

December 3, 2018



CCTS DIGEST

Center for Clinical and Translational Science

Providing solutions to sharpen science, improve human health, and address disparities and diseases disproportionately represented within the Deep South.



Did You Know?

Earlier this year, the NIH launched the **HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative**, an "aggressive, trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis." Goals include understanding the biological underpinnings of chronic pain; accelerating the discovery and pre-clinical development of non-addictive pain treatments; advancing new non-addictive pain treatments through the clinical pipeline; and informing best practices for effective pain management while minimizing the risk of addiction. HEAL provides \$500 million a year to fund research aligned with these goals. In support of the HEAL initiative, NCATS has released **RFA-NS-19-010 (UG3/UH3)**, which will support research focused on developing human cell-based screening platforms and novel drugs to treat pain, addiction, and overdose. HEAL offers hope to the 2 million Americans estimated to have an opioid use disorder as well as the ~25 million who suffer from daily chronic pain. [More](#)

News/Announcements



Peer Review Got You Down? January Forum Will Feature Latest Advice from Biomedical Journal Editors

If one of your 2019 resolutions is to see your research make it into a leading biomedical journal, mark your calendar for our first CCTS Forum of the year on **Wednesday, Jan. 9**. Joined by a multidisciplinary panel of Editors-in-Chief, CCTS will explore best practices and what aspiring authors need to consider as they prepare articles for peer review. With rejection rates as high as 90% among certain high-impact journals and major changes on the horizon to address data sharing and reproducibility, even well-established science writers will benefit from this discussion. CCTS Director of Genomic Medicine, UAB Chief Genomic Officer, and Editor-in-Chief, *American Journal of Human Genetics*, Bruce Korf, MD, PhD, will present and moderate. [More](#)



CCTS Co-Director Spotlights Informatics Advances at Annual Meeting

UAB Informatics Institute Director and CCTS Co-Director James J. Cimino, MD, summarized the key developments in biomedical informatics as described in 106 nominated papers at the 2018 American Medical Informatics Association meeting in San Francisco. From tools to improve the quality of care for patients and reduce burnout for clinicians to techniques that extract knowledge from noise in Big Biological Data sets, the field of

informatics is revolutionizing the information infrastructures that support the full spectrum of health-related research and practice. Now that's translation in action! [More](#)



Featured Community Partner: Community Food Bank of Central Alabama

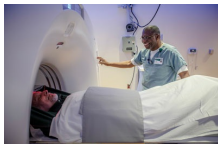
Food insecurity impacts health in several ways, including higher risk of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. In Alabama, more than 19% of the population (~919,670 people) are food insecure, ranking it 2nd highest in the nation for food hardship. Kathryn Strickland, Executive Director of the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama, offered hope when she spoke at our November One Great Community meeting ([view her slide deck](#)). She described how a small food pantry in the UAB NICU blossomed into an initiative (RX Health) that helps train health care providers on how to screen patients for food insecurity. Several UAB health clinics (geriatrics, diabetes, heart failure, and family medicine) not only screen now, but also offer referrals to the Food Bank Benefits Enrollment Center, where they can sign up for SNAP (food stamps). Partnerships with Medicaid, UAB Blazer Kitchen, and the UAB Benevolent Fund are also extending the reach and impact of the Food Bank. Learn more about how you can [help end hunger across our region](#). [More](#)



Submit an Abstract to the Second Conference on Bioethics in Minority Health and Health Disparities Research

"Effective Health Care and Inclusion: Growing the Next Generation of Researchers for Bioethics, Biomedical, Behavioral, and Health Disparities Research," cohosted by Morehouse School of Medicine, Tuskegee University, and the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, will take place in Opelika, AL, from Wednesday, Jan. 23 to Friday, Jan. 25, 2019. Poster and oral presentation abstracts are due by **Friday, December 7, 2018**. [More](#)

Funding Opportunities



Enhance Your Research with a CCTS and/or Radiology Imaging Development Voucher

Do you have specimens that need processing, data that need analyzing, or subjects who require dietary, nursing, or regulatory support? Would your project benefit from molecular, functional or anatomic images? The CCTS and UAB Dept. of Radiology voucher programs offer extra support that may help take your research to the next level. Investigators with a full-time faculty appointment at any CCTS Partner institution are encouraged to apply. Each program offers up to \$5,000 in direct costs. [More](#)



CCTS Announces Call for Mentored Career Development Program (KL2) Letters of Intent

Are you a junior faculty member with a passion for translational research? Do you want to help reduce the burden of health disparities and diseases that disproportionately affect the underserved minority and special populations in the AL, LA, and MS region? If so, consider applying to become our next CCTS KL2 scholar. Applicants must commit to a minimum of 75% effort for two years, receiving expert mentorship, research experience, and salary, training, and travel support. Open to eligible CCTS Partner Network institutions. **Submit a Pre-Application by Friday, December 7, 2018**. [More](#)



Collaborative Program Grant for Multidisciplinary Teams (RM1) (Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Designed to support highly integrated research teams of three to six PD/PIs to address ambitious and challenging research questions that are important for the mission of National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and are beyond the scope of one or two investigators. **Letter of Intent due December 25, 2018.** [More](#)



Apply for NCATS SBIR and STTR Funding Through the 2018 Omnibus Solicitation

NCATS recently released two new SBIR/STTR funding opportunities through the 2018 Omnibus Solicitation. Representatives of small businesses and research organizations focused on commercializing innovative medical technologies are encouraged to **submit applications to PA-18-574 and PA-18-575 by 5pm, Monday, January 7, 2019.** [More](#)



Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN): Cancer Immunoprevention Research Projects (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

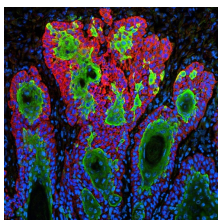
NIH has released two new FOAs associated with the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot Initiative that is intended to accelerate cancer research. Specifically, these FOAs seeks to support the creation of a translational science network devoted exclusively to immunotherapy approaches to treat and prevent adult cancers. **Submit applications to RFA-CA-19-014 and RFA-CA-19-015 by 5pm, Thursday, February 8, 2019.** [More](#)



**NATIONAL
CANCER
INSTITUTE**

Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN): Cancer Immunoprevention Research Projects (UG3/UH3)

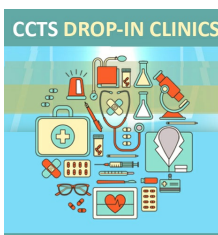
The purpose of this FOA, associated with the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot Initiative, is to support UG3/UH3 Cancer Immunoprevention Phased Award Projects. Applicants responding to this FOA must apply for both the UG3 and UH3 phases together in a single application. **Applications due Monday, February 11, 2019 by 5pm local time.** [More](#)



Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN): Immuno-engineering to Improve Immunotherapy (i3) Centers (U54 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

The purpose of this FOA is to develop Immuno-engineering to Improve Immunotherapy (i3) Centers, as new components of the IOTN. The i3 Centers will be comprised of multi-disciplinary teams focused on developing and employing engineered immunotherapy approaches to design more durable, widely accessible, and less toxic immunoprevention and immunotherapy strategies. **Applications due Monday, February 11, 2019, by 5pm local time.** [More](#)

This Week's Learning Opportunities



CCTS Drop-In Clinics

Join us for the weekly Monday Drop-In Clinic for free consultations in **Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design**. No appointment necessary. Bring laptop and study related questions.

Dec. 3 | 10am-2pm | Edge of Chaos | [More](#)



An American Society of Human Genetics-American Journal of Human Genetics Webinar

Bruce Korf, MD, PhD, CCTS Director of Genomic Medicine, will moderate "From Gene to Therapy." Matthew Alexander, PhD, Assistant Professor in Pediatric Neurology and Genetics at UAB and Children's of Alabama, will contribute to the panel discussion. Registration required.

Dec. 4 | 12-1pm | Webinar | [More](#)

CCTS DROP-IN CLINICS



CCTS Drop-In Clinics

Join us for the first Wednesday Drop-In Clinics for free consultations in [Biostats](#), [Epidemiology and Research Design](#), [Biorepository](#), [Biorepository](#), [Bionutrition](#), and [Clinical Research Unit](#). No appointment necessary. Bring laptop and study related questions.

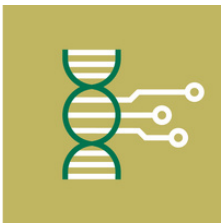
Dec. 5 | 11:30am-1pm | PCAMS | [More](#)



Special Topics in Clinical Trials (Research Seminar Series)

The CCTS Clinical Research Support Program team will present a "Stress Management." CMEs will be provided for this one-hour session. Zoom available.

Dec. 6 | 12-1pm | PCAMS | [More](#)



5th Annual Comprehensive Arthritis, Musculoskeletal, Bone, and Autoimmunity Center (CAMBAC) Research Day

CCTS will cosponsor and exhibit at CAMBAC Research Day. The theme is "Regenerative Medicine in Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Disease." A poster session will be held to highlight research related to CAMBAC themes. Undergrad and graduate students, postdocs, clinical fellows, and residents are encouraged to attend. [CAMBAC Day is free, but registration is required.](#)

Dec. 7 | 8am-4pm | UAB Alumni House | [More](#)



Informatics Institute PowerTalks Colloquia

Allen Bryan, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, UAB Dept. of Pathology, Division of Laboratory Medicine, will discuss "Quality Improvement with CDW Mining, Graph-Network Analysis & Visualization: The INFECTALYTICS Project."

Dec. 7 | 10:15-11:30am | Shelby 105 | [More](#)

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

[CCTS Clinical Trials Lunch & Learn](#)

Registration requested

Dec. 11 | 11:30am-12:45pm | Spain Auditorium

[Informatics Institute PowerTalks Colloquia: The UAB Undiagnosed Diseases Program: Bioinformatic Applications in Rare Disorders](#)

Dec. 14 | 10:15-11:30am | Shelby 105

[Training Interdisciplinary Emerging Research Scholars \(TIERS\): Academic Writing: Five Tips for Success](#)

Registration requested
Dec. 14 | 11am-12pm | PCAMS | Zoom Available

JANUARY

Inaugural UAB Cohort Studies Symposium

Registration required
Jan. 4 | 8am-1pm | Edge of Chaos

CCTS First Friday Mentoring Lunch

Registration required
Jan. 4 | 12-1pm | PCAMS

Case Studies in Mentoring: Maintaining Effective Communication

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome
Jan. 9 | 11am-12pm | Shelby 318 | Zoom Available

CCTS Forum - Mastering Peer Review: Insights from the Editors

Jan. 9 | 4:00-5:30pm | PCAMS | Zoom Available

University of South Alabama Center for Healthy Communities Forum on Community-Engaged Scholarship

Building Blocks for Impactful Community Engagement Toward Health Equity
Registration required
Jan. 11 | 8:30am-3:30pm | University of South Alabama Student Center Ballroom

Case Studies in Mentoring: Aligning Mentor/Mentee Expectations

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome
Jan. 16 | 11am-12pm | Shelby 318 | Zoom Available

Case Studies in Mentoring: Assessing Mentee Understanding

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome
Jan. 23 | 11am-12pm | Shelby 318 | Zoom Available

2019 Conference on Bioethics Issues in Minority Health and Health Disparities Research

Effective Health Care and Inclusion: Growing the Next Generation of Researchers for Bioethics, Biomedical, Behavioral, and Health Disparities Research
Registration required
Jan. 23-25 | Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center

Case Studies in Mentoring: Addressing Equity and Inclusion

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome
Jan. 30 | 11am-12pm | Shelby 318 | Zoom Available

Complete listing of CCTS events