

Newsletter - Fall 2020

Upcoming Programs and Events



SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

HIV and CVD CME Program Session 1:
*An Introduction to Cardiovascular Health in
an Aging HIV Population (see next page)*

OCTOBER 1, 2020

[Fall 2020](#) Developmental Grant
Applications Due
*(Only accepted LOIs can submit for the
10/1 deadline)*

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

HIV and CVD CME Program Session 2:
*Approach to Management of
Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Persons with
HIV (info to come)*

APRIL 1, 2021

[Spring 2021](#) Developmental Grant
Applications Due

- Letter of Intent due: 2/1/2021
(by 5:00pm EST)
- Notification of selected LOIs:
2/8/2021
- Full applications due: 4/1/2021

Boston Medical Center, COVID-19 and Opportunities for Addressing Health Care Disparities

Paul B. Goulet, Chair, Providence/Boston CFAR Community Engaged Research

The coronavirus pandemic is disrupting the lives of Americans of every age, race, gender and income. It is taking a toll on our physical, mental and financial health. But it's not hurting all of us equally.

On a local level COVID-19 is highlighting the disparities that have always been present in our communities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, in the most drastic and horrific way possible – disparities in health, economic opportunity and education and access to comprehensive medical care. People of color are far more likely to have pre-existing conditions like asthma, diabetes and heart disease that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19. These health disparities are a result of systemic inequities, poverty and institutional racism.

Those interested in the complete article please follow this [link](#).

Help find a vaccine for COVID-19!

Sign up at the registry to volunteer for a vaccine
www.coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org

*Podcast featuring Karen T. Tashima, MD on the development of a vaccine to
prevent COVID19: [https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/MWlqCOYkqBUr3Y3DCvHSj-?
domain=brownmed.org](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/MWlqCOYkqBUr3Y3DCvHSj-?domain=brownmed.org)*

Aging Well: Improving Cardiovascular Health in an Aging HIV Population

Session 1: An Introduction to Cardiovascular Health in an Aging HIV Population. CME/CNE accredited webinar.

September 23, 2020; 12:00-1:00pm EDT

Activity Description

Since the advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy (ART), life expectancies for persons living with HIV (PLWH) are similar to those for uninfected people. A growing proportion of HIV-infected individuals are now over the age of 50. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is among the most prevalent non-communicable comorbidities in PLWH, and gaps in optimal CV risk factor management in this population is illustrative of the need to emphasize an aging-centric approach to the care of older PLWH.

Intended Audience

This activity has been designed to meet the educational needs of Infectious Disease specialists who are involved in the care and treatment of patients with HIV.

Please click this URL to join. <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/ccoxCo2K74Sp6vY4I8scNa?domain=bostonu.zoom.us>

Webinar ID: 932 8118 6789; **Passcode:** 367904

Pre-Program Survey: https://bostonu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Jl9fNLNuKuPIbj

C-CERC Corner

The Providence/Boston CFAR Community Engaged Research Council (C-CERC) enhances HIV education, prevention, treatment, and research activities that adequately respond to the interests and needs of our community members. The C-CERC offers services to investigators pursuing HIV related research at all stages including application development (brainstorm research ideas, application refinement in relation to research participants, development of survey instruments) and project implementation (recruitment flyers, consent form language, troubleshoot research barriers, connecting researcher with study participants, study recruitment, data dissemination). C-CERC members have specific expertise in addiction, prisoner health, substance use, homelessness, and immigrant and refugee issues. If you are interested in accessing these services or would like to recommend someone to become a member, please contact Paul Goulet (pbgoulet@gmail.com) or Ray Joseph (rjay@aidscares.org).

Featured Resources

Developmental Core

The Developmental Core doesn't just offer funding for developmental grants, there are several mentoring programs for investigators at all levels pursuing HIV related research. The [K award mentoring workshop](#) provides an opportunity for those researchers considering submitting a K award proposal to NIH for funding a six-month proposal development curriculum characterized by milestone driven progress and formal review by an advisory board of 3-5 advisors. [CFAR Think Tank Sessions](#) provide CFAR developmental applicants a chance to present and get feedback on early stage ideas for their proposed applications and meet with representatives of the Cores to get advice on core services and specific mentoring. [Monthly grant writing workshops](#) provide HIV researchers of all levels of experience a forum in which to present ideas for proposed NIH applications to an interdisciplinary group of senior faculty. And finally, the Core offers a [Mentor-the-Mentor Training](#) program for faculty who mentor junior investigators. This peer-driven program teaches participants how to improve their relationships with mentees and become more effective mentors. More information on each of these programs can be found [here](#).



Congratulations to our Developmental Grant Spring 2020 Awardees!

Sabrina Assoumou, MD, MPH

Archana Asundi, MD

Scott Hadland, MD, MPH, MS

Brooke Rogers, PhD, MPH

Martha Sanchez, MD

Carl Streed, MD, MPH

Ziming Xuan

Those interested in submitting items of interest, advertised events, or awards/publications in the newsletter please contact Kaylyn Bruciati (kaylyn.bruciati@bmc.org).

New NIH Awards to CFAR Faculty Members

Abu Abdullah and Lisa Quintiliani received R21 funding in the amount of \$203,767 from NCI for their research on Quit for Life (QFL): Smoking Cessation among Chinese Smokers Living with HIV.

Adam Aluisio received K23 funding in the amount of \$198,27 from NIAID for his research on HIV In Injury: Evaluation of Self-Testing in African Emergency Care for the Injured (HIV AECI).

Joshua Barocas received K01 funding in the amount of \$172,593 from NIDA for his research on Strategies to reduce serious bacterial infections and overdose among people who inject drugs.

Joshua Barocas received an NIH Director's New Innovator Award in the amount of \$2,670,000 for his project on the Development of a Novel Community-Based High-Performance Surveillance Network for Drug Use.

Angela Bengston received R21 funding in the amount of \$329,410 from NIH/Fogarty International Center to study Addressing the Dual Burden of HIV and non-communicable diseases in pregnancy in South Africa.

Katie Biello and Angela Bazzi received R01 funding in the amount \$827,701 from NIDA for their research on Efficacy of a Community-Based PrEP uptake intervention for people who inject drugs in the US Northeast.

Matthew Fox received R01 funding in the amount of \$723,660 from NIMH, for his research on Testing the Effectiveness of an Evidence-based Transdiagnostic Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Approach for Improving HIV Treatment Outcomes among Violence-affected and Virally Unsuppressed Women in South Africa.

Suryaram (Rahm) Gummuluru, Christine Cheng and Gustavo Mostoslavsky received R01 funding in the amount of \$730,514 from NIDA for their research on Synergistic mechanisms of chronic innate immune activation in microglia by opiates and HIV infection.

Christopher Kahler, received \$6.2million in renewed funding for the Brown Alcohol Research Center on HIV from NIAA. This is the project's third renewal.

Ethan Moitra received R01 funding in the amount of \$668,568 from NIMH for his research on Brief Acceptance-based retention intervention for newly diagnosed HIV patients.

Kimberly Nelson received R01 funding in the amount of \$393,568 from NIMH for her research on Minor Consent Laws and HIV Prevention Among Adolescents in the United States.

Don Operario and Dawn Johnson received R34 funding in the amount of \$274,902 from NIMH for their research on HIV Risk Reduction Intervention for Transwomen with Intimate Partner Victimization.

Don Operario received R01 funding in the amount of \$637,413 from NIMH for his research on Mobile Health Intervention to Increase HIV Self Testing and Linkage to services for High-Risk Men in China.

Jack Rusley received K23 funding in the amount of \$168,942 from NIMH for his research on Family-Based Intervention to Improve HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Uptake for Adolescent Sexual Minority Males.

Highlighted Publications

Katrina M. Byrd, Curt G. Beckwith, Joseph M. Garland, Jennie E Johnson, Su Aung, Susan Cu–Uvin, Dimitrios Farmakiotis, Timothy Flanigan, Fizza S. Gillani, Raul Macias–Gil, Maria Mileno, Bharat Ramratnam, Natasha R. Rybak, Martha Sanchez, Karen Tashima, Eleftherios Mylonakis, Rami Kantor. SARS–CoV–2 and HIV coinfection: clinical experience from Rhode Island, United States. *JIAS*. 2020 Jul;23(7):e25573.

Thomas AS, Ghulam-Smith M, Olson A, Coote C, Gonzales O, Sagar M. A new cell line for assessing HIV-1 antibody dependent cellular cytotoxicity against a broad range of variants. *Journal of Immunological Methods*. 2020 Mar 2:112766.

E Lee, N Parkin, C Jennings, CJ Brumme, E Enns, M Casadellà, M Howison, M Coetzer, S Avila Rios, R Capina, E Marinier, G Van Domselaar, M Noguera-Julian, R Harrigan, ME Quiñones-Mateu, R Paredes, R Kantor, P Sandstrom, H Ji. Performance comparison of next generation sequencing analysis pipelines for HIV-1 drug resistance testing. *Sci Rep*. 2020 Jan 31;10(1):1634.

Tarantino N, Whiteley L, Craker L, Brown LK. Predictors of viral suppression among youth living with HIV in the southern United States. *AIDS Care*. 2019 Sep 22:1-5.

Samet JH, Blokhina E, Cheng DM, Walley AY, Lioznov D, Gnatienco N, Quinn EK, Bridden C, Chaisson CE, Toussova O, Gifford AL, Raj A, Krupitsky E. A strengths-based case management intervention to link HIV-positive people who inject drugs in Russia to HIV care. *AIDS*. 2019 Jul 15;33(9):1467-1476.

Monnig MA, Cohen R, Ramratnam B, McAdams M, Tashima K, Monti PM. HIV Infection, HCV Coinfection, and Alcohol Use: Associations with Microbial Translocation and Immune Activation. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res*. 2019 Jun;43(6):1126-1134.

Kuo I, Liu T, Patrick R, Trezza C, Bazerman L, Uhrig Castonguay BJ, Peterson J, Kurth A, Beckwith CG. Use of an mHealth Intervention to Improve Engagement in HIV Community-Based Care Among Persons Recently Released from a Correctional Facility in Washington, DC: A Pilot Study. *AIDS Behav*. 2019 Apr;23(4):1016-1031.

****[Please remember to cite the CFAR \(P30A1042853\)](#)****