QUESTIONS?

ICTR pilot awards program managers Peggy Hatfield (Translational, Basic & Clinical; pmhatfie@wisc.edu) and Kate Judge (Community Engagement & Research; kjudge@wisc.edu) are responsible for the annual application and review process.

Given that a wide range of factors affect health outcomes, including social determinants of health, ICTR encourages applicants from across campus.

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

We are thrilled with this cohort of pilot awardees on multiple levels: We have an outstanding group of principal investigators representing schools from across campus including the School of Business, the School of Human Ecology, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, as well as from the UW schools and college making up the ICTR partnership.

In addition, many of the proposals shine a health equity lens on health issues across Wisconsin. As well as interventions targeting Milwaukee community members from low-income and/or minority households, there are projects testing interventions to improve rural health. Finally, the health issues addressed by this year’s awards are of importance across the lifespan including issues specific to pediatric and geriatric populations.

Christine Sorkness

Peggy Hatfield

Kate Judge

Complete list of this year’s awardees can be found inside.

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Christine Sorkness, PharmD, ICTR Senior Associate Executive Director, comments,
Overall, pilot projects focus on research likely to lead to a direct impact on human health and that span the entire clinical and translational research spectrum. Examples include understanding sudden infant death syndrome, analysis of clinical workflows, increasing ambulation by geriatric patients, and improving breast cancer follow-up.

ICTR provides a variety of resources to investigators that support their research and enhance their ability to obtain research funding including ICTR Pilot Awards.

Maureen Smith, ICTR Director for Community-Academic Partnerships, comments:

Many of the applicants for Community Engagement and Research (T2 to T4) awards developed exceptional proposals with meaningful stakeholder engagement components by leveraging ICTR-CAP resources.

Some investigators took advantage of consultations with ICTR-CAP Programs/Affiliate Programs, others completed the Certificate in Clinical & Community Outcomes Research, and still others incorporated feedback from the External Community Review Committee from previous application rounds. Well done, 2018 pilot awardees!

CONGRATULATIONS TO HELI ALUM ANDREA GILMORE-BYKOFSKYI

Andrea Gilmore-Bykovskyi, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing and a recent recipient of an ICTR Collaborative Health Equity Research (CHER) Pilot Award, has received a Paul B. Beeson Emerging Leaders Career Development Award in Aging (K76) from the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

Gilmore-Bykovskyi’s project, Novel Approaches to Identifying and Engaging Disadvantaged Patients with Alzheimer’s Disease in Clinical Research, focuses on improving access and engagement in Alzheimer’s Disease research among individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as racial and ethnic minorities and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Dorothy Edwards, Director of the UW Collaborative Center for Health Equity, notes,

Our team was delighted to learn more about Andrea’s fantastic community-engaged research efforts when she participated in the 2018 Health Equity Leadership Institute. She has just accepted our invitation to join the inaugural cohort of CCHE Health Equity Research Fellows along with five other exceptional Fellows. Her work explores best practices in recruiting underserved populations into clinical trials using a combination of modern health informatics tools and tailored recruitment strategies. This is very important and timely work targeted to address persistent health disparities among diverse and underserved members of Wisconsin communities.
Thank You,
Pilot Award Reviewers!

2018 Pilot Awards

Translational Basic & Clinical Pilot Awards ($50,000 for one year)
Role of ERα Following Brain Injury: Ligand Dependent or Independent?
Pis: Pelin Cengiz, MD PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Co-Funding: Jon Levine, SMPH

*Co-Funding: Waisman Center
Pharmacological Modulation of ErbB Signaling to Prevent Type 1 Diabetes
Pis: Feyza Engin, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Co-Funding: Daric Wheeler, SMPH

Improving Right Ventricular Function in Young Adults Born Preterm
Pis: Kara Goss, MD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Collaborators: Chris Francois, Oliver Wieben, SMPH

*Co-Funding: Department of Radiology
General Anesthetics and Outcome from Blunt Trauma in Aged Animals
Pis: Michael Perauansky, MD; David Wassarman, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health

Validation of Mass Spectrometry and Microarray Assays for a Molecular Epidemiologic Study of Shared Bladder Carcinogen Exposures in Humans and Dogs
Pis: Lauren Trepanier, PhD, School of Veterinary Medicine
Co-Funding: Daniel Kurot, Kristen Malecki, SMPH; State Laboratory of Hygiene; James Schauer, COE

Identifying Novel Mechanisms for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
Pis: Ravi Vaidyanathan, PhD
School of Medicine & Public Health

Toward an Understanding of the Molecular Mechanism Underlying Success of the Ketogenic Diet and its Application to Fragile X Syndrome
Pis: Cara Westmark, PhD; Jerry Yin, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Collaborator: Rama Maganti, SMPH

Overcoming Resistance to AXL Based Therapies in Head and Neck Cancer
Pis: Deric Wheeler, PhD; Randall Kimple, MD PhD, School Medicine & Public Health
Co-Funding: UW Carbone Cancer Center

Developing Novel Kyurenine Derivatives for Mitigating Inflammatory Human Diseases
Pis: Yongna Xing, PhD, Dinesh Shah, MD, School Medicine & Public Health

A New Approach for Treatment of Endocrine Resistant Breast Cancer
Pis: Wei Xu, PhD, School Medicine & Public Health
Co-Funding: UW Carbone Cancer Center

Novel Methods Pilot Awards ($50,000 for one year)
Evaluation of the Impact of a Problem Oriented View on Clinical Workflows
Pis: Joel Buchanan, MD; Michael Semanik, MD MS, School Medicine & Public Health
Co-Funding: DaWayne Willet, UT-Southwestern; Adam Wright, Harvard

A Genetically Engineered Knockdown-Rescue Strategy to Replace Mutant with Functional Proteins
Pis: Erik Dent, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Co-Funding: Karin Roman; SMPH

Muscle Quality: a Future Target for Nutritional Intervention
Pis: Adam Kuchel, PhD, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Co-Funding: Kenneth Lee, Scott Reeder, SMPH; Brian Anthony, MIT

Novel Method for Enhancement of Kidney Transplant Graft Survival by Transfer of iPSC-Derived MSCs in a Rhesus Model
Pis: Igor Slukvin, MD, PhD; Dixon Kaufman, MD, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health

UW Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center Pilots (ICTR Co-Funding, $30,000 for one year)
Conditional Norms for Mid- to Late-Life Cognition
Pis: Rebecca Kosick, PhD, School of Medicine & Public Health

Association of Cardiovascular Risk Factors with Micro- and Macrovascular Cerebral Function in Whites and African Americans
Pis: Regina Murphy, PhD, Eric Shustas, PhD, College of Engineering

Clinical & Community Outcomes Research Pilot Awards ($75,000 for one year)
Identifying strategies to provide integrated care for rural patients with diabetic foot ulcers
Pis: Meghan Brennan, MD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Academic Collaborator: Christie Bartels, SMPH

UW Program Partner: Wisconsin Research & Education Network
Community Collaborator: Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative
Sharing doctors’ notes to improve parent understanding of their hospitalized child’s care plan
Pis: Michelle M. Kelly, MD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Academic Collaborators: Peter Hoonakker, COE; Ryan Coller, Shannon Dean, Dan Slidansky, SMPH

UW Program Partner: Systems Engineering for Patient Safety
Community Collaborators: Patient and Family Advisory Council, American Family Children’s Hospital
Identifying Barriers to Age-Appropriate Umbilical Hernia Repair in Wisconsin Children
Pis: Jonathan Kohler, MA, MA, School of Medicine & Public Health
Academic Collaborators: Esra Alagoz, Caprice Greenberg, Jessica Schumacher, SMPH

UW Program Partner: Community Academic Aging Research Network
Sondegerg Support Research Center, Center for Tobacco Research & Intervention, Center for Quality and Productivity Improvement
Community Collaborators: Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Aging & Disability Resource Center of Ozaukee County
Dissemination and Implementation Research Awards ($150,000 for 18 Months)
Reach and Teach: Translating “Mind Over Matter - Healthy Bowels, Healthy Bladder” for Digital Delivery
Pis: Heidi Brown, MD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Academic Collaborators: Craig Albers, SOE; Megan Piper, SMPH; Margaret Wise, SOP; Nicole Werner, COE

UW Program Partners: Community Academic Aging Research Network, Soundergerg Research Center, Center for Tobacco Research & Intervention, Center for Quality and Productivity Improvement
Community Collaborators: Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Aging & Disability Resource Center of Ozaukee County
Dissemination and Implementation of a Mindfulness-Enhanced, Evidence-Based Program to Strengthen Family Relationships and Prevent Adolescent Substance Use in Wisconsin
Pis: Larissa Duncan, PhD, School of Human Ecology

Academic Collaborators: Ravi Vaidyanathan, PhD, School of Nursing
Academic Collaborators: Barbara King, SON
UW Program Partner: ICTR-CAP D&I Launchpad
Community Collaborators: Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center, Milwaukee
Stakeholder and Patient Engaged Research Awards ($100,000 for one year)
Engaging Stakeholders to Improve the Quality of Breast Cancer Follow-up: Development of a Novel Approach to Breast Cancer Follow-up Care
Pis: Heather Neuman, MD, School of Medicine & Public Health
Academic Collaborators: Esra Alagoz, Brent Hanlon, Jessica Schumacher, Amy Tevaarwerk, Jennifer Tucholka, SMPH; Kristine Kwokkeboom, SON


*Co-Funding: UW Carbone Cancer Center

ictr.wisc.edu
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Both of this year’s awardees are conducting research addressing prenatal care. Disparities in infant mortality and pregnancy outcomes continue to be a persistent and challenging issue to address across Wisconsin and the nation, and particularly with individuals who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health care based on racial or ethnic group membership.

**Linnea Evans, PhD, MPH**, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Health Disparities Research Scholar Program, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

- **Mentors**: Stephanie Robert, UW School of Social Work; Deborah Ehrenthal, UW Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Population Health Sciences
- **Research**: Effects of Stress on Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Hypertension and Pregnancy Outcomes

**Madelyne Greene, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Health Disparities Research Scholar Program, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

- **Mentor**: Deborah Ehrenthal, UW Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Population Health Sciences
- **Research**: Understanding Implementation of Prenatal Care Coordination in Wisconsin Counties
Westergaard’s work would not be possible without ICTR support. The project received an ICTR Type 2 Pilot Award in 2013, and expert guidance from the Community Academic Partnerships core and the Collaborative Center for Health Equity, which both promote work that strives for health equity through community partnership. His projects also use the services of the ICTR Scientific Review Committee, as part of review by the UW Institutional Review Boards.

OPIOID ABUSE & VIRAL INFECTIONS: UW ICTR SUPPORT OF RURAL PREVENTION PROGRAMS

As an Associate Professor of Medicine and Population Health Sciences, Ryan Westergaard, MD, PhD, MPH, is an infectious disease physician and epidemiologist who specializes in the treatment of HIV and viral hepatitis. He has a particular focus and passion to improve treatment of HIV in vulnerable, underserved populations.

Notably, drug abuse from injecting heroin and other opioids is commonly complicated by HIV or viral hepatitis infection. This risk is especially high in rural communities lacking adequate public health infrastructure, medical homes, and/or effective prevention programs. In Wisconsin, treatment admissions for heroin and other opioids tripled between 2005 and 2014 and Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections increased at the same time.

Since 2011, Westergaard and his interdisciplinary team have created a research program to evaluate the role of non-clinical settings in coordinating delivery of essential prevention services. The team particularly concentrates on six contiguous rural counties of Wisconsin with peak opioid injection and HIV/HCV infection rates. With an NIH R01 award in 2016, the team began implementing and evaluating a novel community response model to support prevention services for high risk clients. Westergaard comments,

Our project, the Client Centered Prevention Home model, reflects a partnership with the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin. Much of our work is done through their field sites in northern Wisconsin and we observed that a considerable number of Native American participants were enrolling. We knew we wanted to explore a collaboration with one or more of the tribal communities.

Because our work is so community focused, we have received a lot of support over time via the UW Community Academic Partnerships core and the Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE). So we knew who to turn to for advice.
Westergaard and Assistant Scientist, Wajiha Akhtar, PhD, contacted CCHE Administrative Director, Sarah Esmond, to introduce the research and explore how best to raise visibility about the project with tribal leaders. She promptly connected with Gail Nahwahquaw, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Office of the Secretary and Tribal Affairs Director. Nahwahquaw confirmed time for the project team to present at the next Wisconsin Tribal Health Directors meeting. Esmond then notified Melissa Metoxen, a community and academic support coordinator with the UW Native American Center for Health Professions (NACHP). As a member of the Oneida Nation, Metoxen was able to provide insight about how to prepare the team for their presentation to the Directors. Metoxen notes,

Westergaard worked with NACHP to seek knowledge around working and pursuing partnerships with tribal communities. We appreciated his awareness in knowing that our communities are unique, especially given we are sovereign nations. Working with our communities often means working with tribal leadership, tribal governance bodies, and more. We were happy to assist in this effort and look forward to Westergaard creating sustainable relationships with some of our communities.

Esmond adds,

Westergaard’s work with NACHP and CCHE is an exciting case study of the efficiencies and partnerships that can result when investigators are willing to prepare for working in community settings in advance. This approach is always important when creating trusting community-academic partnerships, but is particularly significant when projects involve sensitive topics, stigmatizing behaviors, and/or engage communities from which individuals have been underrepresented in or treated poorly as part of research.

Another important step will be to establish collaboratively with our tribal partners how to share the research data with communities. For Westergaard’s project, tribal clinic staff and health directors will have a strong interest in understanding the data and strategizing how to use it to advance positive community health outcomes.