**UAB-UCSD O’Brien Center for Acute Kidney Injury Research**

**NIH U54 DK137307**  [http://www.ObrienAKI.org](http://www.ObrienAKI.org)

**Overview**

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)-University of California at San Diego (UCSD) O’Brien Center for Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) Research is an interdisciplinary center of excellence in AKI-related research, and beginning in 2023, is a member of the O’Brien Kidney Consortium as one of the seven U54 National Resource Centers (NRCs).

The overall theme of this Center is to focus on pre-clinical, translational, and clinical research in AKI. This Center shares resources, methods, and innovations with the Consortium under the guidance of the Steering Committee, National Coordinating Center (NCC), and NIDDK to attract new scientific expertise into the field.

**Biomedical Resource Core A: Clinical Studies of AKI**

**Objective:** To support investigators in the O’Brien Kidney Consortium in the conduct of clinical and translational research in AKI to catalyze the translation of bench discoveries to applications that impact outcomes in human AKI.

**Aims:**
- Support clinical research related to kidney disease.
- Engage medical students at UAB and UCSDF through the Summer Student Training Program (SSTP).
- Provide access to clinical data of patients at risk for or with AKI and consultation for their use.
- Provide access to biospecimens of patients at risk for or with AKI and consultation for their use.
- Provide novel bioinformatics tools for the utilization of big data with a focus on personalized medicine in AKI and team science research.

**Biomedical Resource Core B: Pre-Clinical Studies of AKI**

**Objective:** To provide investigators with a resource for animal models, small animal imaging and renal physiology studies relevant to AKI.

**Aims:**
- Integrate our two institution-based O’Brien Center into the O’Brien Kidney Consortium.
- Foster meaningful interactions among investigators in the O’Brien Kidney Consortium.
- Share the Center’s intellectual resources and infrastructure.
- Utilize the Resource Development Core to respond to the evolving needs of investigators.
- Develop tomorrow’s thought leaders through the Summer Student Training Program (SSTP).
- Develop an incubator for novel technologies to support pre-clinical research in AKI.
- Develop an incubator for digital workspace technologies to support EHR data analysis in AKI.

**Resource Development Core**

**Co-Directors:** Javier Neyra, MD, UAB (jneyra@uab.edu)
Ravindra L. Mehta, MD, UCSD (rmehta@ucsd.edu)

**Objective:** To provide logistic, administrative, financial, and scientific oversight.

**Aims:**
- Promote opportunities that attract early-stage and new investigators to AKI research.
- Promote diversity of scientists pursuing AKI-related research.
- Collaborate with the National Coordinating Center and the Consortium to educate the community about AKI research.
- Optimize training and educational opportunities in kidney research for medical students through a Summer Student Training Program (SSTP).
- Engage medical students at UAB and UCSF through the Summer Student Training Program (SSTP).

**Enrollment**

**Co-Directors:** Lisa M Curtis, PhD, UAB (lmcurtis@uab.edu)
Joachim H. Ix, MD, UCSD (joi@ucsd.edu)

**Objective:** To promote a future interest in kidney research through the Summer Student Training Program (SSTP).

**Aims:**
- Engage medical students at UAB and UCSF through the Summer Student Training Program (SSTP).
- 10- to 12-week program.
- Bench and clinical research related to kidney disease.
- Expand research and training support beyond that provided by the U54 Award to offer enrichment activities.

- **Administrative Core**
  - **Co-Directors:** Javier Neyra, MD, UAB (jneyra@uab.edu)
  - Ravindra L. Mehta, MD, UCSD (rmehta@ucsd.edu)

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  **Aims:**
  - Provide access to clinical data of patients at risk for or with AKI and consultation for their use.
  - Provide access to biospecimens of patients at risk for or with AKI and consultation for their use.
  - Provide novel bioinformatics tools for the utilization of big data with a focus on personalized medicine in AKI and team science research.

**Administrative Resources**

- **Biophysical Resource Core A:**
  - **Co-Directors:** Paul W. Sanders, MD, UAB (psanders@uab.edu)
  - ravindra.m.eht@ucsd.edu

  **Objective:** To support investigators in the O’Brien Kidney Consortium in the conduct of clinical and translational research in AKI to catalyze the translation of bench discoveries to applications that impact outcomes in human AKI.

  **Aims:**
  - Support the Center’s intellectual resources and infrastructure.
  - Utilize the Resource Development Core to respond to the evolving needs of investigators.
  - Develop tomorrow’s thought leaders through the Summer Student Training Program (SSTP).

  **Administrative Resources**

- **Biophysical Resource Core B:**
  - **Co-Directors:** Joachim H. Ix, MD, UCSD (joi@ucsd.edu)

  **Objective:** To provide logistic, administrative, financial, and scientific oversight.

  **Aims:**
  - Engage medical students at UAB and UCSF through the Summer Student Training Program (SSTP).
  - 10- to 12-week program.
  - Bench and clinical research related to kidney disease.
  - Expand research and training support beyond that provided by the U54 Award to offer enrichment activities.

**Contact Information**

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