CTSI eNewsletter : July 2008

In this Edition

- From the Executive Director's Desk
- Featured Story: Research symposiums for CTSI trainees draw crowds
- New Resources: Secure Data Hosting service now open for business
- New on the CTSI Website: CTSI Year 2 Progress Reports now available
- Updates and Announcements
  - CTSI's Virtual Home gears up to launch clinical & translational research portal
  - CTSI's Community Engagement Program facilitates grant renewal for School of Dentistry's CAN DO 2
  - BREAD initiates innovative randomized trial on effectiveness of consultations
  - BREAD Ethics Consultations: Why Struggle when you have an expert at your fingertips?
  - 2007-2008 Mentor Development Program (MDP) graduates 26 Mentors-in-Training (MIT's)
  - Training in Clinical Research (TICR) Graduates 40 in MAS and ATCR
  - CTST announces new T2 training track to begin in 2009
  - RAP & CTSI-SOS announce awards
  - New funding opportunity with QB3 and Pfizer
  - Trimmed citation format for CTSI
  - New compliance information on NIH public access policy
- Feedback

From the Executive Director's Desk

As we move into year three of our grant, CTSI is transitioning into the next phase of growth. Over the last nine months, the CTSI Board of Directors has been working with the Executive Vice-Chancellor's (EVC) office to align CTSI with campus-wide efforts to enhance clinical and translational research infrastructure at UCSF. The result of the board's efforts was shared in last week's announcement from the Council of Deans. CTSI will now be more tightly integrated with the EVC's office, reporting directly to the new Vice-Chancellor of Research (VCR), but with continued oversight of programs by the Council of Deans. The goal of this alignment is to ensure that we are not working in parallel silos across campus but, instead, that those of us involved in improving the infrastructure for clinical and translational research at UCSF are working together, efficiently, and without unnecessary redundancies. Acknowledging this new phase of growth for CTSI and also keen to return to the research of his lab and his new Division, Mike McCune announced his decision to pass the baton as PI and Director of CTSI. Mike has been a visionary leader in setting CTSI's strategic direction, including the realignment with the EVC's office. We are delighted that he will continue to advise and to provide strategic counsel to CTSI as a member of the CTSI Board of Directors, once a new PI is selected.

In the midst of our work on organizational realignment, we have forged ahead with our operational milestones. We kicked off the second quarter, engrossed in the annual review process at CTSI Central. By the end of March, all programs had submitted their annual progress reports. The month of April, meanwhile, was consumed by the herculean effort of collating these and preparing the required XML and 2590 reports for NIH. Weekends saw Zeanid Breyer, Director of Planning, Evaluation and Tracking, at our China Basin office wrapping up final details. By May 1st, the annual progress report was successfully submitted to NIH. We are currently immersed in detailed year-three planning with programs.

In May, the NIH announced a competition for NIH administrative supplement awards to the national consortium. It is yet another testimony to the collaborative spirit at UCSF that several applications organized by UCSF-CTSI leaders were selected (by PI liaisons to the national committees) as being of high enough priority to submit to the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) for funding. These included a Pediatrics proposal (led by Jennifer Puck, MD) to plan and design a virtual biobank, a Virtual Home proposal (led by Mini Kahlon, PhD) to design an environment to enhance sharing of operational resources across CTSAs, and a BREAD proposal (led by Clay Johnston, MD) to move forward with the CTSpedia project, a 'wikipedia'-like user-contributed encyclopedia. Congratulations to these three leaders and their teams for representing UCSF with such distinction.

On June 20th, we hosted the NIH/NCRR for their annual site visit. The visit was packed, with updates across various topics that our NIH visitors had requested, CRC tours, demos of our videoconferencing equipment, informatics and communications presentations, and a thorough discussion of our annual review process. The response was very positive and, we believe, a fitting end to a very successful year for UCSF's CTSI. As we move forward into year three, once again let me thank every one of you who have worked so hard to bring the CTSI vision to life. We are excited about this next new phase of our growth and look forward to working with you as we continue to improve the clinical and translational research environment here at UCSF.

Susan A. Autry, MBA
Executive Director, CTSI

Featured Story

Research symposiums for CTSI trainees draw crowds

UCSF Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Washington, MD, learns more about a research project at the Resident Research Symposium held on May 12th.
Photo by Emily von Scheven, MD, MAS

On May 12th, 2008 the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) sponsored the first research symposium for UCSF residents conducting clinical and translational research. Approximately 50 residents and faculty from across the Departments gathered at Millberry Union to share their work. Sam Hawgood,

MD, Interim Dean, introduced Eugene Washington, MD, UCSF Executive Vice Chancellor, who delivered an inspiring keynote address on the many opportunities facing young physician scientists who are interested in improving health through clinical and translational research activities. Thirty residents submitted abstracts for review. Drs. Joshua Cohen (Obstetrics & Gynecology), Hooman Kamel (Neurology) and Jennifer Poehls (Internal Medicine) were selected to present their papers orally. The remaining abstracts were presented as posters during a lively reception.

The UCSF campus community assembled again to hear research presentations, this time from medical and other professional students, on Friday, May 23rd. The event, also held at Millberry Union, was the culmination of a year of mentored research by 22 fellows in the Pathways to Careers in Clinical and Translational Research (PACCTR) program, sponsored by CTSI and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Sam Hawgood, MD, interim dean of the UCSF School of Medicine, made opening remarks, congratulating the fellows on their accomplishments. Joel Palefsky, MD, Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research, and Director of the PACCTR program outlined the history of the training program at UCSF. From a class of six one-year medical student research fellows at UCSF sponsored by the Doris Duke Charitable Trust in 2001, the program has grown substantially. Following the awarding of a roadmap T32 training grant from the NIH and the formation of the UCSF Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), students can now participate in a variety of short and long-term mentored research experiences. During this past year, 22 one and two-year fellows, and 12 two and three-month fellows participated from all four UCSF schools (dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy) as well as from six other U.S. medical schools.

Learn more about CTSI's training programs.

Back to top ⬆

New Resources

Secure Data Hosting service now open for business

CTSI's Biomedical Informatics Program and OAAIS Academic Research Systems are pleased to announce the availability of a secure data hosting service for research. Research data can be housed in a professionally staffed data center with the highest level of data security standards. To learn more or to request the service you can either submit a ticket at help.ucsf.edu, call the OAAIS Customer Service Desk at 415-514-4100 option 2, or email: CustomerSupport@ucsf.edu ✉.

Back to top ⬆

New on the CTSI Web site

CTSI Year 2 Progress Reports now available

CTSI's summary progress report, program reports and self-evaluation report are all available now on the web as individual and downloadable PDFs at http://ctsi.ucsf.edu/about/ctsi.

Back to top ⬆

Updates and Announcements

CTSI's Virtual Home gears up to launch clinical & translational research portal

CTSI's Virtual Home program is preparing to launch version 3.0 of the CTSI website at the end of July. This is a major upgrade that will allow the site to transition from an organizational website to a true portal for clinical & translational researchers at UCSF. The site is built on a database-driven open source platform called "Drupal" and allows for many interactive features to be added relatively easily as and when programs express needs. New features include account management so that repeat consultation customers across CTSI programs won't need to re-enter information each time. New content includes a rich knowledge base on how researchers can work more effectively with industry. The release will include much more and the site will be previewed at special CTSI Connections meetings on Tuesday, July 22, and Thursday, July 24, both from 3-4pm. If you'd like to join us on either of these days in person at China Basin or by phone/web conference, please RSVP to Emelda Brennan at emelda.brennan@ucsf.edu ✉.

CTSI's Community Engagement Program facilitates grant renewal for School of Dentistry's CAN DO 2

UCSF Center to Address Disparities in Children's Oral Health in the School of Dentistry, nicknamed CAN DO 2 was competitively renewed by the NIH for seven more years of funding. CTSI's Community Engagement program helped CAN DO 2 to find over 20 community partners, develop the research design for one of the RO1s, develop a community outreach plan for a second RO1, and frame and draft the section on the mandatory community liaison program.

BREAD initiates innovative randomized trial on effectiveness of consultations

CTSI Biostatistics, Research Ethics and Design Program (BREAD) is currently recruiting for a randomized controlled trial measuring the impact of extensive consultation on career development and grant outcomes, the first trial to evaluate such a service. Junior investigators applying for a K Award (K01, K08 or K12) may be eligible to receive up to 15 hours of free consultations. To apply, please fill out a BREAD request form and check that you would like to participate.

BREAD Ethics Consultations: Why Struggle when you have an expert at your fingertips?

The Ethics Unit of BREAD, run by nationally recognized ethicist Bernie Lo, offers a free one-hour ethics consultation for clinical-translational researchers investigating sensitive issues such as: special populations (including children or developing countries), stem cell research, genome-wide association studies, placebo controls, disclosure of results of research tests, cluster randomization, or authorship disagreements. Sometimes it's important to have a card-carrying ethicist in your corner. Request an ethics consultation.

2007-2008 Mentor Development Program (MDP) graduates 26 Mentors-in-Training (MIT's)

CTSI's MDP had 29 participants with 26 MIT's completing the program, for an impressive 90% completion rate. In evaluating the program, 96% of MIT's reported the MDP helped them become a better mentor. Information on access to all materials for the MDP can be found at: http://ctsi.ucsf.edu/ca/mentor_program.php. Applications for the 2009 MDP will be available in October 2008.

Training in Clinical Research (TICR) Graduates 40 in MAS and ATCR

On May 30, 2008, 18 individuals successfully completed the Advanced Training in Clinical Research (ATCR) Certificate and 22 earned the Master in Advanced Study (MAS) in Clinical Research degree, the largest graduating class in the five-year history of the MAS degree program. Graduates came from a wide variety of disciplines and represented three schools—Nursing, Medicine, and Pharmacy—as well as 23 departments/divisions. Visit the TICR program online for more information on offerings.

CTST announces new T2 training track to begin in 2009

The Clinical & Translational Science Training (CTST) program has announced the launch of a new "T2" track at various levels of their training program. CTST will offer a new track in the Master's in Clinical Research composed of an overview and nine specific courses, and will also work with PACCTR to develop a training program for professional students, with the Residency Training Program to develop a program for residents, and with the KL2 to develop fellowship training. The program will be lead by Ralph Gonzales, MD, MSPH. The T2 track program will be co-lead by Margaret Handley, PhD, MPH.

RAP & CTSI-SOS announce awards

On June 30th the Resource Allocation Program (RAP) announced 44 awards to faculty at all levels to support pilot projects and facilitate career development of clinical & translational researchers. 1.57 million dollars were disbursed in the spring cycle. CTSI's SOS made 24 awards as part of this process. Visit the RAP program website for more information about the program.

New funding opportunity with QB3 and Pfizer

QB3 has secured $9 million from Pfizer to support late stage collaborative research programs. CTSI will collaborate with QB3 to make funding available to clinical and translational researchers. A request for brief pre-proposals will appear soon on the CTSI web-site.

Trimmed citation format for CTSI

The required language to cite CTSI's NIH grant in all publications that benefit from CTSI's services has been shortened. The language is linked to from CTSI's home page, and is available at http://ctsi.ucsf.edu/cite.

New compliance information on NIH public access policy

The Library provides information on how to comply with the mandate to post NIH-funded research articles to PubMed Central. Questions can also be sent to the library at nihpub-help@library.ucsf.edu ✉.

Back to top ⬆

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 ✉.

Back to top ⬆