2017 PILOT AWARDS ANNOUNCED

For the tenth year in a row, UW ICTR has awarded pilot funding for innovative clinical and translational research projects. $1.35 million has been awarded to 14 teams led by investigators in the UW Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, Medicine & Public Health, and the College of Engineering.

Christine Sorkness, PharmD, ICTR Senior Associate Executive Director, comments,

We are especially proud to announce this year’s outstanding group of awardees, since the pilot award RFAs were released last winter when the result of our NIH CTSA renewal was very uncertain. It was an act of faith by our own staff and by investigators to move the application process forward in anticipation of another cycle of CTSA funding.

The Wisconsin Partnership Program remains in place as a long-term supporter of the pilot awards focused on community-engaged and health equity research. Other co-funding partners this year include the UW Carbone Cancer Center, the UW Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Center, and the UW Department of Radiology. Co-funding allows scarce federal funds to be shared more widely as partners elect to advance high-scoring proposals in their research focus areas. Importantly, ICTR also serves as a co-funder for pilot awards programs administered by the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center and the Skin Disease Research Center and is supporting two projects from each in 2017.

Sorkness continues,

A big thank you to our many individual scientific reviewers and members of our ICTR Scientific Review Committee for their service to ICTR and the pilot awards programs. As team science expands on campus, it has become challenging to identify unconflicted reviewers with the required expertise, and our volunteers provide an essential service despite their busy schedules. Thank you!

We’re pleased to note that the 2017 awards include research teams from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the School of Education, in addition to our ICTR partner schools.
Spotlight: Engaging Patients and Their Families in Family-Centered Care

BUILDING A PROGRAM IN HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH WITH PILOT AWARDS | ELIZABETH COX

GOAL: To engage the voices of children and families to deliver safer, higher quality pediatric care.

ICTR SUPPORT: In addition to receiving ICTR Pilot Awards in 2008 and 2013 to support her research, Dr. Cox's work was strengthened through a variety of collaborations with program partners within the ICTR Community Academic Partnerships core, assistance from biostatisticians, the Office of Clinical Trials, and scientific editing.

Cox also received competitive ICTR-CAP supplemental funding to create state-of-the-art resources to support researchers wishing to conduct patient and other stakeholder engaged research.

OUTCOMES: Cox's 2008 Pilot Award, Patient-Centered Care for Children with Chronic Disease, led to an AHRQ R18 which generated evidence to support adoption of the family-centered rounds approach to care in hospital settings. UW Health has incorporated this approach within the pediatrics service. The resultant Family-Centered Rounds (FCR) Toolkit has been widely disseminated and across the US and worldwide.

Her 2013 ICTR Patient Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Pilot Award, Engaging Stakeholders to Deliver Family-Centered Diabetes Self-Management Resources, and a PCORI-funded study have engaged children with type 1 diabetes and their parents to tailor diabetes self-management resources to the unique needs of each child and family. In addition, the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin explored the development of group-based chronic disease management visits that would utilize Cox’s scheduling models, needs assessment tools, and content.

With support from the 2013 PCOR award and other ICTR resources, Cox has co-authored three toolkits to support patient and other stakeholder engagement including the Toolkit on Patient Partner Engagement in Research (TOPPER), Hard-to-Reach Patient Stakeholders (HARPS): An Engagement Guide, and Sustaining Engagement of Blended Stakeholder Boards Across the Research Trajectory. Collectively, these toolkits have been accessed by over 200 individuals world-wide. Find these and other toolkits online (https://www.hipxchange.org/FamilyRounds).

Cox has become a leader in patient-centered outcomes research, and has been instrumental in developing local and national resources to support investigators wishing to conduct high-quality patient and other stakeholder engaged research.

RECENT PUBLICATION
NEW RFA FOR COLLABORATIVE HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH

UW ICTR has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for new community-engaged health disparities research projects, the Collaborative Health Equity Research (CHER) Pilot Award. This novel award reflects ICTR’s commitment to mentoring the next generation of health equity researchers by supporting promising new research, training in best practices for engaging communities and patients, and facilitating the formation of interdisciplinary teams. Each award includes $50,000 maximum in direct costs for no longer than 12 months.

This pilot award is for early stage investigators focused on health disparities and health equity, and requires a senior mentor. The program is designed to provide researchers with experience in clinical and translational research necessary for their future career development, and to provide preliminary data for subsequent funding applications.

Chris Sorkness, Senior Associate Executive Director, explains,

"Through this RFA we hope to “stack the deck” in support of early stage investigators seeking to conduct high quality research to address health disparities and health inequities in the state of Wisconsin. In addition to the many ICTR resources available to support community-engaged health equity research, this RFA recognizes that junior-senior collaborations can make all the difference in accelerating advancements in health. We strongly encourage interdisciplinary applications from broad campus investigators, since social determinants of health and health disparities/inequities often go hand-in-hand."

Proposed research for this RFA must address health disparities or health inequities and must be translational in nature. Applications must cite published evidence that the health disparity/inequity is recognized by state/federal agencies as significant and warranting intervention. Awards will prioritize support of assistant professors taking a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to research, including those who genuinely engage community partners & stakeholders.
Thank You, Pilot Award Reviewers!

2017 Pilot Awards

Translational Basic & Clinical Pilot Awards ($50,000 for 12 months)
Creating Epigenetic Switches for Triplet Repeats of Fragile X Syndrome
PI: Aseem Ansari, PhD, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Collaborator: Xinyu Zhao, SMPH
Robo Signaling Controls the Organization of the Islets of Langerhans
PIs: Sarah Blau, MD, PhD; Matthew Merrins, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Collaborators: John Thomas, PhD, University of Virginia
Targeted Treatment for Pulmonary Hypertension Associated with Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia
PIs: David McCulley, MD, School of Medicine & Public Health; Shaoqin Gong, PhD, College of Engineering
Collaborator: Naomi Chesler, COE
Role of TET Proteins in Folate-enhanced Axon Regeneration after Spinal Cord Injury
PIs: Sivan V Meethal, PhD; Bernmars Iskandar, MD, School Medicine & Public Health
Investigation of a Novel Role for HAPLN1 in Multiple Myeloma Drug Resistance
PIs: Shigeki Miyamoto, PhD; Natalie Callander, PhD, School Medicine & Public Health
Co-Funding: UW Carbone Cancer Center

Novel Methods Pilot Grant Awards ($50,000 for 12 months)
Novel Robotic Cycle Therapy for Targeted Neural Plasticity
PI: Peter Adamczyk, PhD, College of Engineering
Collaborators: Vivek Prabhakaran, Veena Nair, SMPH
Advanced Quantitative Tissue Characterization with Confounder-Corrected MRI
PI: Scott Reeder, MD, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Collaborators: Diego Hernandez, Adnan Said, Rashmi Agni, Rao Watson, SMPH
Optical Scattering as a Novel Biomarker for Glaucoma Susceptibility
PI: Luke Lamers, MD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Collaborators: Christopher Francois, SMPH; Punam Saha, University of Iowa
Targeted Treatment for Pulmonary Hypertension Associated with Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia
PIs: David McCulley, MD, School of Medicine & Public Health; Shaoqin Gong, PhD, College of Engineering
Collaborator: Naomi Chesler, COE
Role of TET Proteins in Folate-enhanced Axon Regeneration after Spinal Cord Injury
PIs: Sivan V Meethal, PhD; Bernmars Iskandar, MD, School Medicine & Public Health
Investigation of a Novel Role for HAPLN1 in Multiple Myeloma Drug Resistance
PIs: Shigeki Miyamoto, PhD; Natalie Callander, PhD, School Medicine & Public Health
Co-Funding: UW Carbone Cancer Center

PIs: Jeremy Rogers, PhD, College of Engineering; Gillian McLellan, DVM, School of Medicine & Public Health
A New Model for Studying Cell Trafficking and Proliferation in vivo
PI: Matyas Sandor, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Collaborator: Sarah Marcus, SMPH

UW Emergency Department Research Services Program
PIs: Manish Shah, MD, MPH; Brian Patterson, MD, MPH, School of Medicine & Public Health
Collaborators: Azita Hamedani, Michael Pilla, Michael Repplinger, SMPH

ICTR Co-Funding of 2017 UW Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center Pilots
A Non-Invasive Method for Assessment of Estradiol in the Brain
PI: El Terasawa-Grillely, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Collaborators: Onoffre DeJesus, SMPH; School of Medicine & Public Health

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ICTR Co-Funding of 2017 UW Skin Disease Research Center Pilots
Development of a Novel Synthetic Model to Study Skin Polarity
PI: Hao Chang, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Dietary Grape in the Management of Atopic Dermatitis
PI: Chandra Singh, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Collaborators: Nihal Ahmad, Stefan Schieke, SMPH
Clinical & Community Outcomes Research Pilot Awards ($75,000 for 12 months)
Instrument Development for a Social Network Analysis (SNA) of Antibiotic Prescribing in Skilled Nursing Facilities
PI: Christopher Crinch, MD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Academic Collaborators: Marlon Mundt, Paula Lueraus, SMPH

UW Program Partners: UW Survey Center, Wisconsin Network for Research Support
Community Collaborators: Badger Prairie Health Care Center, Leading Age, Wisconsin Health Care Association, Wisconsin Medical Directors Association
Engineering cancer survivorship care planning to address primary care information needs in order to improve health outcomes for cancer survivors
PI: Amyle Tewaarkwer, MD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Academic Collaborators: Mary Sesto, James Haine, David Hahn, SMPH

UW Program Partners: Wisconsin Research & Education Network, UW Carbone Cancer Center
Community Collaborators: Gilda’s Club Madison
Dissemination & Implementation Research Awards ($150,000 for 18 months)
Building the Capacity of Schools to Address the Social and Emotional Needs of Latino Students and Their Families:
Implementation and Evaluation of the Fortalezas Familiares Program in Schools
PI: Carmen Valdez, PhD, School of Education
UW Program Partners: Wisconsin Center for Education Research
Community Collaborators: 16th Street Community Health Center, Catholic Charities, Madison Metropolitan School District, Rogers InHealth, St. Anthony School Milwaukee, Sue McKenzie, Rogers Memorial Hospital/InHealth
Testing Novel Methods for Analyzing and Correcting Root Causes of Patient Harm
PI: Douglas Wiegmann, PhD, College of Engineering
Academic Collaborators: Jeff Pothof, Toshia Wetterneck, SMPH
Community Collaborators: UW Health
Stakeholder and Patient Engaged Research Awards ($100,000 for 12 months)
Engaging Stakeholders to Develop a Patient-Centered Approach to Improve Older Adult Patient Ambulation during Hospitalization
PI: Barbara King, PhD, APRN-BC, School of Nursing
UW Program Partners: Wisconsin Network for Research Support
Community Collaborators: UW Health Geriatric Clinics
Faith and Community in Action: Increasing Knowledge and Management of Depression in African American Communities
PI: Earlis Ward, PhD, School of Nursing
Academic Collaborators: Elizabeth Cox, SMPH; Toni Ziegler, WNPRC, SOE
Community Collaborators: Second Baptist Church