

# CTSI eNewsletter - February 2009

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## From the Executive Director's Desk

On 30th January 2009, CTSI hosted a senior leadership retreat with all program directors and our new PI, S. Claiborne (Clay) Johnston. Clay reviewed our mission, highlighting his vision for how we might achieve our goals. A major theme during the discussion focused on how to include, in as open a manner as possible, all at UCSF and at our affiliates in brainstorming new ideas and approaches to achieve our goals. Inspired by the Obama campaign, we discussed developing an online forum for submitting and commenting on new ideas to keep CTSI fresh, nimble and in touch with the needs of researchers. The conversation touched on our need to produce short-term wins as well as big transformative ideas in preparation for our renewal. We also discussed key changes in the CTSI structure. One aspect of a maturing organization is the need for continuous improvement and change to meet the organization's needs. To separate operational and strategic discussions, and to better utilize key faculty in CTSI leadership, we have restructured the CTSI board-level organization.

The key changes are:

- The creation of an executive committee (EC), consisting of Clay Johnston, Deborah Grady, and Susan Autry, who will meet weekly for more effective oversight of the operational needs of CTSI.

- The creation of the EC will free the larger CTSI board to focus more on strategic issues and opportunities requiring less time commitment and thus the larger board will meet monthly with the EC.

As we discussed in our CTSI-wide retreat last summer, we are continuing to transition to a more streamlined operational structure. To support this aim we will:

- Utilize professionals to manage the delivery of services. These managers will work with faculty for guidance and input.
- Restructure the board sponsorship of CTSI programs within the EC to more cohesively manage infrastructure activities and services.

While we've achieved many successes in year-3, our central office has lacked critical mass to support CTSI's finance and administrative needs. To this end, I'm very pleased that key positions were recently filled. Bernadette Connolly joined CTSI as Director of Finance and Operations and Lani Pettersen as Finance Manager. This will now allow us to effectively and centrally manage these functions. I recognize that this vacuum has been a challenge for you, as it has been for me, and I'm looking forward to the order, efficiency, and innovation that Bernadette and Lani will bring.

All of these changes serve to position us to build on our successes and move to the next level of development and impact. UCSF is also undergoing change amidst a leadership in transition. Recruitment is underway for the Vice Chancellor for Research position as are many other key UCSF leadership positions. CTSI will not be on hold during this time but will continue to forge ahead on many initiatives that will eventually fall within the VCR's domain.

As CTSI approaches year-4 of the grant, we are brainstorming ways to prepare us for the CTSI grant renewal. The Obama administration is likely to make funding available at the national level and we are actively soliciting ideas that would synergize our grant renewal with the economic stimulus package. You will hear more very soon about the online forum for submitting ideas that will be open to faculty and staff at UCSF and its affiliates. Your innovative ideas and approaches are what make CTSI successful. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Susan A. Autry, MBA**  
Executive Director, CTSI

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## Featured Event

**Dr. Steven Woolf to present at CTSI Symposium "Effecting Change in Health and Health Care: The Power of Community-Engaged Research"**

CTSI's Community Engagement Program and the Department of Family and Community Medicine will host a special event featuring Dr. Steven Woolf, Director of the Center for Human Needs, Virginia Commonwealth University. Clay Johnston will open the event and Dr. Woolf will present a keynote talk on T2 research (research which assures that new treatments and research knowledge reach the community at a high quality.)

Dr. Woolf's talk will be followed by presentations and discussion of exemplary projects by UCSF investigators and community partners. This event explores how translational research is accomplished and improved with community-engaged principles and methods. Participants are invited to join Dr. Woolf in a summary discussion of the implications of lessons learned for the future of translational research. The

event will take place on Friday, March 13, 2009, noon - 4 pm, at San Francisco General Hospital, Carr Auditorium. [View the agenda.](#)

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## New on the CTSI Web site

### Research Resources for students of clinical & translational science

Pathways to Careers in Clinical & Translational Research (PACCTR) and CTSI Virtual Home have teamed up to provide a list of resources for clinical and translational students. Included is a guide and checklist for selecting a research project and mentor, an introduction to clinical research design, a list of selected courses in clinical research and biostatistics, recommended textbooks, as well as a list of general research resources. Visit [PACCTR Student Clinical & Translational Research Resources](#) online at the CTSI Virtual Home.

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## Featured Story

### Clinical & Translational Science Training Program takes it to the next level

The Clinical & Translational Sciences Training program (CTST) has grown rapidly in the last year. Individual programs have greatly expanded their enrollment, reach and impact and new activities have been added. In addition, the program has begun making changes to rationalize administrative processes and to deliver more comprehensive and efficient training.

For over 25 years, UCSF has offered a rich curriculum to train investigators in the design and methods of clinical research through the Training in Clinical Research (TICR) Program, directed by Jeff Martin. This program now includes a summer Clinical Research Workshop, a 1-year Advanced Training in Clinical Research (ATCR) certificate program and a 2-year Master's in Clinical Research degree program. The TICR Program has expanded to a total of 32 courses, ranging from an introduction to clinical research methods to advanced biostatistics, and enrollment has increased dramatically over the last year.

Now TICR has added a new curriculum and program focused on translating the evidence derived from research into clinical practice and the community ("T2" research). The TICR Curriculum in Implementation and Dissemination Sciences will be led by Ralph Gonzales and co-led by Margaret Handley and will eventually include a total of 10 courses presented by a wide range of UCSF faculty. The goal of the program is to use research evidence, behavioral and social science, process improvement, and communications to improve the health behavior of patients and the quality of health care. The UCSF-wide Program in Implementation and Dissemination Sciences, also led by Gonzales and Handley, will have funded trainees at the student and fellow levels.

The CTST K Scholar Career Development Program, led by Steve Hulley, currently includes 26 junior faculty from multiple disciplines at UCSF, providing salary support, access to a broad array of faculty advisors, and regular seminars and works-in-progress. In addition to the CTST K awards, many UCSF junior faculty hold individual NIH-funded K awards (K08, K23, etc) that provide funding, but do not offer an organized program similar to the CTST. Over the past year, CTST has extended programmatic support to an additional 24 individual K scholars, creating a large and diverse group of young faculty, enhancing collaboration and building lasting relationships.

CTST's Resident Research Training program, led by Doug Bauer, is another unique initiative at UCSF. The program has now trained 50 residents from multiple disciplines in clinical research methods, most of whom have completed research protocols. A competitive program to provide research support for resident research has funded 27 projects to date, and the first annual UCSF Resident Research Symposium was held last May. The Pathways in Careers to Clinical & Translational Research (PACCTR) program, led by Joel Palefsky, has also expanded its impact, reaching more professional students to increase their exposure to research while completing their degrees.

As programs expand, CTST leadership realized the need to integrate administration to improve efficiencies. Chris Ireland, previously administrator of TCR and the K Scholars program will now administer all CTST programs as Deputy Director of CTST, working closely with CTST Director, Deborah Grady. Leadership of CTST has also been working hard to address the challenge of making clinical & translational training more efficient. How does one develop training pathways that are high quality, customized for professionals at various stages in their careers, while being as compact as possible? That's the challenge for CTST as it continues to grow over the next several years.

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## Updates and Announcements

### Applications due for Master's Degree Program in Clinical Research

The CTSI and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics sponsored [Training in Clinical Research \(TCR\)](#) Program is currently accepting applications for the Master's Degree Program in Clinical Research. This program is a two-year course of study intended for advanced pre-doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty members who wish to master clinical and translational research methods and pursue independent research careers. The program starts in Summer Quarter, July 28, 2009. Deadline to apply is March 23, 2009. [See details.](#)

### Applications due for Advanced Training in Clinical Research (ATCR) Certificate Program

The CTSI and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics sponsored [Training in Clinical Research \(TCR\)](#) Program is currently accepting applications for the Advanced Training in Clinical Research (ATCR) Certificate in Clinical Research. The ATCR is a one-year course of study intended for advanced pre-doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty members who desire rigorous training in the methods and conduct of clinical and translational research. The program starts in Summer Quarter, July 28, 2009. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2009. [See details.](#)

### TCR to offer 2 new courses in T2 research

Two new courses in T2 research methods will be offered in Spring 2009, along with the existing T2 courses offered this quarter. As usual, these courses are open, space permitting, to all members of the UCSF community (for a fee). Learn more about the new courses: [Translating Evidence Into Practice: Individual-Centered Implementation Strategies](#) and [Translating Evidence Into Practice: System-Centered Implementation Strategies](#)

### CTSI K Scholars Announced, July 2008

The CTSI is pleased to announce the CTSI K Scholars for 2008. The CTSI K Scholars program is part of the Clinical and Translational Science Training (CTST) program led by Associate Dean Deborah Grady MD, MPH. This year there were 43 letters of intent from UCSF faculty and 17 were invited to submit full applications

for the prestigious CTSI KL2 award which provides \$75,000/year in salary support, \$25,000/year in research support, and mentored training in a rich and diverse clinical research environment for up to five years. Seven scholars were selected to receive the KL2 award in July 2008. 12 other UCSF K awardees (K23, K01, K08, K12) also joined the program in July 2008. There are currently 49 scholars participating in the CTSI K Scholar Program: 25 KL2-funded scholars and 24 other UCSF K awardees. The program is located at China Basin Landing and directed by Stephen B Hulley MD, MPH, with Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo and Ralph Gonzales MD, MSPH, Associate Directors, and Chris Ireland MPH, Deputy Director. Further information, including a list of current scholars and activities, can be found at [CTSI KL2 Scholars Program](#).

### **CTSI launches Junior Faculty Mentoring Program**

Focus on effective mentoring of junior clinical and translational research faculty; launched in collaboration with, and complementing, the campus-wide UCSF Faculty Mentoring Program and other ongoing UCSF research mentoring programs. Learn More about the [Junior Faculty Mentoring Program](#).

### **Upcoming workshops in PASS - Professional & Academic Success Skills series**

PASS is a series of intensive workshops designed to enhance the professional development of UCSF students and scholars engaged in research. PASS is presented by the Office of Career & Professional Development, a unit of the Office of Student Life within Student Academic Affairs. There is a small fee for attending these workshops. Pre-registration will open within one month of the event. For workshop descriptions, locations, registration visit [PASS](#). Questions? Please contact [ocpd@ucsf.edu](mailto:ocpd@ucsf.edu) ✉ or 476-4986 (Mark Harris, Project Administrator).

### **CME credit available for online CITI human subjects training**

As more and more research projects are taking place in community clinic settings, more and more community-based personnel, including clinicians, are being asked to take trainings on human subject's protection. These trainings can be time-consuming and a barrier to research participation by community clinicians. The Community Engagement Program would like to let UCSF investigators know that community physicians and nurses can get CME credit for taking an online human subjects training through the University of Miami. The CE program will be investigating whether the same is available for dentists and pharmacists. The cost of this training is minimal and could be covered by researchers as a benefit of collaborating in a study (CME credits are an attractive incentive!). Participants only have to complete the training once and their participation is tracked by an easily accessible central database. Certification for this training is accepted by NIH, the UCSF CHR, and is transferrable to other institutions. For more information, visit [CITI](#).

### **Center for Translational and Policy Research on Personalized Medicine**

The Center for Translational and Policy Research on Personalized Medicine (TRANSPERS) was founded in September 2008. Led by Kathryn Phillips, PhD, the TRANSPERS Center will provide evidence-based information on translating personalized medicine technologies to clinical care and health policy. To learn more about the TRANSPERS Center's various areas of research, or for more information about collaboration or funding opportunities, please contact Christina Hosenfeld at [TRANSPERSInfo@ucsf.edu](mailto:TRANSPERSInfo@ucsf.edu) ✉. Download the [TRANSPERS Fall Newsletter](#) (PDF 87 KB).

### **BREAD offers FREE consultations for eligible Career Development Grant applicants**

Junior investigators applying for a mentored career development (K series) grant may be eligible to receive up to 15 hours of free consultations from BREAD towards grant preparation. Deadline is ongoing. To apply,

submit a [BREAD request](#) via the CTSI Virtual Home and indicate that you'd like to participate. Download the [information sheet](#) (Word 64 KB) or contact David Bui at 415-502-7893.

### RAP spring '09 funding cycle

Monday, March 2, 2009 is the upcoming deadline for proposal submission for the Spring 2009 CTSI-SOS Funding Cycle via the Resource Allocation Program (RAP). Many intramural opportunities are available to all levels of faculty for pilot projects and career development. The newest addition to RAP is the Pilot Award Program in T2 Translational Science, sponsored by the Health Policy Program of the CTSI. Visit the [RAP website](#) for further information.

### Find funding opportunities for community-engaged and T2 research

Discover a wealth of funding resources for community-engaged/T2 research. A summary of opportunities is provided, along with links to more information. Visit the [T2 funding resource page](#) online at the CTSI Virtual Home.

### CTSI co-sponsored training: Translating Research to Practice: Effective Research Dissemination Planning for UCSF Investigators

A smart and feasible dissemination plan is critical to the success of research translation. This training is for senior and junior investigators, their community partners, and members of their research teams who want to ensure that their research has impact. Participants will learn strategies and skills for successful communication of research findings to multiple audiences, including print and broadcast media, policymakers, community members and research partners, and consumers. Co-sponsored by the CTSI Community Engagement Program and Office of Community and Government Relations. Event is Friday, February 27, 2008. Space is limited. Please contact [Sachini Bandara](#) ✉ to register for this event.

### CCTI Director Ida Sim participates in National Academies report on Computational Technology for Effective Health Care

New National Academies report released by the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board: **Computational Technology for Effective Health Care: Immediate Steps and Strategic Directions**. UCSF Center for Clinical and Translational Informatics (CCTI) Director Ida Sim was a committee member. This report finds that current national health care IT deployment efforts will not be sufficient to achieve the vision of 21st century health care, and calls for greater emphasis by computer science and health/biomedical informatics researchers on providing cognitive support for health care providers, patients, and family caregivers. [Read more](#).

### Seminar Series: Regulations for Stem Cell Therapy Product Development

Three seminars on the regulations for stem cell therapy product development in March and April will highlight FDA's regulatory framework for cell and tissue-based therapies. The sessions will provide an overview of the bench-to-bedside process as well as helpful guidelines for FDA cell therapy IND submissions and considerations for development of stem cell therapy products. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to: [Marlene.berro@ucsf.edu](mailto:Marlene.berro@ucsf.edu) ✉

- March 25, 2009, noon - 1 pm, Mt. Zion Campus, 1600 Divisadero Street, 3rd Floor Floor, H3906
- April 1, 2009, noon - 1 pm, Mission Bay Campus, Room TBD
- April 6, 2009, noon - 1 pm, Parnassus Campus, City Lights Room-Millberry Union

## Feedback

The purpose of the eNewsletter is to keep you informed of key CTSI activities and their impact on the UCSF community. We hope you enjoy this issue and encourage your [feedback](#) ✉.

Please submit news from your CTSI program for possible inclusion in the "Updates & Announcements" section. We also appreciate any and all feedback. Please contact us by email at [ctsi@ucsf.edu](mailto:ctsi@ucsf.edu) ✉.