



## Clinical & Translational Science Center Newsletter

November 2021

### Letter from the Director

Dear Colleagues,



Fall has finally arrived and brought with it much needed cooler temperatures. As we head into the final quarter of the year it's time to start planning your research projects for 2022. New funding opportunities can now be found online at <https://hsc.unm.edu/research/news/funding-opps.html>.

A recent study at UNM to address diabetic macular edema (DME), showed that faricimab injections lasted up to four months in DME patients, meaning less frequent injections and less treatment burden for patients. It is estimated that globally 21 million people are living with DME and the treatment burden includes frequent eye injections and physician visits which can lead to under-treatment and, potentially, less than optimal vision outcomes.

In coordination with the Participation Clinical Interactions (PCI) team, Michelle Harkins, MD, Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, has begun a new trial "Novel Experimental COVID Therapies Affecting Host Response (NECTAR)". The purpose of this study is to evaluate two investigational agents in patients hospitalized with COVID-19. 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. Dr. Harkins and the PCI team is in top 10% of enrolling sites.

The Community Health Network (CHN) continues to make connections with our neighboring communities in rural New Mexico. By listening to communities, we can then make connections to other researchers or experts at UNM who have similar interests. A recent great example is the work Dr. Lisa Taylor, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, and Assistant Clinical Professor at UNM, has been doing surrounding diabetes prevention and treatment.

The KL2 Scholars Program is now looking for two new junior faculty members for their Mentored Career Development (KL2) Scholar Program at the Assistant Professor level on either a tenure- or flex-track beginning in the Spring of 2022. Successful candidates will have 75% of their effort committed to their research, and 25% committed to other duties. If you're looking to start-up or expand your research career I encourage you to apply.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### *Regulatory Knowledge & Support (RKS)*

Promising results from a UNM clinical trial, the YOSEMITE Study (CRU, Lab, RKS), to address diabetic macular edema (DME), a leading cause of vision loss among working-age adults. It is estimated that globally 21 million people are living with DME and the treatment burden includes frequent eye injections and physician visits which can lead to under-treatment and, potentially, less than optimal vision outcomes. Faricimab is the first investigational bispecific antibody designed for the eye, and targets two distinct pathways – via angiopoietin-2 (Ang-2) and VEGF-A – that drive a number of retinal conditions, including DME. The YOSEMITE trial, sponsored by Roche, is a Phase 3 clinical trial in DME patients that is investigating the efficacy of the drug, faricimab injections in the eyes.

Recently announced results showed the efficacy of faricimab. They stated that faricimab injections lasted up to four months in DME patients, meaning less frequent injections and less treatment burden for patients. They revealed that Faricimab given every eight weeks and at personalized dosing intervals of up to 16 weeks demonstrated non-inferior visual acuity gains compared to the standard drug, aflibercept, given every eight weeks. More than half of participants in the faricimab personalized dosing arms had extended time between treatments to 16 weeks at year one – the first time this level of durability has been achieved in a phase III diabetic macular edema study.

CTSC offered support for this trial through our PCI, RKS, and lab study cores.

For more information please contact Rebecca Brito at [rbrito@salud.unm.edu](mailto:rbrito@salud.unm.edu).

## ***Participation Clinical Interactions (PCI)***

Michelle Harkins, MD, Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, has begun a new trial “Novel Experimental COVID Therapies Affecting Host Response (NECTAR)”. The purpose of this study is to evaluate two investigational agents in patients hospitalized with COVID-19.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is estimated that 13-40% of patients who contract the virus are hospitalized. Of those patients, 30% require intensive care leading to a 13% inpatient mortality rate. Early research in this area has focused on preventing the severity of disease, which led to the development of this trial, to increase our knowledge on how to care for hospitalized patients.

This is a multicenter effort with 100 sites that plan to enroll up to 2000 patients. This study is a randomized, placebo- controlled trial. This study will follow patients for 90 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. Dr. Harkins and the PCI team is in top 10% of enrolling sites.

If you have any questions about PCI services, please contact George Garcia:  
[gemgarcia@salud.unm.edu](mailto:gemgarcia@salud.unm.edu).

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

We often (unintentionally) think of research as being unidirectional, however when it comes to community engagement in health research, we shift directions and create ways to be bidirectional with communities that we partner with and listen to what their health priorities are. By listening to communities, we can then make connections to other researchers or experts at UNM who have similar interests. A recent great example is the work Dr. Lisa Taylor, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, and Assistant Clinical Professor at UNM, has been doing surrounding one of her great passions: diabetes prevention and treatment. Dr. Taylor is a nurse by training and shares that diabetes affected her mother. Watching her mother question certain aspects of her diabetes treatment and interactions with health care providers drove Dr. Taylor’s passion to help others (patients) in similar situations.

Dr. Taylor (pictured) is at the beginning stages of gathering information from communities across NM on experiences with diabetes to help improve what diabetes treatment and prevention looks like in NM. With the help of the Cynthia, Dr. Taylor has had some great conversations with health council coordinators where diabetes is a health priority in their county and has given presentations on diabetes prevention and treatment tailored to the needs of the health council members. She recently gave presentations to the Health Equity Council (located in Bernalillo County) and the Quay Health Council (county seat: Tucumcari, NM). Both presentations were very well received by community members. The Quay Health Council are also putting on hybrid in-person and virtual event featuring Dr. Taylor in November so that community members can discuss specific questions or experiences they have had surrounding diabetes.



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

### ***KL2 Scholars***

If you are interested in joining the UNM CTSC Mentored Career Development (KL2) Scholar Program, please see below how to apply.

#### **Junior Faculty Position - Mentored Career Development (KL2) Scholar Program**

The University of New Mexico's Clinical and Translational Science Center seeks up to two junior faculty members for our Mentored Career Development (KL2) Scholar Program at the Assistant Professor level on either a tenure- or flex-track beginning in the Spring of 2022. Individuals engaged in all types of clinical and translational research – from molecular to community and population level investigations – relevant to the Departments of Internal Medicine, OBGYN, Emergency Medicine, Neurology, Surgery, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Pediatrics, and the Colleges of Pharmacy and Population Health are encouraged to apply. The successful Scholar candidate will have 75% of their effort committed to their research and 25% committed to other duties. MD, PhD, MD/PhD, Pharm D and equivalent candidates, who are motivated and interested to become independently funded in clinical and translational research, are encouraged to apply.

The goal of the KL2 Scholar Program is to enhance the career development and training of junior faculty in multidisciplinary, team research with the overarching goal of promoting clinical and

translational investigation that will improve health and prevent disease. Candidates will be expected to aggressively pursue extramural funding while in the program. The Program will train and foster the career development of junior faculty to become the next generation of researchers who will perform clinical and translational investigation in multidisciplinary, collaborative research settings.

The Scholar will be known as a Clinical and Translational Science Center Scholar. The program will include an educational component tailored to the individual scholar in order to strengthen competencies in the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical and translational research. This opportunity will use the NIH Mentored Research Scientist Development Program Award (KL2) mechanism. Awards will be made for up to five years. The earliest anticipated start date is April 2022.

The successful candidate will be able to become a faculty member in one of the following School of Medicine departments: Internal Medicine, OBGYN, Emergency Medicine, Neurology, Surgery, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Pediatrics, or in the Colleges of Pharmacy and Population Health. This position is subject to criminal records screening in accordance with New Mexico law.

Eligibility (per NIH Guidelines):

- The position is open to health professionals with degrees that include MD, PhD, MD/PhD, Pharm D or equivalent.
- Applicants must have the ability to obtain the appropriate licensure in the State of New Mexico.
- Candidates for this Scholar Program must be an existing or prospective junior faculty member, with a terminal degree in their chosen field.
- A minimum of 2 years of post-terminal degree research experience (i.e. post-doc, fellowship, etc.) is required.
- Applicants may not simultaneously submit or have pending an application for any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K07, K08, K22, K23) that duplicates any of the provisions of the K component. Former or current PDs/PIs on any NIH research project grant (this does not include NIH Small Grants (R03), Exploratory/ Developmental (R21) or SBIR, STTR (R43, R44 grants)) or equivalent non-PHS peer reviewed research grants that are over \$100,000 direct costs per year, or project leaders on sub-projects of program project (P01) or center grants (P50) are NOT eligible to participate as scholars.
- Applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents

Preferred Qualifications:

- Quality, appropriateness and amount of previous training
- Quality, clarity, significance and innovation of the Scientific Plan
- Number and Quality of authored publications
- Likelihood of receiving external funding in 3 years
- Commitment to a career in clinical translational research
- Appropriateness of experience and education in relation to the position focus area

- A demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and student success, as well as working with broadly diverse communities

UNM is an EEO/AA Employer.

For complete details or to apply, visit <https://unmjobs.unm.edu>. Reference Req17126. For best consideration, apply by: November 15, 2021. This position will remain open until filled. UNM's confidentiality policy, which includes information about public disclosure of documents submitted by applicants, is located at <https://www.unm.edu/~brpm>

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

## 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](#)
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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:HSC-CTSCREDCap@salud.unm.edu).

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

## Community & Collaboration (C&C)

### **Community Engagement and Research Core (CERC)**

The CERC Team provides expertise in the full spectrum of the research process that supports an expansion of research with communities in New Mexico.

The UNMHSC CTSC plans to accomplish this goal by providing various CERC services, including free consultation and discussion/formulation of action plans to researchers. Examples include:

- Grant application development, including assistance in the design of qualitative research study proposals
- Community engagement and outreach, which includes traveling to communities and connecting with clinicians and community partners
- Study coordination and project implementation for community research, which can include study orientation, recruitment, data collection, and dissemination of study results
- Qualitative interviewing and focus group facilitation
- Qualitative analysis

For more information, please contact Donna Sedillo, [dlsedillo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:dlsedillo@salud.unm.edu).

## Team Science & Commercialization



## What is Team Science?

Team science is defined by research in which individuals from various fields join together to work collaboratively toward the resolution of major health and social issues. The ultimate goal of such team-based research is to generate a deeper understanding of important issues and, in doing so, efficiently produce scientific discoveries that are more readily applicable.

Collaborative groups conducting team science research may include a wide range of individuals each offering their own unique expertise. They may include not only researchers, but also community members and policy makers. [By [Casey D. Calhoun](#) | [Psychological Science Agenda](#) | [April 2013](#)]

CTSC Team Science & Commercialization programs aim to strengthen team science opportunities and encourage interdisciplinary partnerships across UNM and our greater community with the goal of advancing better healthcare for New Mexico. These CTSC hosted programs include:

- **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. Upcoming Synergy meetings will focus on Data Sciences. [Contact Melanie Hazlett](#), CTSC Team Strategist, to request more information about the Fall 2021 CTSC Synergy Meetings
- **CTSC Health Hackathon:** This multi-day event invites academic & community participants to innovate, create and advance products to address problems in healthcare. It starts with anyone 'pitching' an idea, individuals then form teams to 'hack' a solution, culminating in a final competition where winning teams can be awarded \$10,000 in grant funding. CTSC is planning for a Spring 2022 Hackathon, send an email to [hsc-hackathon@salud.unm.edu](mailto:hsc-hackathon@salud.unm.edu) to get more information.
- **CTSC BioVenture Partnership Event:** This one-day event is designed to create important connections between UNM HSC Research and local biotech business, interested in developing partnerships, to build long-term interorganizational relationships while boosting the state's biotech economy and expanding health care innovation in our state. Plans are starting for a Fall 2022 BioVenture Partnership event, bookmark the [CTSC events webpage](#) to get the latest event news. <https://hsc.unm.edu/ctsc/events/>

The CTSC 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ChAnderson@salud.unm.edu).

#### **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

## 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](mailto: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>.

## Hub Research Capacity (HRC)

### Integrating Special Populations (ISP)

The inclusion of diverse populations in health research and clinical trials is invaluable. Without proper representation data is limited, which affects findings and things like decisions on policies, medical interventions, and so much more. While there have been various efforts to include diverse and

underserved populations in health research from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), there are still many barriers and challenges. Stigma and mistrust of research are just a couple of the commonly cited barriers. A look at the history of ethics in research (e.g. Tuskegee Study) it is easy to see where research stigma and mistrust comes from.

While there is no quick fix or secret formula to overcoming stigma and mistrust of research, we can support our communities when it comes to their own health priorities. Cynthia Killough, the Community Health Specialist at UNM Health Sciences Center's Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC), serves as a community liaison between researchers at UNM and communities across New Mexico. Through the amazing work of the NM Health Councils, Cynthia can learn about health priorities from various counties on a regular basis from community members. One county in particular, Quay, has become a welcomed community for Cynthia. Quay County (county seat: Tucumcari) is a rural community located in the northeastern part of the state, shares a border with Texas, and according to the 2019 US Census, has a population of approximately 8253. Through the Quay County Health Council, Cynthia learned that there are only 2 grocery stores for the entire county and obesity, diabetes, healthy food and nutrition are health priorities in the county.

To encourage residents to be more physically active, Quay holds an annual Fun Run/Walk in the Fall and this year they also held a virtual event October 1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Cynthia helped the Quay Health Council organize the virtual event and shared information with colleagues at the CTSC and around the HSC with an overwhelming supportive response. Thanks to people like Dr. Lisa Taylor, Dr. Anthony Fleg, MD, and the Running Medicine group, the Health Sciences Library and informatics Center's Jonathan Pringle and Allison Cruise, the Quay County virtual Fun/Run walk received over 90 virtual participants and approximately 200 miles donated in the spirit of Quay. The CTSC also showed immense support every step of the way and Cynthia could not have done her work without all of you.

Although participating in a county's fun run/walk is not health research in and of itself, showing community members that UNM HSC supports their own health initiatives and priorities is one small way to begin tearing down the walls of stigma and mistrust associated with research and start building relationships. In continuing to engage with communities with their local efforts, Cynthia hopes to create a bidirectional flow of support for both communities and health researchers at UNM. Let's continue to support our communities and make a healthier New Mexico!



Dr. Nancy Pandhi, ISP Core Lead & Nayeem Khan walking for Quay.



Cynthia Killough, MA, and Dr. Lisa Taylor joining in the Fun Run/Walk on 10/5/21.

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>

## 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 important 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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)
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplements to Support Addiction Science and Related Neuroscience Pilot Research Projects at NIMHD-Funded Research Centers in</b>	<a href="#">NOT-MD-22-001</a>	<a href="#">NIMHD, NIDA</a>	Oct 25, 2021		Feb 2, 2022	333

<b>Minority Institutions (RCMI)</b>						
<b>Impact of Technology and Digital Media (TDM) Exposure/Usage on Child and Adolescent Development (P01 Clinical Trial Optional)</b>	<a href="#">RFA-HD-22-009</a>	<a href="#">NICHD</a>	Aug 25, 2021		Nov 30, 2021	P01
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Announcing the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus</b>	<a href="#">NOT-DA-21-041</a>	<a href="#">NIDA</a>	Apr 15, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-272</a> <a href="#">PA-18-935</a> (Urgent Supplement)	Mar 31, 2022	333
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Modeling Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the Causative Virus SARS-CoV-2</b>	<a href="#">NOT-GM-21-019</a>	<a href="#">NIGMS</a>	Feb 25, 2021	<a href="#">PA-18-935</a>	Dec 16, 2021	333
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Telehealth</b>	<a href="#">NOT-DA-21-019</a>	<a href="#">NIDA</a>	Feb 10, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-184</a> <a href="#">PA-20-183</a> <a href="#">PA-20-200</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a>	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R03, R21



Strategies for Individuals with HIV and Substance Use Disorders				<a href="#">PA-20-194</a> <a href="#">PA-20-196</a> <a href="#">PA-20-146</a>		
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Medical Consequences of Smoking and Vaping Drugs of Abuse in Individuals with HIV and COVID-19	<a href="#">NOT-DA-21-017</a>	<a href="#">NIDA</a>	Feb 4, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-184</a> <a href="#">PA-20-183</a> <a href="#">PA-20-200</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a> <a href="#">PA-20-194</a> <a href="#">PA-20-196</a>	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R02, R03
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Complement in Basic Immunology (CIBI)	<a href="#">NOT-AI-21-008</a>	<a href="#">NIAID</a>	Feb 4, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-185</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a>	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	<a href="#">NOT-DA-21-018</a>	<a href="#">NIDA</a>	Feb 3, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-184</a> <a href="#">PA-20-183</a> <a href="#">PA-20-200</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a> <a href="#">PA-20-194</a> <a href="#">PA-20-196</a> <a href="#">PA-20-146</a>	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R03, R21
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplements for the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program to Address COVID-19	<a href="#">NOT-TR-21-017</a>	<a href="#">NCATS</a>	Feb 3, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-272</a>	Aug 17, 2024	333

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)	<a href="#">NOT-DE-21-001</a>	<a href="#">NIDCR</a>	Jan 26, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-185</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a>	May 28, 2023	R01, R21
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Aging-Relevant Behavioral and Social Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	<a href="#">NOT-AG-21-015</a>	<a href="#">NIA</a>	Jan 26, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-183</a> <a href="#">PA-20-184</a> <a href="#">PA-20-185</a> <a href="#">PA-20-200</a> <a href="#">PA-20-194</a> <a href="#">PA-20-196</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a> <a href="#">PAR-19-374</a> <a href="#">PAR-19-314</a> <a href="#">PAR-19-070</a> <a href="#">PAR-19-071</a> <a href="#">PAR-20-070</a>	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 COVID-19 infection	<a href="#">NOT-DA-21-011</a>	<a href="#">NIDA</a>	Jan 26, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-184</a> <a href="#">PA-20-183</a> <a href="#">PA-20-200</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a> <a href="#">PA-20-194</a> <a href="#">PA-20-196</a> <a href="#">PA-20-146</a>	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R03, R21
Notice of Special Interest: Promoting Research on COVID-19 and Rheumatic, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	<a href="#">NOT-AR-21-012</a>	<a href="#">NIAMS</a>	Jan 5, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-185</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a> <a href="#">PAR-21-055</a> <a href="#">PAR-21-054</a> <a href="#">PAR-21-053</a>	Nov 19, 2021	R01, R02

Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplements for COVID-19 Impacted NIMH Research	<a href="#">NOT-MH-21-120</a>	<a href="#">NIMH</a>	Dec 23, 2020	<a href="#">PA-20-272</a>	Jun 2, 2023	333
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research to Address Vaccine Hesitancy, Uptake, and Implementation among Populations that Experience Health Disparities	<a href="#">NOT-MD-21-008</a>	<a href="#">NIMHD, NIAID, NIAMS, NCI, ORWH, NIMH, NINR, OBSSR, ODP, NHLBI, NIDCR, SGMRO</a>	Dec 17, 2020	<a href="#">PA-20-183</a> <a href="#">PA-20-185</a>	Jan 8, 2022	R01
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Effects of smoking and vaping on the risk and outcome of COVID-19 infection	<a href="#">NOT-DA-20-084</a>	<a href="#">NIDA</a>	Oct 27, 2020	<a href="#">PA-20-183</a> <a href="#">PA-20-200</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a>	Sep 8, 2024	R01, R03, R21
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Simulation Modeling and Systems Science to Address Health Disparities	<a href="#">NOT-MD-20-025</a>	<a href="#">NIMHD, NCI, NIDA, NLM, ODP, OBSSR, NIMH, NIAMS</a>	Aug 13, 2020	<a href="#">PA-20-185</a>	May 8, 2023	R01
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Competitive Revision and	<a href="#">NOT-HD-21-037</a>	<a href="#">NICHD</a>	Jul 2, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-272</a> <a href="#">PA-18-935</a> <a href="#">NOT-OD-20-128</a> <a href="#">NOT-OD-20-118</a>	May 8, 2022	333

Administrative Supplements to Existing NICHD HIV Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Understand HIV Health Impacts of COVID-19				<a href="#">NOT-OD-20-018</a>		
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): NIDCD is Interested in Supporting Research on the Impact of COVID-19 on Mission Specific Sensory and Communication Disorders	<a href="#">NOT-DC-20-008</a>	<a href="#">NIDCD</a>	Jun 4, 2020	<a href="#">PA-18-334</a> <a href="#">PA-20-185</a> <a href="#">PA-20-184</a> <a href="#">PA-20-196</a> <a href="#">PA-20-195</a> <a href="#">PA-19-270</a> <a href="#">PA-19-271</a> <a href="#">PA-19-273</a> <a href="#">PA-19-272</a>	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	<a href="#">NOT-TR-20-017</a>	<a href="#">NCATS</a>	Apr 9, 2020	<a href="#">PA-20-135</a>	Jan 26, 2022	333
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements	<a href="#">NOT-TR-20-016</a>	<a href="#">NCATS</a>	Apr 9, 2020	<a href="#">PA-18-591</a>	Jan 26, 2022	333

for Tissue Chips Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus						
Emergency Competitive Revision to Existing NIH Awards (Emergency Supplement - Clinical Trial Optional)	<a href="#">PA-20-135</a>	<a href="#">NIH</a> , <a href="#">NCATS</a> , <a href="#">NCCIH</a> , <a href="#">NCI</a> , <a href="#">NHGRI</a> , <a href="#">NIA</a> , <a href="#">NIAAA</a> , <a href="#">NIAID</a> , <a href="#">NIAMS</a> , <a href="#">NIBIB</a> , <a href="#">NICHD</a> , <a href="#">NIDCD</a> , <a href="#">NIDDK</a> , <a href="#">NIEHS</a> , <a href="#">NIGMS</a> , <a href="#">NIMH</a> , <a href="#">NIMHD</a> , <a href="#">NINR</a> , <a href="#">NLM</a> , <a href="#">ORWH</a> , <a href="#">OSC</a>	Mar 10, 2020	<a href="#">PA-20-135</a>	Sep 8, 2025	333
The Intersection of Sex and Gender Influences on Health and Disease (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)	<a href="#">RFA-OD-19-029</a>	<a href="#">ORWH</a> , <a href="#">NCCIH</a> , <a href="#">NHGRI</a> , <a href="#">NHLBI</a> , <a href="#">NIA</a> , <a href="#">NIAAA</a> , <a href="#">NIAID</a> , <a href="#">NIDA</a> , <a href="#">NIDCR</a> , <a href="#">NIEHS</a> , <a href="#">NIMH</a> , <a href="#">NINR</a>	Sep 27, 2019	<a href="#">PA-20-272</a>	Nov 27, 2021	R01
Emergency Award: Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research on COVID-19 Consortium (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	<a href="#">PAR-21-213</a>	<a href="#">NIA</a> , <a href="#">NIDA</a> , <a href="#">ORWH</a> , <a href="#">NIMH</a> , <a href="#">NIAA</a> , <a href="#">NIMHD</a> , <a href="#">OBSSR</a> , <a href="#">NEI</a>	April 6, 2021	<a href="#">U01</a> Research Project (Cooperative Agreements)	Nov 9, 2021	U01
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Promoting Vaccine Access, Acceptance and Uptake among Children, Adolescents, Pregnant and Lactating Women, and	<a href="#">NOT-HD-21-038</a>	<a href="#">NICHD</a>	June 28, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-200</a> , <a href="#">PA-21-221</a> , <a href="#">PA-20-195</a> , <a href="#">PA-20-194</a>	May 8, 2024	R03, R21

Persons with Disabilities						
<b>Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) HIV/AIDS in the Era of COVID-19: When Pandemics Collide</b>	<a href="#">NOT-AI-21-057</a>	<a href="#">NIAID, NIMH, NID A</a>	June 25, 2021	<a href="#">PA-20-185, PA-20-195</a>	May 8, 2024	R01, R21
<b>Limited Competition Emergency Awards: Shared Personal Protective Equipment Resources for COVID-19 Related Vaccine and Treatment Clinical Trials and Clinical Studies (S10 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)</b>	<a href="#">PAR-21-276</a>	<a href="#">NIAID</a>	Jul 16, 2021	Reissue of <a href="#">PAR-20-256</a>	Jul 16, 2022	S10

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



*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](#).

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