



# CCTS

Center for Clinical and Translational Science

CCTS Digest 1.22.16 | [www.uab.edu/ccts](http://www.uab.edu/ccts)



## In This Issue



### Partner Network:

While we invite you to take part in all of our programs, items featuring this icon may be of particular interest. Look for the symbol throughout the Digest. Have news you'd like to share? Send it to: [ccts@uab.edu](mailto:ccts@uab.edu)

## See Five Planets at Once This Month



image courtesy Sky \_ Telescope

Even if you're not an early bird, it might be worth your while in the next month to get out of bed before dawn on a clear day. If you look to the sky about 45 minutes before the sun rises in the next few weeks, you can see a beautiful and somewhat rare sight: five planets in a line.

"I like to think of it as the Academy Awards showing off the planets in the sky. All of them are there, the five that you are able to see with the unaided eye," said Jackey Faherty, a Hubble Fellow at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, in an [interview with National Public Radio](#).

The last time this phenomenon occurred was a decade ago. To see it now, look to the east.

"Rising in the east, setting in the west. Jupiter will be high in your sky because Jupiter rises first. Mars will also be pretty high in your sky. Venus and Mercury will be low. Mercury is going to be the hard one to find. It'll be the last one to rise and it'll be closest to the horizon in the east," Faherty told interviewer Robert Siegel.

The planets are in a line in the sky, meaning you could draw a line with your finger between Jupiter and Venus. Faherty says that line shows how the planets formed, "in a disk around the sun," and calls

it "a signature of the formation of the solar system."

She suggests using the moon as a guide to locate other planets. For example, the moon should pass by Mars on February 1. Need more help? Here's a professional astronomer tip: Mars is the red one.

[Read the full story and learn more about planet alignment here.](#)

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## Seminars, Symposia and Conferences

**Tuesday, January 26**

**Informatics Institute Lecture**

**"Capturing Phenotype Information from Pathology Image Collections for Prognostication and Phenotype-genotype Studies"**

**Lee Cooper, PhD**

**Assistant Professor (joint)**

**Department of Biomedical Engineering Georgia Tech / Emory University School of Medicine  
Department of Biomedical Informatics Emory University School of Medicine**

**11:30am**

**Shelby Building Room 105 (1825 University Boulevard)**

**Please register; lunch will be served:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/capturing-phenotype-information-from-pathology-image-collections-for-prognostication-and-phenotype-tickets-20421439074>

**Thursday, January 28**

**UAB Research Orientation Program**

Fourth Thursday of each month

PCAMS, 1924 7th Avenue South

New to the UAB platform of education offerings for research is a program designed for young investigators and research staff that are new to research (possibly within the first 2 months of starting in research).

**Content:**

A basic review of how to implement a sponsored or investigator initiated study including clinical, regulatory and financial aspects.

**Intent:**

To provide a basic overview of implementing a study, familiarize attendees with the language, and hopefully provide guidance on avoiding pitfalls when starting out. Will provide basic tools and some of the necessary language in order to successfully conduct a research study.

**Who should attend:**

New faculty, coordinators, budget and regulatory staff

**Cost:**

Free

**Registration:** Limited, so please REGISTER early by contacting Dharti K. Patel,

[Dpatel80@uab.edu](mailto:Dpatel80@uab.edu)

**Thursday, January 28**

**Wonderful World of Technology Seminar**

**Presenters: Manny Buschmann, Clontech Laboratories, Inc. and Mike Crowley, PhD, Dir. UAB Heflin Genomic Core Laboratories**

The UAB RDCC Wonderful World of Technology series will offer a seminar on NEXT-GEN sequencing

Noon-1:30pm

Shelby 105.

All potential Next-Gen users are invited to attend.

**Wednesday, February 3**

**CCTS Forum**

Grant Writing Tools

4:45-6pm

Pittman Center for Advanced Medical Studies

Join us for refreshments and hors d'oeuvres as we discuss the various tools and systems you may have used--or hope to use--to help in the grant writing and development process.



Please join us remotely via GoToMeeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/533000725>. You can also dial in at: (312) 757-3121  
Access Code: 533-000-725

**Thursday, February 4**

**Clinical Trials Office Research Seminar**

**Theme: ClinicalTrials.gov**

**"SAE Reporting" with Lee Powell**

Noon-1pm

PCAMS, 1924 7th Avenue South



Please join us remotely via GoToMeeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/930891813>  
You can also dial in using your phone (267) 507-0008; Access Code: 930-891-813

**Friday, February 6**

**First Friday Mentoring Lunch**

**Noon-1pm**

PCAMS, 1924 7th Avenue South

Please RSVP so that we have enough food: [ccts@uab.edu](mailto:ccts@uab.edu); 205-934-7442.

**Thursday, February 11**

**UAB Informatics Institute Lecture**

**"Demystifying Brain Injuries and Beyond: Informatics for Critical Care Medicine"**

Vignesh Subbian, PhD

Instructor

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computing Systems

University of Cincinnati

Noon-1pm

Shelby 515

1825 University Blvd

[Please register to attend](#) no later than Monday, 02/08/16

Lunch will be served. Questions? Please contact Dr. James Cimino, Director, Informatics Institute ([ciminoj@uab.edu](mailto:ciminoj@uab.edu); 205.996.1958)

**Tuesday, February 9**

**"Developing a Bioinformatics Environment for Immunoglobulin Repertoire Sequencing"**

**Alexander F. Rosenberg, PhD, Research Assistant Professor**

**Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology**

**Director of Bioinformatics, Department of Medicine**

**University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY**

11:30am

Shelby 105, 1825 University Blvd

Please [register to attend](#) no later than Thursday, 02/04/16

Lunch will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

Questions? Please contact Dr. James Cimino, Director, Informatics Institute ([ciminoj@uab.edu](mailto:ciminoj@uab.edu); 205.996.1958)

**Friday, February 26**

**Rare Disease Genomics Symposium**

8:30am-3:30pm

Bradley Lecture Center

4th Floor, Children's Harbor Building

\$15 to attend

To register, visit [ChildrensAL.org/genetics](http://ChildrensAL.org/genetics)

Questions? Please contact Shaila Handattu at [hande@uab.edu](mailto:hande@uab.edu)

**Friday, February 26**

**UAB Sponsored Conference on Therapeutic Adherence**

A national conference on therapeutic adherence sponsored by the UAB School of Medicine and our University Wide Interdisciplinary Research Centers (UWIRCS) at the Edge of Chaos (<http://theedgeofchaos.org/>).

Please RSVP at <http://amc21adherenceconference.eventbrite.com>

The "Understanding and Improving Treatment Adherence: An Interdisciplinary Approach" conference will include several notable speakers (see below) didactic discussions, as well as breakout sessions. The published proceedings will highlight gaps in adherence research and collaborative funding opportunities. More details will be forthcoming.

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Rivet Amico, PhD, University of Michigan	Conceptual models and behavioral frameworks in designing studies on adherence: How to employ models in needs assessment, intervention mapping, or continuous quality improvement
Elizabeth McQuaid, PhD, Brown University	Ethnic disparities and therapeutic adherence
Michael Stirratt, PhD, NIH/NIMH	Taxonomy of adherence research: How models of therapeutic adherence research fit within clinical settings
Jeffrey Curtis, MD, MS, MPH, UAB	Improving therapeutic adherence and utilization of large databases in therapeutic adherence research

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

**Friday, March 18**

**"Infusing Integrative Bioethics into Research Partnerships: Bioethical Dialogue on Respect and Power-Sharing**

Presented at the Tuskegee University Kellogg Conference Center  
9:30am-4:30pm

**Wednesday, May 4**

**Center for Genomic Medicine Symposium**

**Presented by:**

**The University of Alabama at Birmingham and  
HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology  
Jackson Center, Huntsville, AL**

**10am-3pm**

Hear talks from specialists and gain the opportunity to ask questions of a distinguished panel of experts.

You will have the chance to tour the innovative HudsonAlpha facility, enjoy a networking lunch with your peers and discuss with colleagues over cocktails at the evening social.

Registration is free of charge. Agenda and registration information to follow.

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***Funding Opportunity: REACT RFA***

## Request for Applications for Pilot Studies

The NIH national Rehabilitation Research Resource to Enhance Clinical Trials (REACT), based at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), invites letters of intent for pilot studies that address novel scientific questions related to medical rehabilitation and that will lead to more definitive clinical trials.

**Eligibility.** This program supports full-time faculty investigators in biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social sciences at academic institutions in the US who are eligible to receive NIH funding. We encourage applications from interdisciplinary research teams, underrepresented minority applicants and faculty at all ranks.

**Application Procedure.** This funding mechanism involves a two-phased application process (see Key Dates for details). For the pre-application phase, applicants are requested to submit the following documents as a single PDF file to [REACTCenter@uab.edu](mailto:REACTCenter@uab.edu) no later than February 15, 2016 at 5:00 PM Central Time:

1. Letter of Intent (limited to 2 pages, excluding references), to include:  
Investigative Team, Specific Aims, Significance & Innovation, Approach, and Plan for seeking future extramural funding for a clinical trial.
2. Description of REACT resources that may be sought to support the pilot study (limited to ½ page). See website for description of resources available.
3. NIH Biosketches of the PI and co-investigators.

Pre-applications selected for Phase 2 full application will be expected to submit a 6-page proposal, as well as a budget and budget justification.

**Criteria for Review.** Emphasis will be placed on scientific merit and likelihood that the work will advance to a more-definitive clinical trial. Applications responsive to this RFA should focus on medical rehabilitation of a broad range of chronic diseases and acute conditions, e.g., muscle, bone, or joint diseases; neurodegenerative or neurodevelopmental diseases; traumatic injury (e.g., SCI, TBI); stroke; cancer; aging/frailty; or post-surgical rehabilitation.

**Funding.** It is anticipated that up to four pilot studies will be awarded. Applicants may request up to \$40,000 direct costs. Awards are limited to 12 months in duration. Indirect costs are capped at 47% (UAB federally negotiated rate).

**Questions?** Application guidelines and answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are available on the REACT website: <https://react.center/funding/>. For additional questions, contact Mr. Jeff Foster at (205) 996-6086 or email [REACTCenter@uab.edu](mailto:REACTCenter@uab.edu).

The REACT Center is supported by NIH grant 1P2CHD086851.

The central goal of the REACT Center Pilot Studies Program is to catalyze the success of medical rehabilitation researchers and interdisciplinary teams by providing consultation, seed funds, key expertise and resources for the conduct of innovative pilot projects, early-stage proof-of-concept studies, and feasibility studies needed to shape more definitive clinical trials.

### Key Dates

Letter of Intent Due Date	February 15, 2016 5:00 PM CT
Invitation to Submit Full Application	March 7, 2016
Full Application Due Date	April 18, 2016 5:00 PM CT
Review Process Completed	May 23, 2016
Start Date of Awards	June 20, 2016

[Click for PDF](#) of announcement; visit the [REACT website](#).

**UAB Research Orientation Program - Starts Thursday, Jan. 28**



**UAB Research Orientation Program** is a program designed for the investigators and research staff that are new to research (possibly within the first 2 months of starting in research).

The content of the program will be a basic review of how to implement a sponsored or investigator initiated study including clinical, regulatory and financial aspects. The intent of this program is to provide a basic overview of implementing a study, familiarize attendees with the language, and hopefully provide guidance on avoiding pitfalls when starting out. This is not an all-encompassing program, but will provide basic tools and some of the necessary language in order to successfully conduct a research study.

We encourage new faculty, coordinators, budget and regulatory staff to attend. At this time there is no cost for the program.

The UAB Research Orientation Program will be offered the fourth Thursday of each month 8am - noon in PCAMS (1924 7th Avenue S).

Please [see the attachment for the program flier.](#)

Link for the registration form: [www.uab.edu/ccts/training/19-training-academy/250-uab-research-orientation-program](http://www.uab.edu/ccts/training/19-training-academy/250-uab-research-orientation-program)

Please complete the form and email to [dpatel80@uab.edu](mailto:dpatel80@uab.edu); or for questions call 205.975.2758.

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## ***Announcing the CCTS Research Voucher Program*** **Accelerate Discovery with CCTS Research Vouchers**

The [CCTS Research Voucher Program](#) provides direct research support to investigators throughout the partner network. Investigators may use vouchers to

offset expense(s) for clinical and translational research services, including clinical research units, sample handling and biospecimen storage, necessary laboratory tests, study design and methodology, database handling, informatics and other CCTS-related resources across the Partner Institutions.

[ICYMI: Our January 6 Forum topic focused on the Voucher Program-click to review the presentation.](#)

Apply for up to \$5,000 (direct) in research support to facilitate the rapid and efficient implementation of a study by working closely with shared facilities using state-of-the-art methodologies.

Applications must outline:

- Experimental need
- What will be enabled by the investment (e.g., manuscript, grant application, additional aims)
- Provide a budget with justification

Proposals which seek to use CCTS Resources will be given special consideration. All lines of investigation supported by the CCTS Research Voucher Program require appropriate regulatory approvals (IRB, IACUC, as applicable) in advance of award and study implementation.

Voucher Ideas (not an exhaustive list):

- I would like to use CRSP and the Clinical Research Unit to recruit, consent and collect blood specimens from a few participants to generate preliminary data for an R01.
- I need extended biostatistics consultation / methodologic assistance from USA's Translational Research Services Unit, which will inform the research strategy of an investigator-initiated clinical trial.
- I would like to image a few healthy controls at Auburn University's MRI Research Center to establish study feasibility for a potential career development award.
- I need help to develop a REDCap database to aid in the collection, management and archival of clinical research data.

Please visit [CCTS Research Commons](#) to learn more about available CCTS resources and capacities across the [Partner Network](#). If you have any questions about eligible opportunities.

Research Voucher Requests will be accepted electronically as [a single PDF](#) by CCTS Research Commons ([ccts@uab.edu](mailto:ccts@uab.edu)) on a rolling basis. Applications will be reviewed by the CCTS Executive Council for scientific merit, mission alignment, appropriateness of the budget and justification of need.

Questions? Contact the CCTS--call: 205-934-7442 or email: [ccts@uab.edu](mailto:ccts@uab.edu)



# ACTS Translational Science 2016 Travel Awards Deadline Extended \*Due January 31\*



The Center for Clinical and Translation Science (CCTS) is pleased to offer travel awards to investigators and trainees across the [CCTS Partner Network](#) who are interested in presenting their work at the upcoming [ACTS Translational Science Meeting](#).

Available for investigators and teams at all levels of career development, with special emphasis on junior faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students. Requires an abstract submission as a presenter at the Translational Science 2016 Meeting, taking place April 13-15, 2016, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC.

What You Will Experience at ACTS:

- Translational Science 2016 will offer more continuing education than ever before!
- Hear dedicated plenary sessions, view abstracts during expanded poster-hall viewing hours with dedicated oral presentation time, and over thirty 60-minute breakout sessions covering the following topic areas:
  - Translational Science in the Digital Age
  - Dissemination and Implementation Science
  - Team Science
  - Learning and Development Science
  - Innovation and Entrepreneurial Science
  - Integrity & Conduct of Clinical and Translational Science
  - Translational Science Acceleration
  - Informative Examples of Translational Science
- The Translational Science Meeting spotlights cutting-edge achievements in clinical and translational investigation, research impact, networking and scientific community, exposure to novel methods, best practices and important resources, and career development programs.

Learn more about the meeting and [REGISTRATION INFORMATION](#) for Translational Science 2016.

Travel awards of up to \$1,000 will be available from the CCTS to match funds from the researcher's department.

Please submit the following materials to the CCTS to apply for your travel award:

- Copy of submitted abstract
- Letter from the Chair of your Department specifying they will provide matching funds in the amount of \$1,000 towards travel.

Please submit your application for a travel award to Angie Schmeckebier/CCTS Research Commons at [ccts@uab.edu](mailto:ccts@uab.edu) no later than January 31, 2016.

## BIOSTATISTICS & *BIOREPOSITORY*\*(*\*new!*)

### **Mondays**

#### **Epidemiology/Biostatistics Clinic in The Edge of Chaos**

This clinic provides the UAB community access to epidemiology and biostatistics resources. Available most **Mondays, 10am-2pm** in The Edge of Chaos (Lister Hill Library, 4th floor). Check the [Edge of Chaos calendar](#) for confirmation of meeting dates and times.

### **UAB CCTS Biostatistics & Biorepository Clinics**

#### **Biostats: Weekly on Wednesdays, 11:30am-1pm**

#### **Biorepository: First Wednesday of each month, 11:30am-1pm**

**PCAMS Building 1924 7th Avenue South**

We've expanded our Biostats Clinic to include members of our CCTS Biorepository Team. On the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of each month, experts from our [CCTS Core Lab](#) will join the CCTS Biostats experts to **answer questions and provide consultative services on any aspect of specimen collection, specimen management, specimen processing and biorepository needs.**

**The Biostatistics & Biorepository Clinics** are open to all faculty members, post-docs, fellows, residents, and students. Attendees are invited to bring statistical and methodological questions about on-going research projects, projects being planned, manuscripts in progress, responses to peer reviewers, and published articles. They are also invited to bring their laptops. Assistance will be provided by members of the [CCTS BERD & Biorepository groups](#). A light lunch is served.

### ***BERD Design Consultation Available Today***

If you can't visit the clinic, please contact the **BERD** or the **Core Lab** at your convenience by emailing [ccts@uab.edu](mailto:ccts@uab.edu), calling (205) 934-7442, or

connecting through [Research Commons](#) on the [CCTS home page](#).

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