MCCTR News

Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research

Volume 1, Issue 3 **May 2021**

Joey Granger, PhD

Inside this issue:

A Message from the Director

Our team at The Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research (MCCTR) has been very busy addressing Mississippi's clinical and translational research (CTR) needs through our partner and collaborative institutions and by supporting multi-disciplinary CTR and community-engaged research projects. MCCTR is pleased to announce the ninth funding cycle of the Pilot Project Program. Letters of Intent are due June 1, 2021. Congratulations to the MCCTR Mentoring Academy graduates: Drs. Erin Taylor, Christina Jordan, and John Clemmer. These early-stage investigators have successfully completed a series of interactive sessions with senior research faculty members with mentoring experience. The MCCTR recently co-sponsored an important National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) event. N3C is the largest, most secure clinical data resource for COVID-19 research in the US. We will also co-sponsor the MS INBRE led Health Disparities conference on August 4th in Biloxi. Our MCCTR sponsored Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) Summer Institute will be held at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), June 13–18, 2021. I also want to remind everyone that the IDeA Program-wide Town Hall Meeting will be held on May 26, 2021, from 1-3 pm CST. Dr. Ming Lei is the Director of the Division for Research Capacity Building at NIGMS. If interested in attending, please complete the registration form **here**. Our newsletter also highlights how USM and Tougaloo College have teamed up to study many important diseases that impact Mississippians. We also feature how MCCTR resources have impacted Mississippi researchers such as Dr. Anna Porter, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health in the Department of Health Sciences at USM. We also spotlight several key members of our MCCTR team: Dr. Wendy White, an active member of the MCCTR since 2020 serving as the co-director of the CEnR, a member of the Steering Committee, and site Principal Investigator at Tougaloo College and Dr. Bill Hillegass who serves as an informatics coordinator and faculty biostatistician for the MCCTR Biostatics, Epidemiology, Research, and Design (BERD) Core and as an Associate Professor in the Department of Data Science and Research Data Warehouse sub-core leader. Finally, I want to congratulate all of our junior investigators listed below who have received funding from our MCCTR programs.

~Joey Granger, PhD, Director

MCCTR Pilot Projects Program Call for Letters of Intent

The Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research (MCCTR) is pleased to announce the ninth funding cycle of our Pilot Projects Program (PPP). The MCCTR is an NIH-sponsored partnership of the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), Tougaloo College, and the University of Southern Mississippi (USM).

Eligible applicants include faculty members of any Mississippi Institution who are not current or previous Principal Investigators of a P01- or R01-type NIH grant or equivalent National Science Foundation Grant. In addition, applicants may not have concurrent pilot funds from an IDeA-state related program (CTR, COBRE, INBRE).

Letters of Intent for the next funding cycle are due 06/01/2021. Full applications will be due 07/16/2021. Investigators, whose letter of intent are accepted, will be asked to meet with representatives from our Research Services Center and Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design Cores.

For more information regarding eligibility, application requirements, and administrative requirements, visit our PPP webpage. https://www.umc.edu/Research/Centers-and-Institutes/External-Designation-Centers/Mississippi-Center-for-Clinical-and-Translational-Research/Funding-Opportunities/Pilot-Projects-Program/Overview.html

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MCCTR Mentoring Academy Spring 2021 Graduates

Congratulations are in order for the graduates of the MCCTR Mentoring Academy. These young investigators have successfully completed a series of eight interactive sessions with several UMMC senior faculty members with mentoring experience. The Mentoring Academy is designed to develop both the mentoring skills and grant writing skills of MCCTR funded investigators, young investigators, and faculty members who wish to serve as mentors for MCCTR investigators. Eligible applicants include faculty members and young investigators from MCCTR's partnering universities.

Dr. Erin Taylor is an Instructor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at UMMC. Dr. Taylor has had the opportunity to mentor and instruct students of all capacities allowing her to see firsthand the importance of mentoring in the development of students. As Dr. Taylor is transitioning into a faculty member with an independent lab and supervising her graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, the Mentoring Academy was an ideal opportunity to improve her mentoring skills.

Dr. Christina Jordan is the Director of Operations and Co-Principal Investigator of the UMMC Biobank. Earlier in her career, Dr. Jordan has had the opportunity to teach Biology and Chemistry to high school students in the Jackson Public School District. During her time as an educator, Dr. Jordan achieved the highest percentage of students passing the Biology I State Exam, with a 20% increase in scores in comparison to the previous year. With such an aptitude for teaching, the Mentoring Academy was a great opportunity for a candidate such as Dr. Jordan as she is breaking the surface of her early stage career.

Dr. John Clemmer is an Instructor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. at UMMC. While in the early stages of his career, Dr. Clemmer is focusing on his career development by improving his written and oral communication skills by way of presenting his work at departmental seminars, our institutions Cardiovascular-Renal Research Center (CRRC) Work-In-Progress meetings, and at national meetings. Dr. Clemmer is also an active participant in career and professional development activities offered by UMMC, the AHA, and the APS. For career-driven individuals like Dr. Clemmer, the Mentoring Academy an ideal opportunity to place a significant impact on the professional development of young investigators.

The deadline for the next round of applicants will be in October 2021. Applications can be found at the following link:

https://www.umc.edu/Research/Centers-and-Institutes/External-Designation-Centers/Mississippi-Center-for-Clinical-and-Translational-Research/Resources/Mentoring%20Academy/Mentoring-Academy-Home.html

Erin Taylor, PhD

Christina Jordan, PhD

John Clemmer, PhD

MCCTR CO-Sponsored N3C Event

Kenneth Gersing, MD
Director of Informatics
Division of Clinical Innovation
NCATS
NIH

Studying COVID-19 Using Real-World Data: Lessons Learned and Steps Forward After One Year of the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C)

Since 2020, Dr. Gersing has co-led the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C). N3C is a partnership among the NCATS-supported Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program hubs, the National Center for Data to Health (CD2H), and the NIGMS-supported Institutional Development Award Networks for Clinical and Translational Research (IDeA-CTR), with overall stewardship by NCATS. N3C is the largest, most secure clinical data resource for COVID-19 research in the US.

As discussed at the May 13th meeting:
- N3C is the largest collection of electronic health record (EHR) data on COVID-19 patients in the world
- Lessons learned after one year of studying COVID-19 using real-world data
- Future direction and opportunities
- Team Science and working across borders to study COVID-19

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MCCTR Partner Institutions Team Up to Fight COVID

The Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research is an ambitious enterprise designed to promote the success of research focusing on all major diseases that impact Mississippians at three CCTR partner institutions - the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Tougaloo College, and the University of Southern Mississippi. Our mission is to develop a powerful and sustainable research enterprise that will have an important public health impact by reducing obesity and its complications as well as health disparities in Mississippi.

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) and Tougaloo College, both of which have been MCCTR partner institutions since the grant was funded in 2015, have teamed up to study and better understand the issues faced by young adults in Mississippi during the COVID-19 pandemic. These institutions are in search of Mississippians between the ages of 18 and 29-years old to participate in a new study.

Young Adults Against COVID-19 (YAACOV) is a research study that will ask participants to fill out an online survey and participate in a virtual focus group to share their knowledge around COVID-19.

The panel will address how they have dealt with the stressors and problems posed by the pandemic, as well as the information sources they used to learn about vaccines and other preventative measures. The Mississippi Collaborative Engagement Alliance (MS CEAL), which was awarded to the University of Mississippi Medical Center and sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, is supporting five initiatives, including the YAACOV report. According to data released by the Mississippi Department of Health, young adults aged 18 to 39 made up about 36% of COVID-19 incidents. Among this group, African American young adults are at greater risk of contracting and suffering from the COVID-19.

“The data provided by the Mississippi Department of Health identifies young adults as continuing to be a population of high risks for carrying and transmitting the coronavirus, and that is a major reason why this study is specifically designed to identify the concerns, challenges, and information needs of that population,” said Dr. Wendy White, Co-director of the MCCTR Community Engaged Research Core, YAACOV Principal Investigator and Principal Investigator of the Jackson Heart Study Undergraduate Program at Tougaloo College.

MCCTR Resources Assisting Southern Miss Faculty

Dr. Anna Porter is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health in the Department of Health Sciences at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Porter's research interests are related to physical activity and the built environment.

Dr. Porter first connected with the MCCTR through her involvement as a participant in the 2019 MCCTR Community-Engaged Research Summer Institute. Dr. Porter also received support from the MCCTR while working on an R01 proposal earlier this year. The MCCTR provided the resources for external reviews before the application was submitted to the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Porter expects to receive feedback early this summer.

"MCCTR has been a great resource for me as an assistant professor in Mississippi who is fairly early in my career, and I believe that faculty interested in health-related research, regardless of career stage, would benefit from the MCCTR services. Based on my own experience, I can say that the training that MCCTR provides not only helps develop independent researchers but also facilitates introductions and potential collaborations with others within the state who are working on health-related research. The pilot fund program provides an excellent opportunity for individuals within the partner institutions to develop and implement new research ideas. Because it is focused on Mississippi institutions, investigators are not competing with others across the United States as would be the case with an NIH funded R21, for example. Finally, the assistance that MCCTR provides in the realm of proposal development assures that our work will be competitive on a national scale." - Dr. Anna Porter

Anna Porter, MPH, PhD

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Member Spotlight

Dr. Wendy White has been an active member of the MCCTR since 2020 serving as the co-director of the Community Engaged Research Core (CEnR) alongside Dr. Caroline Compretta (UMMC) and Dr. Holly Huye (USM), a member of the Steering Committee, and site Principal Investigator at Tougaloo College. UMMC and Tougaloo have a long history of collaboration and underrepresented minority engagement in research and educational programs. Tougaloo faculty members are engaged in MCCTR committees and in PPP and CTRS programs, and Tougaloo hosts the MCCTR Community Engaged Summer Institute in alternating years. The Undergraduate Training and Education Center at Tougaloo College is led by one of the Co-PIs of the CEnR core, Wendy White, PhD.

In addition to her work with our center, Dr. White has worked with the Jackson Heart Study (JHS) for the last 19 years. Her involvement with the JHS started when she was hired as the study's first graduate research assistant. Later, she would go on to be hired as the Coordinator/Instructor for Tougaloo College's Undergraduate Training and Education Center (UTEC), where she currently serves as the Center's Principal Investigator and Director.

UTEC is dedicated to creating a pool of well-trained high school students who have the potential to successfully complete undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees in health professions, biomedical research, and public health. UTEC also sponsors and implements courses that prepare undergraduate students to pursue advanced studies in public health disciplines and provide high school and undergraduate students with hands-on experiences that create interest in biomedical research and health-related professions. Dr. White has mentored over 200 college students through the JHS Scholar Program. These students have started careers in public health, biomedical research, health administration, and health care, and five high school students that she has mentored were recognized on a national level for their knowledge of epidemiology.

The MCCTR is very grateful for the contributions that Dr. White has presented to this Center, and we are looking forward to the continued advancement of our CEnR Core.

Wendy White, MPH, PhD

Bill Hillegass, MD, PhD

Dr. William "Bill" Hillegass serves as an informatics coordinator and faculty biostatistician for the MCCTR Biostatics, Epidemiology, Research, and Design (BERD) Core. Dr. Hillegass is an Associate Professor in the Department of Data Science and the Research Data Warehouse sub-core director at UMMC. The BERD Core provides training and collaborative assistance to all investigators supported through the MCCTR's programs and services, and assistance in preliminary study design to prospective applicants for MCCTR support. Investigators receive both didactic and hands-on training and assistance in research design, epidemiology, and biostatistics, including implementation of data collection tools and methods, data management and monitoring, and data analysis for manuscripts and grants. As a faculty biostatistician, in addition to providing general consultation on study design and data analysis to MCCTR investigators, Dr. Hillegass works closely with faculty utilizing the Clinical Research and Trials Unit to enhance study design and analytic rigor to expand research activities by seeking additional funding, and to prepare results for publication. He consults regularly with investigators conducting clinical studies and population research and provides many training opportunities at UMMC while administering biostatistical guidance on MCCTR projects and direct mentoring to investigators.

Dr. Hillegass has recently led UMMC's effort to contribute to the NUCaTS National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C).

The BERD Core has served 44 academic/clinical/research units throughout the UMMC campus. BERD Core services are not limited to MCCTR personnel. Please contact the MCCTR administrative staff with inquiries or to set up a meeting for statistical support with the BERD Core.

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Meet the Investigators

Pilot Projects Program (PPP)

Pradeep Alur, M.D.
Dept. of Pediatrics, UMMC
Project: *Association between Weight for Length and Severity of Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia*

Nuno Oliveira, Ph.D.
School of Kinesiology and Nutrition, USM
Project: *Visual Feedback Monitoring During Exercise in Individuals with Obesity*

Vishnu Garla, M.D.
Division of Endocrinology, UMMC
Project: *Effect of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists (GLP-1) on Trabecular Bone Mineral Density and Visceral Adiposity in Postmenopausal Patients*

Kurtis Showmaker, Ph.D., MS
Dept. of Data Science, UMMC
Project: *Development of the UMMC BioBase*

Stephanie McCoy, Ph.D.
School of Kinesiology and Nutrition, USM
Project: *Physical Activity and Cardiometabolic Health in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Lorena Amaral, Ph.D.
Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology, UMMC
Project: *Progesterone and PIBF: New Insights into Treatments Options for Preeclampsia*

Crystal Lim, Ph.D.
Dept. of Psychiatry, UMMC
Project: *Formative Research to Develop a Pediatric Obesity Primary Care Research Practice Network*

Erin Jackson, M.D.
Dept. of Pediatrics, UMMC
Project: *Obesity in Pediatric Sickle Cell Disease: A New Phenomenon*

Richard Wells, M.B.ChB.
Dept. of Internal Medicine, UMMC
Project: *Prospective Registry Study of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension and Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension in Mississippi*

Investigator Development Program (IDP)

Abigail Gamble, PhD
Dept. of Preventive Medicine, UMMC
Project: *Exploring Exercise Behavior in Pregnant and Postpartum Adolescents in Mississippi*

Susan Mayfield-Johnson, PhD, MPH, MCHES
Dept. of Public Health, USM
Project: *Effectiveness of Community Health Workers in Reducing Cardiovascular Disease in the Mississippi Delta*

Candace M. Howard, MD, PhD,
Dept. of Radiology, UMMC
Project: *Analysis of Abdominal Body Composition as a Biomarker of Cardiovascular and Other Obesity Related Diseases in African Americans*

Xiuquan Wang, PhD
Tougaloo College
Project: *Uncovering and Understanding Population Differences with Topological Methods*

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Vishnu GArla, MD, PPP awardee, received a grant from the Mayo Clinic Division Of Geriatrics for his proposal entitled, "Relationship of markers of cellular senescence to skeletal parameters in type 2 diabetes mellitus in African American women". Dr. Garla is also being promoted to Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, effective July 2021.

Kurtis Showmaker, PhD, MS, PPP awardee, was awarded Federal PHS funding for a proposal entitled, "Molecular Center of Health and Disease (MCHD)-COBRE (Phase I)" and received the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE) Campus Champion Fellow Award. XSEDE is supported by the National Science Foundation.

Caroline Compretta, PhD, co-director of the MCCTR Community Engaged Research Core and a former awardee in MCCTR's Pilot Projects Program, received the Rising Star Award (Early-Career Faculty) at the UMMC 2021 GWIMS Award Program and received Honorable Mention for the ODI Beacon Award. Dr. Compretta was also promoted to Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine.

Crystal Lim, PhD, PPP awardee, received the Rising Star Award (Mid-Career Faculty) at the UMMC 2021 GWIMS Award Program.

Susan Mayfield-Johnson, PhD, MPH, MCHES, IDP awardee, and her team of editors recently had a book published. *Promoting the Health of the Community, Community Health Workers Describing Their Roles, Competencies, and Practice* 1st ed. 2021, XXVII, 430 p. 31 illus., 29 illus in color

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Number: RFA-OD-21-008
Title: Emergency Awards: Community-engaged COVID-19 Testing Interventions among Underserved and Vulnerable Populations – RADx-UP Phase II (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)
Purpose: This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) uses an emergency U01 mechanism to support Phase II of the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics – Underserved Populations (RADxSM-UP) initiative. These two-year Testing Research Projects will (1) expand the scope and reach of RADxSM-UP testing interventions to reduce COVID-19 disparities among underserved and vulnerable populations and (2) address scientific questions on interventions to increase access and uptake of COVID-19 testing given the increasing availability of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. The funding for this initiative is provided from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
Deadline: July 7, 2021
More Information: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-21-008.html

Number: RFA-DK-20-034
Title: Program to Advance the Career Development of Scientists from Diverse Backgrounds Conducting Nutrition, Obesity, Diabetes, and Related Research (U24 Clinical Trial Optional)
Purpose: The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to enhance the diversity of the research workforce who are available to successfully compete for independent research funding from NIH in the areas of nutrition, obesity, diabetes, and related conditions. This program will establish a consortium providing professional development, mentoring, networking, pilot and feasibility funds, and other opportunities designed to advance the career development of post-doctoral scholars and early career faculty from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups nationally underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research, who intend to pursue a research career focused on nutrition, obesity, diabetes, and/or related conditions. The program will be administered through research institutions with substantial existing NIH funding within the research mission of NIDDK.
Deadline: July 14, 2021
More Information: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-20-034.html

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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**

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RESEARCH SERVICES CORE

Alan Jones, MD, Director

Free!

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
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MCCTR Support of Transcriptomics in Jackson Heart Study Participants

The MCCTR is supporting RNA extraction from cryopreserved peripheral blood mononuclear cells of 1,055 Jackson Heart Study (JHS) participants, using baseline samples (2000-2004). The extracted RNA will be sequenced with funding from R01 HL129132 (PI Alex Reiner), and gene-specific transcripts will be quantified.

- Value of the data to be produced: DNA variants that are associated with the transcription levels of specific genes (expression quantitative trait loci or eQTLs) can directly affect the quantitative expression of the encoded proteins. Massively parallel sequencing of messenger RNA from the available JHS samples will enable the detection of genetic variants that regulate the transcription of potentially any gene that is expressed in mononuclear cells. Individuals of African ancestry harbor a rich pool of genetic variation, including many genetic variants that are absent from other populations. Although eQTL datasets for European ancestry populations have been available for several years, the current effort, supported by the MCCTR, will produce the largest eQTL dataset to date for an African ancestry population.

  Transcriptome-wide association studies (TWAS) use eQTL data to predict the transcription levels of the related genes in individuals with only genotype data available. The predicted transcription levels can then be tested for their association with important biologic traits and outcomes such as cholesterol levels, type 2 diabetes, or coronary artery disease. TWAS approaches have a lower burden of multiple testing correction compared to single variant GWAS, and they improve mechanistic interpretation by linking imputed mRNA transcript levels, instead of single variants, to trait variation. eQTLs from circulating leukocytes often generalize to other tissues, and in other cases their association with disease may be mediated through leukocyte biology (e.g. through effects on the vascular endothelium). TWAS has successfully identified genes missed by single variant analysis for cancer, schizophrenia, cardiovascular disease, and other conditions [1-4]. Along with TWAS, there are many other well-developed methods to utilize a novel eQTL dataset in African Americans (gene set enrichment analyses, colocalization, etc.). The availability of this powerful eQTL dataset will enable discovery of novel disease mechanisms across a wide variety of conditions in the JHS and other large cohorts of African Americans who have undergone genotyping or whole genome sequencing, including clinical cohorts developed using electronic medical records.

- Benefit to JHS, UMMC, and MCCTR investigators: (1) JHS investigators can be expected to be primary authors or coauthors of a large number of papers based on these data. (2) The availability of this eQTL dataset will enable future applications for funding based on JHS data or potentially involving African Americans from the UMMC clinical population. For example, one could propose genotyping studies of African American patients who have undergone specific imaging studies, to identify imputed transcripts that associate with clinically important structural findings. Other possibilities include TWAS of mothers who have had pre-eclampsia vs. those who have not, or TWAS to identify transcripts that predict degree of success of bariatric surgery or response to exercise. Importantly, through established mechanisms, any UMMC or JHS investigator can potentially access and use these JHS transcriptomic data by developing a JHS-approved ancillary study or manuscript proposal (see https://www.jacksonheartstudy.org/ for instructions on submitting a proposal).

- Assistance for prospective UMMC and MCCTR investigators: Technical approaches for TWAS and other RNA expression-based analyses are well-developed but require expertise in statistical genetics as well as programming skills. UMMC investigators with such skills include Jeanette Simino, Yan Gao, Hao Mei, and Solomon Musani. Investigators who are associated with Dr. Reiner's R01 could also help with protocol development and analysis, including Dr. James Wilson (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center), Dr. Alex Reiner (University of Washington, Seattle), Dr. Leslie Lange (University of Colorado, Denver), and Dr. Laura Raffield (University of North Carolina).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MICHAEL HALL
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NAIPI

About News Resources Events FAQs

Membership Membership

Register to Attend the NIGMS IDeA-wide Town Hall Meeting Online

We welcome you to register for this upcoming meeting which will be held online on May 26 at 1 PM to 3 PM Central Standard Time (CST). The session will be conducted over ZOOM. Access details will be emailed to everyone that fills out the registration form below:

Email*

Phone number

First name

Last name

State

City

Region

West / Central / South-East / North-East

Company/Universit

Typically the university

Submit

By Naipi Admin | May 11, 2021 | NAIPI Blog | 0 Comments

Share the story with others in your

MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

2021 Community-Engagement and Outreach Summer Institute

Purpose	To train junior investigators/faculty from Mississippi's institutions of higher learning in community-engaged research (CEnR) related to racial and ethnic health disparities that impact the lives of Mississippians, including obesity- and cardiometabolic-related diseases.
Dates	Sunday, June 13 through Friday, June 18, 2021
Location	The University of Southern Mississippi, Trent Lott Center, 118 College Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Format	The institute will include presentations on aspects of planning and conducting community-engaged research related to major diseases that impact Mississippians, along with individual and group activities focused on developing a proposal for a community-engaged research project
Participants	The institute will have a maximum of 10 participants, allowing for a workshop/seminar type format, with presenter-participant discussion and interactive learning
Participant support	For non-local participants: Lodging and reimbursement for travel from your home/home campus in Mississippi will be provided. Meals will be provided via per diem allowance for those meals not provided by the institute.
Research support	Institute participants will be eligible to submit a proposal to the MCCTR Pilot Projects Program
Applications due	Spring 2021
What past participants said	*The connections we made are invaluable-- the CEnR Summer Institute facilitators and staff and other attendees at similar points in their career and with complementary research interests. There are few occasions where so many institutions are represented and the environment is conducive to forming sincere collaborations. Likewise, the introduction to a host of resources all geared toward making our research endeavors successful was invigorating and encouraging.*

Information available at https://www.umc.edu/Research/Centers-and-Institutes/External-Designation-Centers/Mississippi-Center-for-Clinical-and-Translational-Research/Resources/Community-Engaged-Research-Summer-Institute-Overview.html. For an application, email MCCTR@umc.edu. Complete **the application form** and **submit 1) your curriculum vitae**; **2) a 2-3 page application letter of interest** (research interests and any research activity not reflected in your CV, why you are interested in attending the Institute, and how attendance will benefit your research and professional goals); **and 3) a letter of recommendation from your Department Chair or a senior faculty member familiar with your professional capabilities and research potential in community-engaged research**. **Submit your application as a single pdf via email** to MCCTR@umc.edu and copy holly.huye@usm.edu , ccompretta@umc.edu and wwhite@tougaloo.edu.

Questions? Contact:

The University of Mississippi Medical Center	**Tougaloo College**	**The University of Southern Mississippi**
Caroline Compretta	Wendy White	Holly Huye
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MISSISSIPPI HEALTH DISPARITIES CONFERENCE 2021

sponsored by MississippiINBRE — IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence

MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention Center
Biloxi, Mississippi

Register for free at https://msinbre.org/mhd2021

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Thomas Dobbs III, MD, MPH
State Health Officer
Mississippi State Department of Health

Penny Ralston, PhD
Director, Center on Better Health and Life for Underserved Populations
Florida State University

Victor Sutton, PhD, MPPA
Director, Office of Preventive Health and Health Equity
Mississippi State Department of Health

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Call for SESSION PROPOSALS	Call for ABSTRACTS
June 30th	July 16th

MHD2021 will bring together health executives, health professionals, researchers, community leaders, students, and government officials for innovative and strategic discussions, solutions, and partnerships concerning key issues for addressing health disparities in Mississippi.

@msinbre

mhd 2021

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MCCTR affiliated Publications, February 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021

Gamble A, Beech BM, Wade BC, Sutton VD, Lim C, Sandridge S, Welsch MA. Telehealth Diabetes Prevention Intervention for the Next Generation of African American Youth: Protocol for a Pilot Trial. JMIR Res Protoc. 2021 Mar 31;10(3):e25699. doi: 10.2196/25699. PMID: 33787504; PMCID: PMC8047807.

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