

CRTC News

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Washington University to Become a National Training Centers for Heart, Lung, Blood and Sleep Implementation Science Researchers

Washington University's Mario Castro, MD, MPH, the Edith and Alan Wolff Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, is set to receive a five-year career development award from the National Institutes of Health that will help transform the future dissemination and implementation (D&I) research workforce to enable Heart, Lung, Blood, Sleep (HLBS) preventive and treatment strategies to be implemented in community and clinical settings.

Unfortunately, discoveries made in biomedical research often fail in "real world" practice. For example, even though asthma guidelines have been shown to be efficient and effective, recent studies demonstrate that these guidelines are not being utilized in clinical practice. Castro, along with Associate Directors Ross Brownson and Enola Proctor, both recognized internationally for their D&I research, strive to bridge this gap, by bringing the latest HLBS research into "real world" practice through this new program, Mentored Training in Implementation Science (MTIS).

"Our hope is to train the future leaders in bringing the latest D&I research in heart, lung, blood and sleep disorders to the bedside in a much more efficient and effective manner and to the community by providing useful guidance for clinicians and better care for patients," said Castro. Brownson adds, "This program is one of the first of its kind and will help us in building critical capacity for addressing some of the most important health conditions facing our country and the world."

The MTIS, which will start enrolling scholars in the fall of 2018, is expected to draw up to eight promising HLBS scholars from across the country. The scholars will receive a combination of tailored coursework, mentored training in community and clinical settings, and dedicated salary and research support funds over a 2-3 year period.

The program will also complement the rich D&I infrastructure already in place at Washington University. According to Proctor, "MTIS will provide uniquely in-depth training, research, and salary support for investigators who are moving into later stage translational research for heart, lung, blood and sleep disorders. This program is an important and welcome addition to Washington University's strong implementation and dissemination research resources." These resources include: [ICTS's Dissemination and Implementation Research Core \(DIRC\)](#), the [WUNDIR group](#) supported by the [Institute of Public Health's Center for Dissemination and Implementation](#), and NIMH and NCI supported D&I training programs.

In the coming months, the Directors will continue to build their strong team of nationally renowned HLBS experts as well as begin recruitment in November 2017 for the first cohort of scholars.

For more information, contact the Clinical Research Training Center: <https://crtc.wustl.edu>

Scholar/Alumni Spotlights

Dana Watt, PhD, TLI Postdoctoral trainee, worked with Radiologics, a startup company spun out of Washington University, to secure a \$1.5M fast-track STTR grant. This grant will commercialize Cirrus, a novel fMRI-based cortical mapping tool for presurgical planning of tumor resections.

Dr. Raj Dhar, KL2 alumnus, received his K23 on August 1, 2017. His research, *Genetics and Prediction of Cerebral Edema After Hemispheric Stroke*, will focus on developing a way of accurately measuring the rate of early brain swelling after stroke, using CT scans, and will apply this measurement in a large stroke cohort to determine which genes and biologic pathways are most important in regulating swelling.

Dr. Suzanne Schindler, KL2 alumna, received her K23 on July 15, 2017. Her research, *Staging Preclinical AD with CSF Biomarkers*, will focus on identifying individuals at high risk for developing Alzheimer's Disease (AD) dementia, allowing researchers to start drug treatments early in the disease process when they are more likely to be effective.



Clinical Research Training Center

Upcoming Events

October 12

12th Annual Research Training Symposium and Poster Session
Keynote Speaker: Amy Justice, MD, PhD, Yale School of Public Health
12:30 - 5:00 PM
Farrell Learning and Teaching Center

November 1

WU Council of Training Programs
12:00-1:00 PM
EPNEC Seminar Room B

November 14

NIH Mock Study Section
12:00 - 4:00 PM
Center for Advanced Medicine, Conference Room I

November 14

Career Development Seminar
Bioinformatics & What It Can Do for You
Philip Payne, PhD
3:30 - 5:00 PM
Wohl Auditorium

December 5

Career Development Seminar
3:30 - 5:00 PM
Wohl Auditorium

2017 Program Applications

[CRTC Programs](#)

TLI Postdoctoral Positions Currently Available

The CRTC is recruiting postdocs for the TLI Translational Sciences Postdoctoral Program (TSPP). The purpose of this program is to demystify the processes of commercialization of new technology/translational discoveries by learning how to move projects to the next stage of commercialization and how to establish value-creating milestones, costs, and timelines. Applicants are encouraged to apply under one of three main areas of focus: Entrepreneurship, Research Innovation and Technology Transfer, or Dissemination and Implementation. The scope of the TLI program is translational science from bench-to-bedside and bedside-to-bench research. The TSPP has the broad ability to include research projects in late-stage preclinical, first-in-human, clinical, translational, patient-oriented research, population health and community engagement, and biomedical informatics.

For questions and application materials, contact Adisa Kalkan, TLI Project Manager at adisakalkan@wustl.edu or visit crtc.wustl.edu/tlpostdoc.

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Mentor/Mentee Spotlight

A requirement of the Applied Health Behavior Research (AHBR) M.S. one-year program is undergoing three semesters of mentored research. Scholars of the program are paired with



mentors who are well versed in the subjects the scholars are interested in conducting research. Daniel Sheinbein and Dr. Rick Stein, pictured above, were paired up upon Sheinbein begin-

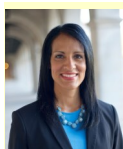
ning the AHBR program. Sheinbein entered into the program interested in conducting research about eating disorders and weight management. Dr. Stein, being the Behavioral Director of the Weight Management Program at WashU, was the perfect mentor for Sheinbein. Dr. Stein and Sheinbein say this program brought them together as colleagues and created a great friendship as well. "This program allowed me to form relationships and that enabled me to gain more knowledge and expertise in weight management." Sheinbein was able to get involved in various projects that Dr. Stein was working on, and was able to shadow during weekly weight loss clinical trials. Besides being able to participate in research that was very closely related to Sheinbein's interests, the two of them "became very good friends". Sheinbein explained that he was able to gain valuable clinical skills from Dr. Stein which will help strengthen his medical school application. Sheinbein was comfortable going to Dr. Stein for feedback on his medical school essays, and the two attended several knowledge enhancing lectures together. Dr. Stein describes his time mentoring Sheinbein as a highlight of his year. Sheinbein decided to nominate Dr. Stein for the 2017 CRTC Mentor of the Year award and wrote a very kind sentiment explaining why he thought Dr. Stein was so deserving. "His [Dr. Stein's] commitment to my learning, his concern for my well being, and his dedication to helping me succeed goes well beyond most people I know. I am fortunate to have Rick not only as an academic mentor, but also as a dear friend". It is easy to see that with this pair, the requirement of a three semester long mentor program created an opportunity for two medical professionals to develop a professional relationship centered around research that expanded into a great personal relationship as well.

Total Eclipse 2017

Monday, August 21, 2017 marked the date of a Total Solar Eclipse that was seen coast to coast across North America. Staff members of the CRTC attended the Eclipse Watch and Lunch Party, held in the GMS Classrooms of the Taylor Avenue Building. Protective glasses were provided as well. The Eclipse was set to occur in St. Louis from 1:16-1:19 pm. A large group gathered outside of the BJCIH building, watching the sky go dark and listening to the crickets and cicadas humming. The next total solar eclipse in Missouri will take place on April 8, 2024.



CRTC Highlights



New MPTCI Director—Patty Cavazos-Rehg, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry



New MSCJ Co-Director—Dominic Reeds, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine



New TLI Project Manager—Adisa Kalkan



New Special Projects Assistant—Jesseca Leggett



Benjamin Andrew Drewry
March 22, 2017
Proud Mom: Anne Drewry
KL2 Scholar

Clifford Kenneth Hong
August 24, 2017
Proud Mom: Jennie Kwon
KL2 Scholar



Baby Announcements



Elliot Patrick Chafe
March 14, 2017
Proud Mom: Jessica Chafe
CRTC Staff

Brecken James Lenius
August 22, 2017
Proud Mom: Melanie Meister
MPTCI Scholar



Clinical Research Training Center

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Support Research

To support the research, education and activities of the Clinical Research Training Center, please contact:

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We love to hear what CRTC Alumni are doing!

If you have a success or accomplishment to share or know another alumni who has... *let us know!*



E-mail awards, manuscripts, grants, CVs, or other shout outs and thank you's to crtc@email.wustl.edu so they can be included in future newsletters.