listed below:

Title	Notice Number	Organization(s)	Release Date	RFA/PA/ PAR #	Expiry Date	Activity Code(s)
Evaluating the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic-related Food and Housing Policies and Programs on Health Outcomes in Health Disparity Populations (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)	RFA-NR-22-001	NINR, NIDA, NIMH, NIMHD, OBSSR, ODP	Jan 25, 2022		Apr 8, 2022	R01
HEAL Initiative: Secondary Analysis and Integration of Existing Data	RFA-DE-22-011	NIDCR, NCATS, NCCIH, NCI, NIA, NIAMS, NICHD	Jan 21, 2022		Apr 1, 2022	R21

Related to Acute and Chronic Pain Development or Management in Humans (R21 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)						
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Urgent Competitive Revisions to IDeA and NARCH Programs for SARS-CoV-2 Surveillance Studies	NOT-GM-22-026	NIGMS	Jan 21, 2022		Mar 22, 2022	333
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Enhancing Research on Deciphering Mechanisms of COVID-19-Associated Coagulopathy	NOT-HL-23-003	NHLBI	Jan 21, 2022		Jul 6, 2022	R01
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): COVID-19 Pandemic Mental Health Research	NOT-MH-22-100	NIMH	Jan 19, 2022		Jan 8, 2025	R21, R34, R01
Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions on Coronavirus Disease 2019	NOT-AA-22-002	NIAAA	Dec 2, 2021		May 8, 2024	333

(COVID-19) within the Mission of NIAAA						
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplements for Research on Sex and/or Gender Influences (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional)	NOT-OD-22-030	ORWH, NIDA, NEI, NIDCD, NIEHS, NHGRI, NIMH, NIAID, NINR, NICHD, NHLBI, NCCIH, NIAAA, SGMRO, NCATS, NIDCR, NIAMS, ORIP, NIDDK, NIBIB, NIA	Dec 2, 2021		Jan 27, 2023	333
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplements to Support Addiction Science and Related Neuroscience Pilot Research Projects at NIMHD-Funded Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI)	NOT-MD-22-001	NIMHD, NIDA	Oct 25, 2021		Feb 2, 2022	333
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Announcing the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on	NOT-DA-21-041	NIDA	Apr 15, 2021	PA-20-272 PA-18-935 (Urgent Supplement)	Mar 31, 2022	333

the 2019 Novel Coronavirus						
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Telehealth Strategies for Individuals with HIV and Substance Use Disorders	NOT-DA-21-019	NIDA	Feb 10, 2021	PA-20-184 PA-20-183 PA-20-200 PA-20-195 PA-20-194 PA-20-196 PA-20-146	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R03, R21
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Medical Consequences of Smoking and Vaping Drugs of Abuse in Individuals with HIV and COVID-19	NOT-DA-21-017	NIDA	Feb 4, 2021	PA-20-184 PA-20-183 PA-20-200 PA-20-195 PA-20-194 PA-20-196	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R02, R03
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Complement in Basic Immunology (CIBI)	NOT-AI-21-008	NIAID	Feb 4, 2021	PA-20-185 PA-20-195	Jan 8, 2023	R01, R21
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Long-Term Neurocognitive Consequences of COVID-19 in Individuals Living with HIV and Substance Use Disorders	NOT-DA-21-018	NIDA	Feb 3, 2021	PA-20-184 PA-20-183 PA-20-200 PA-20-195 PA-20-194 PA-20-196 PA-20-146	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R03, R21
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative	NOT-TR-21-017	NCATS	Feb 3, 2021	PA-20-272	Aug 17, 2024	333

Supplements for the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program to Address COVID-19 Public Health Needs						
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): NIDCR Support for Research on the Physiological Involvement of Oral Cavity in Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	NOT-DE-21-001	NIDCR	Jan 26, 2021	PA-20-185 PA-20-195	May 28, 2023	R01, R21
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Aging-Relevant Behavioral and Social Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	NOT-AG-21-015	NIA	Jan 26, 2021	PA-20-183 PA-20-184 PA-20-185 PA-20-200 PA-20-194 PA-20-196 PA-20-195 PAR-19-374 PAR-19-314 PAR-19-070 PAR-19-071 PAR-20-070	May 28, 2023	R01, R03, R21, U19, P01, R21/R33
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Effects of smoking and vaping on the risk and outcome of	NOT-DA-21-011	NIDA	Jan 26, 2021	PA-20-184 PA-20-183 PA-20-200 PA-20-195 PA-20-194	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R03, R21

COVID-19 infection				PA-20-196 PA-20-146		
Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplements for COVID-19 Impacted NIMH Research	NOT-MH-21-120	NIMH	Dec 23, 2020	PA-20-272	Jun 2, 2023	333
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Effects of smoking and vaping on the risk and outcome of COVID-19 infection	NOT-DA-20-084	NIDA	Oct 27, 2020	PA-20-183 PA-20-200 PA-20-195	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R03, R21
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Simulation Modeling and Systems Science to Address Health Disparities	NOT-MD-20-025	NIMHD , NCI , NIDA , NLM , ODP , OBSSR , NIMH , NIAMS	Aug 13, 2020	PA-20-185	May 8, 2023	R01
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Competitive Revision and Administrative Supplements to Existing NICHD HIV Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Understand HIV Health Impacts of COVID-19	NOT-HD-21-037	NICHD	Jul 2, 2021	PA-20-272 PA-18-935 NOT-OD-20-128 NOT-OD-20-118 NOT-OD-20-018	May 8, 2022	333

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): NIDCD is Interested in Supporting Research on the Impact of COVID-19 on Mission Specific Sensory and Communication Disorders	NOT-DC-20-008	NIDCD	Jun 4, 2020	PA-18-334 PA-20-185 PA-20-184 PA-20-196 PA-20-195 PA-19-270 PA-19-271 PA-19-273 PA-19-272	Sep 8, 2022	R01, R21, R41/R42, R43/R44
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Emergency Competitive Revisions to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements for Tissue Chips Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus	NOT-TR-20-017	NCATS	Apr 9, 2020	PA-20-135	Jan 26, 2022	333
Emergency Competitive Revision to Existing NIH Awards (Emergency Supplement - Clinical Trial Optional)	PA-20-135	NIH, NCATS, NCCIH, NCI, NHGRI, NIA, NIAAA, NIAID, NIAMS, NIBIB, NICHD, NIDCD, NIDDK, NIEHS, NIGMS, NIMH, NIMHD, NINR, NLM, ORWH, OSC	Mar 10, 2020	PA-20-135	Sep 8, 2025	333
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Promoting Vaccine Access, Acceptance and Uptake among	NOT-HD-21-038	NICHD	June 28, 2021	PA-20-200, PA-21-221, PA-20-195, PA-20-194	May 8, 2024	R03, R21

Children, Adolescents, Pregnant and Lactating Women, and Persons with Disabilities						
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) HIV/AIDS in the Era of COVID-19: When Pandemics Collide	NOT-AI-21-057	NIAID, NIMH, NIDA	June 25, 2021	PA-20-185, PA-20-195	May 8, 2024	R01, R21
Limited Competition Emergency Awards: Shared Personal Protective Equipment Resources for COVID-19 Related Vaccine and Treatment Clinical Trials and Clinical Studies (\$10 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	PAR-21-276	NIAID	Jul 16, 2021	Reissue of PAR-20-256	Jul 16, 2022	S10

If you are interested in applying for any of the grants, please email Michelle Parra (MMParra@salud.unm.edu).

For a full listing of COVID-19 through NIH, please access the following site: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/COVID-Related.cfm>.

Citing the CTSC

When citing the CTSC, please be sure to include our Grant numbers:

CitE CTSC Grant Number:
UL1TR001449
KL2 Grant Number:
KL2TR001448

Thank you!

HS in the News

For additional Health Sciences news, please visit:

<http://hscnews.unm.edu/>

News or corrections?

Please contact [the Newsletter Team](#).

The University Of New Mexico Mailing Address:

One University of New Mexico

MSC 08 4635

Albuquerque, NM 87131