Happy Anniversary!

July marked the first anniversary of the NIH Clinical Translational Science Award that funds the CTSI. Where are we after our first year? This and prior newsletters have reflected the remarkable progress this comprehensive program has made. Please read about each program and visit the website at http://ctsi.med.nyu.edu/

In the middle of the first year we were reviewed by our external advisory board, composed of a number of distinguished colleagues from around the country. The members of our advisory board included the Director of a large and established CTSI as well as experts in informatics, education and community-based research from CTSIs. In preparation for their visit the directors of each of the components of the CTSI prepared a comprehensive review of their efforts and accomplishments to date. Fortunately we passed with flying colors; each component had created a remarkable structure, was productive and well on its way to achieving its aims. Indeed, the only suggestion was to limit our goals in light of the major NIH cuts to the CTSA budgets.

We have made great progress in establishing our education and career support programs with 4 junior faculty members receiving KL2 support from the CTSI. Our community engagement and population health research (CEPHR) group is sought for advice nationally on promoting community- and outcomes-oriented research. We have made progress in recruiting an outstanding cadre of faculty members to establish the Center for Health Informatics and Bioinformatics, and there is even some progress in developing and mining a federated data warehouse and standardized data collection systems at NYU Langone Medical Center. The biostatistics luncheon consultations were launched and well attended, the TRIP symposia have been extremely popular, and the 17 pilot studies supporting T1-T3 translational research have been funded. Through our Regulatory core, Research-Match.org was launched to help link patients and normal individuals who want to participate in trials with appropriate clinical trials. The Clinical Research Center (CRC) continues to support 75 protocols in the areas of AIDS/HIV, Cardiology, Epilepsy, Psychiatry, Pulmonary, and many others. Two supplemental NIH grants have been obtained—to support cores and Comparative Effectiveness research trainees. The Center for Evaluation and Assessment was also created to measure progress and ensure that we are achieving our goals.

Despite our successful record in establishing the structures of the CTSI, supporting pilot and other projects and obtaining supplemental funding, we should note that it is easier to blow out the candles when you are young because there are so few candles. How do we capitalize on our initial successes? This is the challenge that we face as we head into our second year. Among the opportunities is our partnership with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) to build research that translates medical advances into the improved health of our community. We are optimistic and look forward to working with the program directors and the whole community to achieve these goals.

- Bruce Cronstein, MD & Judith Hochman, MD
Co-Directors of the NYU-HHC CTSI
RFA for CTSI Translational Research Pilot Projects

The NYU-HHC Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is seeking applications for translational research pilot projects. The intent of the NYU-HHC CTSI Translational Research Pilot Project Awards is to support collaborative scientific studies for one year to enable development of preliminary data that will serve as the foundation for submission of translational research grant applications.

The purpose of the Request for Applications (RFA) is to support the development of T1-T3 translational research among investigators associated with the CTSI. Awards of up to $50,000 will be distributed to support one-year projects (with the potential for one-year no-cost extensions), beginning January, 2011. A 1-page letter of intent (~500 words) indicating the purpose of the proposed project must be submitted no later than October 1, 2010. Those invited to apply must submit a full application by November 17, 2010.

This call for applications is aimed at all phases of translational research along the continuum from bench to beside to community. T1 translational research refers to the process of applying discoveries made in the laboratory. T2 translational research focuses on clinical studies using human subjects. T3 translational research refers to the translation, diffusion, and adoption of evidence-based health strategies and interventions into community and practice settings (representative methods include community-based participatory research, practice-based research, comparative effectiveness research, behavioral economics, implementation research, and dissemination research).

Please visit the CTSI website (http://ctsi.med.nyu.edu/investigators/grants) for more information. If you have questions, please email Mark Concepcion mark.concepcion@nyumc.org or call him at 212-263-2584.

Clinical Research Center (CRC)
Protocol Spotlight: Obesity, Insulin Resistance and Brains in Adolescents

There are over 60 million obese individuals in the United States and the rate of obesity is rising at an alarming rate. The rate of overweight and obesity among children stands at over 30%. Obesity leads to insulin resistance, which is a progressive pre-diabetic condition, and there is emerging evidence that both type 2 diabetes and insulin resistance may damage the brain. The purpose of Dr. Antonio Convit’s study is to establish the nature of the cognitive impairments present among obese adolescents with insulin resistance, and by means of a systematic and standardized neuropsychological and MRI- approach to further characterize the brain substrates for those abnormalities. In the CTSI’s clinical research center located at Bellevue Hospital 8E, insulin resistance in adolescents is determined by performing a frequently sampled intravenous glucose tolerance test (FSIVGTT). In addition, Dr. Convit’s study is looking at matched lean and obese adolescents without insulin resistance to detect whether cognitive impairments exist. Obesity and insulin resistance are associated with inflammation and this too will be evaluated. Future endeavors will include whether adolescents show a reduction in cerebral vascular reactivity that is related to their degree of obesity and insulin resistance.
To kick off the CTSI’s Mentor Development Program, the TREC (Training Research Education and Careers) core and the School of Medicine hosted guest Mitchell Feldman, MD, M.Phil in May, 2010. Dr. Feldman is the Director of the University of California, San Francisco’s Faculty Mentoring Program and Co-Director of the Mentor Development Program of UCSF’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute. UCSF’s mentoring programs are widely regarded as the most dynamic of their kind.

Dr. Feldman’s visit exemplified the kind of inter-CTSI collaboration encouraged by the NIH. Over the course of two days, Dr. Feldman conferred with NYU School of Medicine’s Senior Vice President and Vice Dean for Science, Dr. Vivian Lee; the principal investigators of NYU’s CTSI, Drs. Judith Hochman and Bruce Cronstein; the Division of General Internal Medicine’s Director, Dr. Marc Gourevitch; and the CTSI’s Mentor Development Program Director, Dr. Adina Kalet. As a result of these meetings, NYU’s young mentor development program established a blueprint of six training sessions for an inaugural cohort of fourteen junior faculty mentors. The first session, led by Dr. Feldman, defined the roles and expectations for the mentoring team. Helpful tools, including a checklist for mentors and mentees and the concept of an Individual Development Plan (IDP), were presented and discussed within the context of case scenarios. The rewards and challenges of mentorship were also highlighted, with the cohort ultimately motivated to mentor novice researchers.

The essentials of effective communication between mentors and mentees, including personal awareness, active listening, diversity, and emotional intelligence, were highlighted in the second session. Dr. Feldman provided tools to assess underlying issues affecting the mentee’s performance, addressed potential roles of conflict, and demonstrated strategies to help the mentee identify his or her true skills and passions. The remaining four sessions of NYU’s Mentor Development Program will address time management, self-differentiation and attunement, leadership, and writing. After the first cohort graduates, the next cohort of mentors will be selected in early 2011.

Dr. Feldman was also invited to speak at a special Translational Research In Progress session. His lecture “Enhancing Management of Depression in Primary Care” was attended by clinicians and researchers from across the NYU-HCC campus. Additionally, he presented “Does Mentoring Matter: Enhancing Mentor Development and Assessment in Academic Medicine” at TREC Grand Rounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Cohort of Mentors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trainee</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanie Jay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Hsiang) Shonna Yin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antoinette Schoenthaler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yael Goverover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mei Fu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Izmirly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Krogsgaard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Samuels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Lim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nirav Shah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farzana Kapadia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Svetlana Krasnokutsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleen Gillespie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grants Received in Comparative Effectiveness

The Community Engagement and Population Health Research (CEPHR) Core of the CTSI is very pleased to announce three grants recently awarded in comparative effectiveness.

- The NYU Health Promotion and Prevention Research Center (NYU PRC) at the NYU School of Medicine received a $3.2 million award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish a Comparative Effectiveness Research Program focused on hypertension and colorectal cancer health disparities in African-American men in New York City. The NYU PRC is one of only four of the 37 PRC research facilities nationwide to receive this prestigious award. The Comparative Effectiveness Research Program will provide a unique opportunity to develop the research infrastructure of the NYU PRC to conduct community-level and community-driven comparative effectiveness research. Led by Drs. R. Scott Braithwaite, Joseph Ravenell, Mariano Rey, and Chau Trinh-Shevrin, the multidisciplinary team includes faculty investigators from the NYU Health Promotion and Prevention Research Center (PRC) and the NYU School of Medicine’s Division of General Internal Medicine (DGIM). Other key faculty investigators include: Drs. Nadia Islam and Simona Kwon (NYU PRC); Drs. Marc Gourevitch, Nirav Shah, Olugbenga Ogedegbe, and Antoinette Schoenthaler (DGIM); Dr. Brian Elbel (DGIM/Wagner School); and Dr. Nancy Van Devanter (College of Nursing). Community partners include the Arthur Ashe Institute, Church-based Health Outreach and Screening Network (CHOSEN), Community Health Worker Network of New York City, Denny Moe’s Superstar Barbershop, Global Cancer Control, and Marian 4 HOPE.

- The Section on Value and Comparative Effectiveness in the Division of General Internal Medicine also received a $2,126,886 award from the Agency for Healthcare Reform and Quality (AHRQ) to establish the Comparative Effectiveness Research Training Program (CERTP). The program will train four post-doctoral physician-scholars in decision-centered comparative effectiveness research; leverage the links between NYU and other stakeholders in the health of the urban underserved to build scholars’ skills and professional networks to address real-world research challenges in comparative effectiveness research; and focus these training efforts on mechanisms for improving health and healthcare delivery decisions that affect underserved urban populations. Led by Drs. R. Scott Braithwaite, Mark Schwartz, Nirav Shah, and Marc Gourevitch (DGIM); and Dr. Michael Pillinger (CTSI Training, Research, Education and Careers Core Director); core mentor faculty will include Drs. Olugbenga Ogedegbe and Scott Sherman (DGIM); and Dr. David Bates (Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics on Healthcare Information Technology at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School). Additional research mentors and teachers will include Drs. Francesca Gany, Sundar Natarajan, and Melissa Bender (DGIM); Dr. Brian Elbel (DGIM/Wagner School); Dr. Judith D. Goldberg (CTSI Biostatistics Core Director); and Dr. Michael Weitzman (Pediatrics).

- Finally, the NYU-HHC CTSI and the Section on Value and Comparative Effectiveness in DGIM was also awarded a CTSI Supplement for $360,159 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The award supports development of a Comparative Effectiveness Research Certificate Program in the NYU-HHC CTSI and will allow three clinician trainees to participate in a one-year research training and mentorship program in comparative effectiveness research methods. Leadership and administration of the project will come from Drs. Scott Braithwaite and Mark Schwartz. Other participating faculty will include Drs. Nirav Shah, Marc Gourevitch, and Olugbenga Ogedegbe (DGIM); and Dr. Brian Elbel (DGIM/Wagner School).
CEPHR Core Undertakes Strategic Planning Process

In May and June 2010, the Community Engagement and Population Health Research (CEPHR) Core’s Faculty Steering Committee undertook a strategic planning process to develop an action plan for its work. With the guidance of retreat facilitator Deborah Zahn, staff and members of the committee met for two half-day retreats. The overall goals of the retreats were to:

- Define the role and charge of the CEPHR Steering Committee
- Identify opportunities and challenges for community engagement and population health research within NYU
- Outline a 3-5 year strategic plan

In the first session, the group developed an initial statement of CEPHR’s future vision. They identified gaps and resources for achieving its vision, the roles of the group, and initial action steps. In the second session, the group clarified CEPHR’s roles and their future vision statement and outlined key elements of a strategic plan, including actions and a timeline. CEPHR staff will use these materials to develop a strategic plan document setting forth strategies to achieve the following goals:

- To facilitate and support community engagement and population health research through consultation, training and education
- To support NYU and HHC researchers to secure extramural funding for community-engaged and population health research
- To make contributions to general knowledge and to policy on population and community health through research
- To develop and support infrastructures to facilitate community-engaged and population health research, particularly in collaboration with HHC
- To advance the science of community engagement and population health
- To support and foster equitable collaborations between communities and researchers to sustain the work of the Core.

The CEPHR Faculty Steering Committee is made up of 32 faculty members from NYU Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Education, Social Work, Public Administration, and Dentistry. The committee includes 3 representatives from the Community Advisory Board, as well as representation from HHC. The CEPHR Core is co-directed by Drs. Mariano Rey and Marc Gourevitch.
The Study Design, Biostatistics and Clinical Research Ethics Core held a series of well attended open consulting workshops in June and July 2010. These Workshops offer an opportunity for researchers to obtain a brief statistical consultation regarding study design and analysis issues. These workshops also provide an opportunity to learn about the resources that are available for statistical consultation and collaboration. Workshops will resume in September. Look for the announcement.

A successful collaboration of this Core and other CTSI cores with Dr. Harold Brem, Director, Division of Wound Healing and Regenerative Medicine in the Department of Surgery, resulted in the funding of a new 3-year R01 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to study “The Wound EMR to Decrease Limb Amputations in Persons with Diabetes” which includes major funding for the Biostatistics team. An on-line pilot of a modular course ‘Introduction to Biostatistics’ will be available soon. A request for volunteers to participate in this pilot will be forthcoming. We welcome your participation and feedback.

NYU Langone Medical Center Joins ResearchMatch.org

NYU Langone Medical Center is collaborating with other academic medical centers across the country, supported by the NIH/NCRR CTSA program, to make the ResearchMatch.org registry available to researchers and the general public. This web-based recruitment registry was developed to “match” volunteers who are willing to participate in clinical studies with researchers from participating institutions who are using the registry as a volunteer recruitment tool. The ResearchMatch.org program at NYU Langone Medical Center is part of the Regulatory Knowledge and Support Group of the CTSI administered by IRB Director Elan Czeisler.

Learn more about the ResearchMatch registry and access information:

- **Researchers:** NYU Langone Medical Center/CTSI-affiliated researchers who are interested in using ResearchMatch to recruit for their study may register online at: [http://ctsi.med.nyu.edu/for-investigators-0](http://ctsi.med.nyu.edu/for-investigators-0).

- **Volunteers:** Volunteer registration only takes a few minutes. The identity of volunteers remains confidential until volunteers choose to respond “yes” to a contact message about a research study that matches their interests. Volunteers may register at: [https://www.researchmatch.org/?route=nyu](https://www.researchmatch.org/?route=nyu).
HHC and NYU Announces the First H-1 Grant Awardees

After review of thirty submissions, three protocols have been selected by the NYU-HHC Clinical and Translational Science Institute for funding through the H-1 Grants Program. Made possible by the NYU-HHC CTSI, this important opportunity will expand and enhance research at HHC through the funding of the following projects:

Screening for Depression in Mexican and Ecuadorian Primary Care Patients
by Dr. Demara Gutnick at Bellevue Hospital Center

Disseminating New Hypertension Treatment Guidelines to Reduce Clinical Inertia in a Public Health System, by Dr. Balavenkatesh Kanna at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center

Dissemination of a Health Literacy Intervention to Improve Provider-Parent Communication of Medication Instructions, by Dr. Hsiang Yin at 2 HHC sites: Bellevue Hospital and Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center

These projects are just one example of how the CTSI is helping to expand research opportunities to benefit patients and advance medical treatment and care delivery.

NYC HHC R.E.C.O.R.D. Conference 2010
Research Enhancement, Compliance, Orientation and Resource Development

October 5-6, 2010
Coordinated by: HHC Research Administration &
Lincoln Hospital’s Center for Clinical and Community Research
Venue: Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center

Sample topics include:

Translational Research to Improve Access and Treatment for Minority Populations
– Bruce Cronstein, MD

Clinical & Health Care Services Research in NYC
– Marc Gourevitch MD

CBPR Approach to Prevention of Chronic Diseases in Minority Populations
– Mariano Rey, MD

Grant Writing – Leading by example
-Kate Fahy

How to Conduct Clinical & Health Services Research at HHC
- Stacy-Ann Christian, Esq., MPH, CHRC, CHC

Any questions, please email: RECORD@nychhc.org
Registration is FREE, Seating is LIMITED
AHRQ Funded: Grant 1R13HS019096-01
Need Help Developing a Protocol?  
Sign up for a CTSI Studio!

The CTSI announces the availability of Protocol Studios. Protocol Studios will offer clinical investigators an opportunity to present their protocols in development for review and critique prior to submission of the protocol to funding agencies. Protocol Studios will also be available for Basic Science faculty who would like to develop translational protocols. The Protocol Studios are not meant to replace ongoing mentoring relationships or to replace specific detailed consultations with such cores as Study Design, Biostatistics or Bioinformatics but are designed to augment these consultations.

Each Protocol Studio will consist of an hour-long session during which the investigator will present a brief summary of their proposed study to a select group of faculty. Prior to the presentation, the investigators should submit their a draft protocol and specific aims page to the faculty panel so that the faculty panel can better prepare and critique the study. In addition to a standing committee of senior faculty the faculty panel may also include ad hoc reviewers with relevant expertise.

To request a CTSI Protocol Studio please contact Mark Concepcion mark.concepcion@nyumc.org

ACRP: Site Excellence in Clinical Research

The Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) New York Chapter
Is proud to present the Fall 2010 Clinical Research Symposium

Brief Program Description: The two-day event will emphasize how to obtain excellence in clinical research and showcase best practices for implementation within regulation. The fall symposium offers panel discussions that will offer the perspectives of regulatory professionals, information technology and data integrity professionals, research administrators, academic sites, industry sponsors, and the FDA. This educational opportunity will expand your knowledge of the current trends in conducting clinical research and provide critical discussion on the advancement of research and best practices.

Registration is required.

Target Audience: Clinical research professionals including CRAs, CRCs, and others in the New York Metropolitan and surrounding areas.

Dates/Times: Friday, September 24, 2010 from 7:30 am—4:30 pm  
Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 8:30 am—1:15 pm

Register Online:  
http://2010symposiumnymetro.eventbrite.com/