

# MCCTR News



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## Message from the Director

Dr. Joey P. Granger

I am pleased to inform you that we received our official NIGMS

Notice of Award for Phase II of our Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research. I want to thank all of you for your hard work, commitment and cooperation during the renewal process. I also want to welcome our new partners at the University of Mississippi - Oxford campus and Mississippi State University as well as new members of the MCCTR team. I look forward to working with all of you on our continued effort at improving clinical and translational research in Mississippi. For this issue of our newsletter, we welcome Gailen Marshall, M.D., Ph.D., as our new

Research Services Core leader. We also highlight the work of various MCCTR members who are pushing forward in their mission to better public health outcomes and promote COVID-19 vaccination. Our Member Spotlight shines on faculty around the state who are making major strides towards advancing their expertise and giving back by serving on various Program Cores. Our Faculty Kudos section showcases the achievements and awards of our members, and interactive lists of upcoming research opportunities, conferences

and workshops make it easy for our readers to access information with one click.

We look forward to expanding the impact that the MCCTR has on the state of Mississippi's healthcare, and as always, we are proud of the success of our faculty, and welcome another year of discoveries and innovative research.



# Translate your Interests in Clinical and Population Research

Follow us for conference announcements, research opportunities, faculty highlights & more!

 [@UMMC\\_MCCTR](https://twitter.com/UMMC_MCCTR)

 [@UMMC\\_MCCTR](https://www.instagram.com/UMMC_MCCTR)

 [INTEREST PAGE](#)

For more information on the MCCTR, visit our website [here](#).

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# MCCTR Receives \$20 Million NIH Grant to Expand Enrichment Programs, Institutional Partnerships & Training Opportunities

Prior to the Phase I of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences MCCTR award, there was no consistent statewide infrastructure to facilitate clinical and translational research or enable multidisciplinary and multi-institution collaborations. As a result of the NIGMS support and major investments from UMMC and our partnering institutions, we have developed the first ever multidisciplinary and institutional program in Mississippi that combines efforts of basic, clinical and population scientists and the community. While much has been accomplished in the first CTR funding cycle, Mississippi continues to be ranked as one of the unhealthiest states in the nation, and there is much work left to be accomplished. We are extremely pleased to announce that we recently received our Notice of Award from NIGMS for another 5 years of MCCTR funding.

The overarching goals of the MCCTR during the next five-year funding cycle are: (1) to enhance infrastructure and people resources required to address clinical and translational research needs in Mississippi; (2) to increase focus on implementation science and clinical and behavioral interventions to address the disparities associated with major diseases that impact Mississippians; and (3) to foster and coordinate collaboration re clinical and translational search within IDeA-CTR/CTSA networks and with partner institutions.

The second funding cycle will also focus on expansion, enhancement and even greater added value to clinical and translational research in our state emphasizing growth in rural and health disparities and telemedicine research.

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## MCCTR Receives NIH Grant for Programs, Partnerships & Training, cont.

Our Professional Development and Pilot Project Cores will continue to provide a number of important training and grant programs for early stage investigators and our BERD Core will be a central resource for expertise in clinical research design, epidemiology, and biostatistics for all investigators across the UMMC campus. The Research Services Core will also train and assist investigators in research development and implementation, including regulatory management, responsible conduct of research, effective recruitment and retention, and research compliance. Finally, the MCCTR Community Engagement and Outreach Core will build on its past successes by increasing its presence within the State of Mississippi through additional partners and the number of geographic regions in which it works, establishing and administering a MCCTR Practice-Based Research Network and improving the quality and quantity of community-engaged research initiatives, both within Mississippi and throughout the nation.

"I am very excited about the effort to create in-house training programs within the MCCTR," said Dr. Richard Summers, Assoc. Vice Chancellor for Research at UMMC. "We hope that these programs also serve to recruit and retain young, promising researchers at the institution."



*Dr. Richard  
Summers*

During the first phase of its funding, the MCCTR developed research support partnerships at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Tougaloo College, and the University of Southern Mississippi. In the second phase, Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi will join the consortium to broaden connections between early scientific researchers within the state.

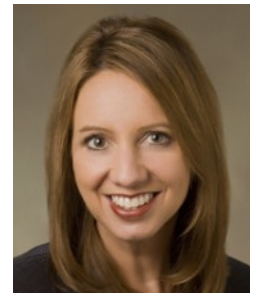
## MCCTR Receives NIH Grant for Programs, Partnerships & Training, cont.



*Dr. David Buys*

Dr. David Buys, who has assisted in facilitating the partnership between MCCTR and MSU, is looking forward to future collaborations between the two institutions. "Mississippi State University is proud to partner with research-intensive universities in Mississippi to enhance the wellbeing of our state through the MCCTR," said Dr. Buys. "We are particularly excited about the pilot grants, mentor development, and community engagement training opportunities for our world-class faculty and the windows that will be opened to access our unique expertise for faculty outside of MSU."

Dr. Leigh Ann Ross, Director of the CCTS at the University of Mississippi, also acknowledges the unique, mutually-beneficial relationship that occurs when researchers meet and develop new plans to tackle the state's health issues. "The University of Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) is excited to partner with the MCCTR to facilitate collaborations between our colleagues at UMMC and researchers on the University of Mississippi campus," said Ross. "We hope to connect Oxford-based faculty with UMMC colleagues to implement projects that will move basic science discoveries into clinical trials."



*Dr. Leigh Ann Ross*

"At MSU, we have experts in several fields that are intertwined with healthcare and public health," MSU Vice President for Research and Economic Development Julie Jordan said. "By partnering with MCCTR, our faculty members will have more opportunities to pursue research directly related to health while also expanding their network of researchers in the state. The research infrastructure being developed through this work will benefit faculty at MSU and every other institution involved."

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## MCCTR Receives NIH Grant for Programs, Partnerships & Training, cont.

The MCCTR will also add two new CTR/CTSAs partnerships as well: the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UAB-CCTS) and the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences (NUCATS) center, joining the the first phase partners, Mayo Clinic's Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCaTS) and the Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science Center (LACaTS).

We hope that our expanded state and national collaborations, our growing number of clinical and translational investigators, improved connections with rural communities via our Telehealth Center, MS Extension Service, and MS State Department of Health will allow us to be a transformative force to improve MS health outcomes during Phase II. To achieve this critical goal the MCCTR will expand, enhance and add greater value to our clinical and translational research in our state via innovative approaches that will emphasize growth in rural and health disparities, telemedicine and implementation research.

*To learn more about the MCCTR's Phase II plans, Core Facilities, and how you can be involved in development programs, training and research opportunities, visit our website [here](#).*

*For more information on the BERD Core and Research Services Core, see attached flyers in this newsletter.*

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## Dr. Gailen Marshall Takes Over as MCCTR Research Services Core Leader



*Dr. Gailen  
Marshall*

The MCCTR is pleased to announce that Gailen Marshall, M.D., Ph.D. has agreed to fill the position of Research Services Core leader. Dr. Marshall is the R. Faser Triplett, Sr, M.D., Chair of Allergy and Immunology, Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, Pathology and Population Health Science. He serves as Executive Director of the Mississippi Clinical Research and Trials Center and Medical Director of the UMMC Clinical Research Support Program. He received both his Ph.D. in Immunology and M.D. from the University of Texas Medical

Branch in Galveston and completed his internal medicine training at the University of Iowa and his residency, chief residency and Allergy-Immunology fellowship at the University of Tennessee at Memphis. Dr. Marshall is an active clinician, educator and research investigator. His major research interests focus on the clinical effects and underlying mechanisms of psychological stress (in the context of genomics, environmental factors and lifestyle choices) on dysfunctional immune responses involved in various diseases, including allergic rhinitis and asthma and, most recently, COVID-19. He also studies the immunomodulatory effects of new therapeutic agents for allergies and asthma and the effectiveness of an integrative approach to allergy and asthma care. He has published over 250 peer reviewed articles, reviews and book chapters. He is an active speaker in regional, national and international venues, and is completing his fourth and final term as Editor-in-chief of the *Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology*.

Dr. Alan Jones served a core leader during Phase 1 of the MCCTR. He was recently promoted as Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical Affairs at UMMC, working with executive leaders to provide strategic operational leadership for UMMC's clinical mission area. He also serves as the Medical Center's clinical response leader for the current COVID-19 pandemic. The MCCTR appreciates Dr. Jones' contributions to the MCCTR during Phase 1 and to his continued support of the MCCTR.

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# Mississippi INBRE and MCCTR Co-Sponsor Inaugural Mississippi Health Disparities Conference



*Dr. Mohamed  
Elasri*

For the first time in the state of Mississippi, a conference has been created to address the unique challenges faced by those who suffer from chronic diseases and to bring together local researchers who are passionate about improving public health. Co-sponsored by National Institute of General Medical Sciences-funded Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) and the Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research (MCCTR), the inaugural Mississippi Health Disparities Conference was held on August 4, 2021, at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center in Biloxi. With the goal of increasing understanding and awareness that chronic diseases affecting Mississippians are preventable and reversible and championing the successes of healthy lifestyle modification, the conference offered workshops, research poster presentations, and evidence-based educational sessions to attendees.

The idea of the conference quickly became a reality for its organizer, Dr. Mohamed Elasri, the Program Director of Mississippi INBRE. Dr. Elasri mapped the conference's schedule, secured accomplished keynote speakers and saw his project to fruition within a four month period.

"No one had done this before," said Dr. Elasri. "An annual conference entirely dedicated to Mississippi health for Mississippi researchers did not exist."



## Mississippi Health Disparities Conference, cont.



*Dr. Caroline  
Compretta*

With the rise in COVID-19 infections this fall, a conference to address the long-term impact of the virus on chronic disease was more necessary than ever. Coronary artery disease, hypertension, diabetes, and obesity increase an individual's risk of contracting a severe COVID-19 infection, and in turn, COVID-19 can accelerate the effects and morbidity of those diseases.

"Certain populations in Mississippi suffer disproportionately with chronic diseases than others. Adding COVID-19 to the everyday lives of those people often makes the effects of those diseases worse," said Dr. Elasri. "In both the immediate future and in years to come, we will need to collect data and research on how COVID-19 has impacted the lifespan, overall health and the longevity of those who suffer from chronic disease."

To build upon their mission for a healthier populace, the conference partnered with the Open Arms Healthcare Center to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations, with complimentary gift cards available to those who enrolled to receive the shot. Free health screenings were also offered to the public, giving patients the ability to know their blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol levels, as well as their HIV/STD status.

"Over 355 vaccinations were given during the conference," said Dr. Elasri. "Initially we only had access to 200 vaccines, as we didn't want to prepare any that would go to waste."

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## Mississippi Health Disparities Conference, cont.

“When it became clear that the public demand for vaccines was going to exceed our supply, Dr. Thomas Dobbs stepped in and saved the day. He made some calls to local hospitals and clinics and was able to come up with the extra doses needed for the day.”

Dr. Thomas Dobbs, the State Health Officer at the Mississippi Department of Health, was one of three keynote speakers whose experience with combating widespread illness lent irreplaceable insight to conference attendees. Dr. Penny Ralston, Director of the Center on Better Health and Life for Underserved Populations at Florida State University, gave the opening remarks and spoke on the importance of building public support for communal health. Dr. Victor Sutton, Director of the Office of Preventative Health and Health Equity at the Mississippi State Department of Health, also spoke on the social determinants of health within communities and advocated for a hands-on, localized approach to benefiting the health of others.

The conference offered abundant opportunities for networking and connecting with researchers, health professionals, community leaders and government officials, all focused on practical measures to combat preventable chronic diseases. Among addressing holistic and multi-level approaches to diabetes, obesity and cardiometabolic diseases, speakers and workshops also promoted the use of technology to address health concerns in rural areas as well as future solutions and innovations for health disparities in the state.

Though the conference’s road from creation to execution was relatively short, over 250 registrants attended the one-day conference, exceeding Dr. Elasri’s expectations.

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## Mississippi Health Disparities Conference, cont.

After a year and a half of virtual meetings, healthcare professionals were eager to meet in person, and by ensuring that conference attendees wore masks and were vaccinated, all could enjoy an opportunity to network and socialize safely.

“One of the best aspects of the conference was seeing the CEAL members for the first time in-person,” said Dr. Caroline Compretta, who assisted with the MCCTR's involvement in co-sponsoring the conference. “We were able to get away from the Zoom cameras!”

“I think people really enjoyed the opportunity to have a small vacation for a day and travel to the Gulf Coast to meet with colleagues,” said Dr. Elasri. In the future, the conference will most likely call Biloxi its permanent home as it is a convenient gathering place for not only Mississippi residents but for neighboring researchers as well.

As for the future development for the conference, both Dr. Elasri and Dr. Compretta have ideas for improvement.

“I would like to see addiction addressed as one of the chronic health concerns impacting Mississippians,” said Dr. Elasri. “As we had little time to gather experts before the conference, we were unable to cover addiction as a topic. I’d like to see a panel on addiction and its effects become a staple of the conference.”

“I think it would be great to have mentoring workshops for young investigators,” said Dr. Compretta. “The opportunity to connect with senior investigators involved with health disparity issues would be a great addition.”

# Mississippi Health Disparities Conference, cont.

Dr. Compretta also noted that panels including representatives from the MCCTR and conference’s community-based partners, or panels on community engagement led by community members and experts, would greatly enrich the effort to directly connect with those suffering from chronic diseases.

*Plans for the conference’s 2022 meeting are currently underway. For more information on this year’s conference, and to watch videos of keynote presentations, click [here](#).*



# MCCTR Community Engagement and Outreach Core Leader Receives NIH Grant to Address Vaccination Inequities and Distribution



*Dr. Caroline  
Compretta*

For Dr. Caroline Compretta, the battle against the spread of COVID-19 has become a major focus of her work within community-engaged research. After receiving notice of funding in May 2021, Dr. Compretta is looking forward to expanding the work that she and others have completed under the first phase of her grant, Mississippi CEAL: Addressing Equity in Vaccine Access and Distribution.

The Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities is an NIH-funded initiative that seeks to combat misinformation by conducting community-engaged research and outreach focused on COVID-19 awareness and education. It also aims to include diverse racial and ethnic populations in COVID-19 clinical trials, reflecting the groups disproportionately affected by the virus. Mississippi is one of eleven states participating in the CEAL initiative, and the MS CEAL team includes researchers from UMMC, the MS Department of Health, Tougaloo College and the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Compretta, along with Dr. Michael Hall, MCCTR Director of Clinical and Population Studies, and Dr. Victor Sutton of the MS Department of Health, leads the Mississippi CEAL Team towards its goal of addressing COVID-19 vaccine access and distribution. The MCCTR Administrative Core also played a central role in obtaining the NIH CEAL grant.

The Mississippi CEAL team has proposed to supplement the work it is now doing with a more vigorous “boots-on-the-ground” approach to address vaccination inequities and to reach Mississippians where they live with culturally-sensitive educational materials about the vaccine,

## MCCTR CEO Core Leader Receives NIH Grant, cont.

information about vaccination opportunities and bringing the vaccine itself to those areas.

"The greatest challenge currently is continued vaccine hesitancy and refusal," says Compretta. "While we anticipated such hesitancy from the beginning, we have been surprised by its entrenchment in some communities."

Under the second phase of the grant, the MS CEAL Team will be expanded to include vaccination sites at HBCUs, canvassing teams through the Mississippi State University Extension Service with 4H and Junior Master Wellness volunteers, vaccination teams at select Federally Qualified Health Centers, and the UNACARE vaccination mobile unit run by faculty members from UMMC's School of Nursing, who will provide vaccinations to hard-to-reach areas in Mississippi.

As of July 27, 2021, only 38.6% of Mississippi's population had received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while only 34.2% had been fully vaccinated. While vaccination rates are predictably higher in more populated areas of the state, rural counties lag behind. Compretta has discovered, however, that face-to-face conversations have begun to impact unvaccinated Mississippians' opinions on getting the shot.

"We've found that more and more people want to have personal conversations about the vaccine to ask questions and voice their

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## MCCTR CEO Core Leader Receives NIH Grant, cont.

concerns,” says Compretta.

“That has made our Communications Leaders, Young Ambassadors and Community Health Advocates such an important strategy in the fight against COVID-19.”

“They are the grassroots leaders who are having those one-on-one conversations in their communities and helping individuals become vaccine-confident.”

And success, according to Compretta, isn’t necessarily defined as a number, but as forward momentum towards the overall health of Mississippi communities.

“For our mobile vaccination units, some of their milestones may include numbers of vaccines administered,” says Compretta. “But our other projects with Communications Leaders and Young Ambassadors measure success by the increase in grassroots leaders who are trained and engaged in the project.”

*For more information on Mississippi CEAL, visit our website [here](#).  
To learn about the Community Engagement and Outreach Core, current projects, and other opportunities for involvement, click [here](#).*

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# MCCTR Faculty Spotlight:

## Dr. David Buys, Dr. Holly Huye, and Dr. Sarah Mason

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*Dr. David Buys,  
Mississippi State  
University*

[david.buys@msstate.edu](mailto:david.buys@msstate.edu)

Dr. David Buys is an Associate Professor at Mississippi State University in the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion. Specializing in State Health, his research interests include food security, prescription opioid misuse, mental health first aid, farm stress, and COVID-19. He is a supporter and participant in MSU's Healthy Homes Initiative, AIM for CHangE and PROMISE Initiatives. Dr. Buys has published extensively on bettering rural health for Mississippians and is a member of the American Public Health Association, the Mississippi Public Health Association, the Gerontological Society of America and the American Sociological Association.

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*Dr. Holly Huye,  
University of Southern  
Miss., CEO Core Co-Lead*

[holly.huye@usm.edu](mailto:holly.huye@usm.edu)

Dr. Holly Huye is an Associate Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics. As a registered dietician, her research interests focus on program development and community nutrition intervention. Dr. Huye serves as the MCCTR's Community Engagement and Outreach (CEO) Core's Co-Lead and helped to organize this year's Community-Engaged Research Summer Institute, a one-week residential program that trains selected junior faculty members from all major Mississippi universities in the principles and practice of community-engaged research.



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## Faculty Spotlight, cont.:

# Dr. David Buys, Dr. Holly Huye, and Dr. Sarah Mason



*Dr. Sarah Mason,  
University of Mississippi,  
Tracking & Evaluation  
Core Lead  
[masonsk@olemiss.edu](mailto:masonsk@olemiss.edu)*

Dr. Sarah Mason is an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Center for Research Evaluation at the University of Mississippi. Dr. Mason's primary goal as Director is to advance the practice of research evaluation through innovation, high-quality training for evaluators, encouraging public advocacy for evaluation and the development of practical tools that allow individuals to embed evaluation in everyday decisions. Her research expertise lie in the areas of contextually-responsive evaluation design, survey

methodology, educational evaluation and evaluation influence. Dr. Mason is also the Lead of the MCCTR's Tracking and Evaluation Core, which assesses whether MCCTR activities are implemented as planned and measures their impact, and identifies and monitors the strengths and weaknesses of each program and service.

*For more information on how to collaborate with the MCCTR on research projects, seek assistance with grant application, or to learn more about affiliated faculty members, visit our website [here](#).*

# MCCTR Faculty Kudos



*Dr. Caroline  
Compretta*



*Dr. Holly  
Huye*



*Dr. Crystal  
Lim*



*Dr. Wendy  
White*

## **MCCTR's CEO Core Present Session at Mississippi Health Disparities Conference 2021**

Dr. Caroline Compretta, Dr. Holly Huye, Dr. Crystal Lim and Dr. Wendy White presented a session titled "*Who are the people in your neighborhood? Developing Community-Researcher Partnerships to Inform and Prioritize Community Needs in the Fight against Health Disparities*" at the 2021 Mississippi Health Disparities Conference on Wednesday, August 4, 2021.

The session provided an overview of the purpose of the MCCTR and the goals of the Community Engagement and Outreach Core, shared the perspective of the Core's needs in the board members' respective communities, and highlighted the current community-engaged research projects of the CEO Core Working Group across the state.

For more information on the conference and other sessions, click [here](#).



*Dr. Lorena  
Amaral*

**Lorena Amaral, PharmD, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor,**  
**Pharmacology & Toxicology, UMMC**

- The Pillars: Recognition of Service and Inclusive Excellence -- March 24, 2021

## MCCTR Faculty Kudos, cont.



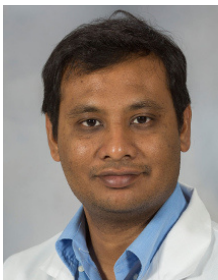
*Dr. Parvesh  
Garg*

**Parvesh Garg, MD**

**Assistant Professor,**

**Neonatology & Newborn Medicine, UMMC**

- MCCTR Pilot Project Funding, "Outcomes Prediction in Neonates with Surgical Necrotizing Enterocolitis Combining Histopathological and Genomic Markers", July 13, 2021

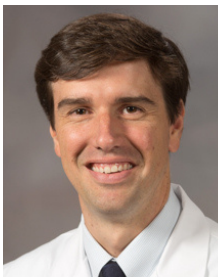


*Dr. Vishnu  
Garla*

**Vishnu Garla, MD**

**Assistant Professor,**

**Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes,  
UMMC**



*Dr. Trey  
Clark*

**Donald "Trey" Clark, III, MD**

**Associate Professor,**

**Fellowship Program Director,**

**Division of Cardiovascular Diseases, UMMC**

- Drs. Garla and Clark were recently featured in an UMMC eCV article outlining the remote patient monitoring offered to rural diabetic patients through a partnership between the University of Mississippi Medical Center and North Mississippi Primary Health Care. For more information, read the article [here](#).

# MCCTR Faculty Kudos, cont.



*Dr. Candace  
Howard-  
Claudio*

**Candace Howard-Claudio, MD, PhD**  
**Associate Professor,**  
**Radiology, Cardiac and Body Imaging Divisions,**  
**UMMC**

- Certification of Merit for Educational Exhibit; ARRS 2021 Virtual Conference, March 31, 2021: "Imaging of Young Adult with Risk of Sudden Cardiac Death" PowerPoint Exhibit
- Clinical Science Young Investigator Award Finalist; SSCI 2021 Southern Regional Meeting Virtual SSPR Plenary Session, February 27, 2021
- SAFMR/SSCI Research Award Winner; SSCI Southern Regional Meeting Virtual Gastroenterology, Nutrition & Dietary Supplements Session, February 26, 2021
- Trailblazer Teaching Award; Office of Medical Education at UMMC School of Medicine, February 5, 2021



*Dr. Elliot  
Varney*

**Collaborating With: Elliot Varney, MD**  
**Dept. of Radiology Medical Resident,**  
**Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences -- Biomedical**  
**Imaging Track, UMMC**

- Recipients of the Radiology Society of North America's Research Resident (Varney) and Scientific Advisor (Howard) grant funding for their project, "Prospective Cardiometabolic Assessment of Bariatric Surgery Patients"

## MCCTR Faculty Kudos, cont.



*Dr. Rachael  
Morris*

**Rachael Morris, MD**  
**Associate Professor,**  
**Maternal Fetal Medicine, Dept. of Obstetrics and**  
**Gynecology, UMMC**

- Dr. Morris was recently featured in an UMMC eCV article focusing on the fight to save the lives of unvaccinated pregnant women and their infants during the COVID-19 crisis in Mississippi. To read the article, click [here](#).



*Dr. Gailen  
Marshall*



*Dr. James  
Galbraith*



*Dr. Caroline  
Compretta*



*Dr. William  
Hillegass*

### **Multiple MCCTR Faculty Featured in UMMC eCV Article on COVID-19 Research**

Drs. Gailen Marshall, James Galbraith, Caroline Compretta and William Hillegass were all featured in an article published by UMMC on the importance of COVID-19 research during the Delta variant surge in Mississippi. For more information and to read the article, click [here](#).

*To submit Faculty Kudos for future newsletter highlights, email your updates and a current headshot to Emma Draughn, [eeldraughn@gmail.com](mailto:eeldraughn@gmail.com).*

# MCCTR BERD Core Resources

**MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH  
BIostatISTICS, EPIDEMIOLOGY, AND RESEARCH DESIGN (BERD) CORE  
Seth Lirette, PhD, Director**



**Free!**

**Services Offered to Clinical and Translational Researchers:**

- **Assistance in developing study design and power analysis for research proposals**
- **Assistance in statistical analysis for proposals**
- **Assistance in study execution, including instrument, protocol and data coordination**
- **Assistance with analytics and reporting of research results**
- **Assistance in accessing existing data resources, including UMMC's Research Data Warehouse, the National COVID Cohort Collaborative, and de-identified electronic health records**
- **Assistance with manuscript development**
- **Assistance with multi-institutional collaborations**
- **Formal and informal training in biostatistical methods, study design, manuscript interpretation, and statistical reasoning**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BETSY DAVIS  
Director, Research Operations  
Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research**

**601-815-1436**

**sedavis@umc.edu**

# MCCTR Research Services Core Resources

**MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH**

**RESEARCH SERVICES CORE**  
**Gailen Marshall, MD, Director**



**Services Offered to Clinical and Translational Researchers:**

- **Assistance in developing study protocol and informed consent processes**
- **Assistance in developing processes for recruitment and retention**
- **Assistance in planning for specimen collection and processing**
- **Assistance with clinical services such as budgeting, participant reimbursement, and invoicing**
- **Provision of regulatory support, including bioethics consults, training in responsible conduct of research, Institutional Review Board procedures, and access to Data Safety and Monitoring Board procedures**
- **Access to Research Navigator and Clinical Research Coordinators and Cohort Study Navigators**
- **Support for Telehealth, Cohort Study, and Community-Based Research**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BETSY DAVIS**

**Director, Research Operations**

**Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research**

**601-815-1436**

**[sedavis@umc.edu](mailto:sedavis@umc.edu)**

# Funding & Research Opportunities

- **Request for Information (RFI):**
  - **Developing Consent Language for Future Use of Data and Biospecimens (NOT-OD-21-131)**. Comment period ends on September 29.
  - **NIH Programs to Increase Access to Cloud Computing to Diverse Biomedical Research Institutions (NOT-OD-21-158)**. Comment period ends on September 30.

## International Weight Control Registry

If you have an interest in healthy weight management, we want to hear from you! The **International Weight Control Registry (IWCR)** is an online research project helping identify the most successful weight loss strategies for different population groups worldwide.



**Help Change  
The World  
of Weight Loss**



Whether you're succeeding, struggling, or suffering, your weight story could help thousands of others.

Join a transformational initiative to find the best weight loss strategies across the globe. We want to help everyone interested in weight loss be more successful.

**Join us and help change science.**

Whether you're succeeding, struggling or suffering, your weight story could help thousands of others.

For more information, visit:  
<https://www.iwcr.study/jacksonms1>



# Funding & Research Opportunities, cont.



*National Institute of General Medical Sciences  
(NIGMS)*

## MOSAIC Funding Opportunity

FOR RESEARCHERS COMMITTED TO ENHANCING  
DIVERSITY IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

*Interested in learning more?*

*Webinar: September 7, 2021*

*For application requirements, click [here](#).*

# Upcoming Conferences

## ZOOMing in on Preeclampsia Research Virtual Seminar Series

October 2021 - May 2022



Joey Granger, Ph.D.  
The University of Mississippi Medical Center



Sarosh Rana, M.D.  
The University of Chicago



Ananth Karumanchi, M.D.  
Cedars Sinai

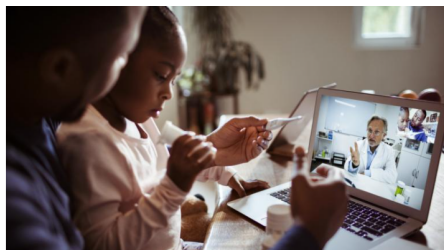
Sponsored By:



## ZOOMing In on Preeclampsia Virtual Series

October 2021 - May 2022

The MCCTR is excited to announce the return of the ZOOMing in on Preeclampsia Research Seminar Series this fall! The series provides training and networking opportunities for early-stage investigators and trainees that are engaged in preeclampsia research. If you and your colleagues are interested in participating and/or presenting in the series, click the image above.



## Pathways to Prevention: Improving Rural Health Through Telehealth-Guided Provider-to-Provider Communication



October 12 - 14, 2021



Virtual Workshop

## Improving Rural Health Through Telehealth

October 12-14, 2021

Sponsored by the NIH-NHLBI, this online conference aims to identify research gaps, explore barriers and facilitate successful, sustainable implementation of rural telehealth. For more information, click the image above.

## Upcoming Conferences, cont.



### **NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding & Grants Administration**

**November 1-4, 2021**

Are you new to working with the NIH grant process and want to learn more about funding your research? The 2021 Virtual Seminar was made for you! Registration is currently open and free -- click on the image above to learn more.



### **2021 Southeast Regional IDeA Conference**

**November 12-14, 2021**

The Regional Conference has served as an important platform for faculty, postdoctoral, and student scientists of the Southeastern IDeA States and Puerto Rico to discuss matters of science, administrative policy, and best practices in a cordial and interactive scholarly environment. For more registration, click the image above.

# Training Opportunities



## METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES FOR WHOLE PERSON RESEARCH

Virtual Workshop

Focusing on the methods needed for rigorous research on interconnected systems, multicomponent interventions, and multisystem/multiorgan outcomes.



**10:30 AM to 4:30 PM CT**  
**Sept. 29-30, 2021**

For more information and registration, click [here](#).



# Training Opportunities



MCCTR Fall Seminar Series

**WHITNEY BONDURANT, JD, DHA**  
**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CLINICAL TRIALS**

## "RESOURCES FROM UMMC'S OFFICE OF CLINICAL TRIALS"

A Virtual Seminar Sponsored by the Mississippi  
Center for Clinical and Translational Research

Thursday, September 30, 2021 @ 12 PM CT  
Click [here](#) for WebEx Link



# MCCTR Publications

April - June 2021

- Albert NM, Tyson RJ, Hill CL, DeVore AD, Spertus JA, Duffy C, Butler J, Patterson JH, Hernandez AF, Williams FB, Thomas L, Fonarow GC. Variation in use and dosing escalation of renin angiotensin system, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist, angiotensin receptor neprilysin inhibitor and beta-blocker therapies in heart failure and reduced ejection fraction: Association of comorbidities. *Am Heart J.* 2021 May;235:82-96. doi: 10.1016/j.ahj.2021.01.017. Epub 2021 Jan 23. PMID: 33497697.
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## MCCTR Publications, cont.

April - June 2021

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## MCCTR Publications, cont.

April - June 2021

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April - June 2021

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April - June 2021

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April - June 2021

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