

COMMENT AND PERSPECTIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

May 5, 2014

It is our obligation—as a College of Medicine and Academic Health Center—to ensure that the great work we do makes its way into the care of our patients. A resource available to all of you, the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training, or CCTST, serves to help investigators bring innovations from the laboratory bench to the bedside and to applications within the community. I have asked Joel Tsevat, MD, co-director of the CCTST, to tell you more about this important resource.



Thomas F. Boat, MD
Vice President for Health Affairs,
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CCTST: Improving Translational Research



Joel Tsevat, MD, MPH
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James Heubi, MD
Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research and Professor of Pediatrics

The world of biomedical research has certainly changed in the past decade. Historically, researchers worked in labs or siloed research groups, with two goals in mind: getting grants (preferably from National Institutes of Health) and publishing papers. When (and if) one's findings made it to the bedside or improved the health of the community was someone else's concern. With rare exception, research agendas and study designs were driven by the investigator or funding agency with no involvement of patient or community stakeholders.

Today, that model is giving way to multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and trans-disciplinary team science, often involving stakeholders, with the goal of expediting and translating findings to benefit patients and the public. The evolution of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training (CCTST) parallels those changes in research.

Going on 10

Entering its 10th year, five of which have been supported by a \$23 million Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the NIH, CCTST provides infrastructure for clinical and translational research and serves as an

academic home for its more than 2,500 members across the Academic Health Center, its health care partners, UC's Uptown Campus, Greater Cincinnati community, and beyond. The CCTST provides research support for all phases of translational research: T1 translation (translation of bench science findings to humans), T2 translation (translation to patients), T3 translation (translation into practice), and T4 translation (translation into communities).

Support is provided primarily through CCTST's seven core services:

- **Research Central**, a study design, data analysis and data management core.
- **Community-engaged research**, including the Community Leaders Institute, which trains community members to do research, and the Community Health Grants program.
- **Research education, training and career development**, including the master's and certificate in clinical and translational research programs and the KL2 career development program.
- The **Clinical and Translational Research Center** (CTRC, formerly known as the GCRC).
- An extensive **pilot grant program**, providing over \$1.5 million per year for T1

ACCESSING CCTST SERVICES

Access to CCTST services is available to all members, and membership is free. Visit cctst.uc.edu/user/register to become a member.

If you have suggestions or would like to become involved with the CCTST, call 513-803-2612 or email cctst@uc.edu.

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The Issue

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Together,
these cores
provide
services to
over 800
investigators
per year.

grants, just-in-time core grants, methods and ethics grants, CTSC grants and retreat/workshop grants.

- **Biomedical informatics**, providing REDCap database training and support and i2b2 data warehouse queries.
- **Regulatory knowledge and support**, which created the Consortium of Greater Cincinnati IRBs (Institutional Review Boards) and co-created with Ohio State University and Case Western Reserve University the Ohio CTSA IRB consortium, converted the IRB application and annual progress report process to ePAS, and conducts symposia on ethical and regulatory issues.

Each of these core services is co-directed by faculty from UC, some with joint appointments at Cincinnati Children's. Together, these cores provide services to over 800 investigators per year. In addition, the CCTST coordinates the BIRCWH K12 **women's health career development program** and a **medical devices development collaborative**, and conducts the monthly CCTST **Grand Rounds series**, the quarterly **Community Engagement Speaker Series**, and periodic ethics and regulatory **symposia**.

New Initiatives

As my co-director Jim Heubi, MD, and I prepare for the renewal application of the CTSA grant, the CCTST is taking on new initiatives.

One of these, the **Integration Committee model**, focuses on helping selected individual researchers or research programs rather than on specific research projects. Leaders from multiple CCTST cores take a 360-degree look at the researcher or research program and work with them in an effort to overcome obstacles to their progress. To date, the Integration Committee has evaluated and worked with 35 researchers, ranging from residents and junior faculty to senior faculty and associate deans.

Another new initiative is **mentor training**. Utilizing an evidence-based program developed by the University of Wisconsin CTSA, the CCTST has sponsored three eight-hour mentor training workshops, with more planned.

Other initiatives under consideration include team science training, a new concentration in drug development in the PhD in pharmaceutical sciences program, a comparative effectiveness research core and pilot grant program, and theme-based networking sessions on topics such as health disparities.

The CCTST is intent on accelerating and improving all phases of clinical and translational research, locally, regionally and nationally.

Joel Tsevat, MD
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How the CCTST Can Work for You

Learn about CCTST programs, services and funding opportunities

Tuesday, May 6, 3 to 4 p.m.

Medical Sciences Building Room 6254

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