

WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

**EHE CFAR/ARC
SUPPLEMENT LOI DUE**

- LOI due [HERE](#)

MARCH 1, 2022

**PROV/BOS CFAR SUMMER
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

- If you are interested in hosting a student for Summer 2022, please complete an on-line [Summer Student Request form](#)
- *Individuals from URM are strongly encouraged to apply*

MARCH 30-31, 2022

**CTR GRANT WRITING
WORKSHOP**

- 1-5pm EST open to CFAR faculty doctoral students, and post docs

MAY 13, 2022

**PROV/BOS CFAR ANNUAL
RESEARCH FORUM - SAVE
THE DATE**

- More detailed information forthcoming

AUGUST 3, 2022

**FALL 2022
DEVELOPMENTAL LOI DUE**

- Notification of selected LOIs: August 10th
- Full applications due: October 1st

BIOSTATISTICS CORE HIGHLIGHT



DR. DEBBIE CHENG,
BIOSTATISTICS CORE DIRECTOR
(CFAR), PROFESSOR OF
BIOSTATISTICS, BOSTON
UNIVERSITY



DR. JOSEPH HOGAN,
BIOSTATISTICS CORE DIRECTOR
(CFAR), PROFESSOR OF
BIOSTATISTICS, BROWN
UNIVERSITY

The Biostatistics Core is focused on ensuring that new research from CFAR uses rigorous methods for study design and data analysis, developing new statistical methods to handle new kinds of data, and providing mentoring and guidance to junior investigators. Key areas of core faculty expertise include causal inference, machine learning and prediction, clinical trial design and analysis, microsimulation and agent-based modeling, and analysis of HIV sequence data.

A major activity of the Core is collaboration and mentoring related to new NIH grant applications. The core maintains an active program of collaborative research with investigators at Boston University, Brown University, and other CFARs nationwide. For many of these projects, core members serve as lead statistician, taking on responsibility for designing a study, formulating an analysis plan, conducting data analyses and interpreting results. Our work features prominently in many studies published by CFAR investigators. Our core faculty (Stavroula Chrysanthopoulou, Tao Liu, Sara Lodi, Jon Steingrimsson and Laura White) also conduct basic research in biostatistics and data science, developing new methodologies and disseminating them through the statistical literature. Many of the methods we develop are motivated by HIV research but often apply more broadly to other areas.

Global health has been key area of focus for our core in the last several years. Core co-Directors Debbie Cheng and Joseph Hogan are engaged, respectively, in major training and research projects in Ukraine and Kenya. In June 2022 our core will host the HIV Data Science Symposium on the Brown campus, which will feature leading researchers in statistics, computer science and epidemiology along with junior investigators from our partner programs in the global south.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Vicki Choate Godleski

All of us here at the Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research are mourning the passing of our colleague, mentor, and dear friend, Vicki Godleski. She passed away on January 27, 2022, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Vicki was the Administrative Director of the Providence/Boston CFAR for over 19 years. She was born and raised in South Florida and previously worked at the University of Miami School of Medicine where she was first introduced to the CFAR back in 1987. Vicki has always been very committed to helping people living with HIV and working to help end the HIV epidemic. Besides her tireless devotion to the CFAR, she was the proud mother of her two boys Jarrod and Justin. She also loved to travel to faraway lands and participated annually in the 150-mile bike ride to raise funds for Multiple Sclerosis research. Vicki's leadership, guidance, and contributions to the CFAR will always be remembered.

CFAR SATISFACTION SURVEY

TO ALL CFAR SERVICE USERS:

Please complete our CFAR Services Satisfaction Survey [HERE](#) to let us know about your experiences. The survey is completely confidential and takes about 10 minutes or less to complete. The information collected will be used to improve the services we provide.

If you have any questions please contact Judy Kimberly (Judy_Kimberly@brown.edu) or Karina Santamaria (Karina_Santamaria@brown.edu).



SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT



WENQING JIANG, MS,
PHD CANDIDATE,
DEPARTMENT OF
BIostatISTICS,
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Wenqing Jiang, MS is 4th year PhD student in the Department of Biostatistics at Boston University School of Public Health.

Supervised by Dr. Debbie Cheng and Dr. Laura White, she has performed statistical data analysis for several CFAR projects for both HIV and TB, studies related to immunological questions, large international epidemiological studies, and addiction science.

Wenqing has also been working on multi-omics data integration and Mendelian Randomization in her PhD dissertation research. She is interested in developing innovative biostatistical techniques for the design and analysis of clinical trials for targeting patient subgroups, as well as the analysis of genomic and genetic data for disease prognosis.

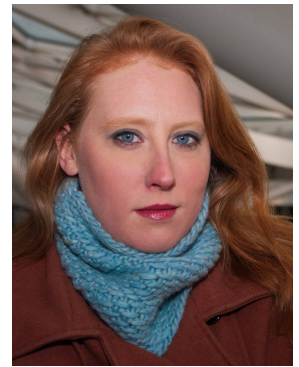


DR. SARA LODI,
ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR OF
BIostatISTICS,
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

I am Assistant Professor in Biostatistics at Boston University School of Public Health. My research focuses on clinical epidemiology and comparative effectiveness research using 'big data', like claims data or electronic health records, particularly in the areas of infectious disease and substance use disorder. Methodologically, I focus on statistical methods for causal inference to inform decision making at the clinical and policy level. I love working in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary teams: it is science at its best!

Over the last 10 years, I enjoyed doing research within international collaborations like the NIH-funded HIV-CAUSAL collaboration and URBAN ARCH. I am the principal investigator of the HepCAUSAL collaboration, an international collaboration of cohorts of Hepatitis C. Being part of the CFAR Biostatistics Core allows me to collaborate with many talented HIV researchers from different backgrounds. I had the pleasure to be involved in a variety of research questions spanning from basic science to clinical trials and social science.

Fun fact: I drink coffee with a straw.
Hot coffee.



CORINNE WAHLBERG,
BIostatISTICS CORE
MANAGER (CFAR),
ADMINISTRATIVE
COORDINATOR,
BROWN UNIVERSITY

Corinne Wahlberg provides high-level support in the preparation, time-management, and content organization for reporting and publications. She is also the point of contact for investigators seeking collaboration or consultation with the Core.

Her background is in digital producing and archiving. She researched and built this career while studying at the Central School of Speech & Drama in London. Her expertise helps streamline processes, making aggregating information easy and reporting accurate. It also came in handy when she migrated the content and updated the design of the Prov/Bos CFAR website this year.

Outside the office, she is an artist resident at AS220, a prominent non-profit organization in Providence. As such, she is also a video editor, musician, and performance artist.

CHECK IN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AWARDEES

How has receiving a Prov/Bos CFAR developmental award shaped and supported your career?



MATTHEW MARA, DMD, EdM - BOSTON UNIVERSITY/GENERAL DENTISTRY

'Understanding the Roles of Dental Schools in Ending the HIV Epidemic' (Fall 2021 Developmental Awardee)

"The Providence/Boston CFAR developmental award provides invaluable mentorship and research experience foundational to my development as an emerging researcher."



JAMES AKIRUGA AMISI, M. MED FAM MED, MBCh.B - MOI UNIVERSITY, KESSES, KENYA

'Integrating Palliative Care into Routine HIV Care in Rural Western Kenya' (2020 International Developmental Awardee)

"I am so grateful to Prov/Bos CFAR for granting me this award. This award has given me an opportunity to address an important gap in the care of older people living with HIV/AIDS in my country, Kenya. I have also had an opportunity to interact with my mentor on specific areas of research learning skills and navigating research implementation challenges. This award opened and expanded my research network."



ANASTASIA KHOLODNAIA, MD, PhD - PAVLOV STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

'Assessing Knowledge, Motivation, Acceptability and Feasibility for PrEP Among People Using Injection Drugs Living in Russia' (2020 International Developmental Awardee)

"For me the CFAR developmental award is an incredible experience that helped me to reveal opportunities for further development in the sphere of HIV prevention studies. The realization of the project supported my skills and competency development in terms of studies conduction and understanding of the high potential of collaborations."



MATTHEW MURPHY, MD, MPH - BROWN UNIVERSITY

'PrEP@r@s-a-decidir/PrEP@r@d-to-decide: Offering on-demand PrEP as an approach to promote PrEP uptake among Hispanic/Latinx men who have sex with men in the era of PrEP choice' (Fall 2021 Developmental Awardee)

"The Development Award provides critical support to developing a line of HIV prevention research that responds to the pressing need to reduce the disproportionate impact the epidemic continues to have on Hispanic/Latinx men who have sex with men."

RESEARCH TO COMMUNITIES

ENCORE'S (Education, Needle Exchange, Counseling, Outreach, and Referrals) Harm Reduction Vending Machines

Harm Reduction Vending Machines are common in other countries and have been proven effective with little to no adverse consequences. These Harm Reduction Vending Machines contain Narcan/Naloxone, Fentanyl Test Strip Kits, Safer Sex Kits (condoms and lubrication), and Harm Reduction Kits (syringes, alcohol prep pads, cotton, clean water, band-aids, antibiotic ointment, tourniquets, cooker/caps, and sharps disposal box).



PLEASE RAISE AWARENESS - VENDING MACHINES AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- Broad Med: 557 Broad St Providence, RI (24-hour access) outside parking lot
- CODAC: 349 Huntington Ave Providence, RI (24-hour access) outside parking lot
- Thundermist West Warwick: 186 Providence St West Warwick, RI (24-hour access) outside parking lot
- Harrington Hall: 30 Howard Ave Cranston, RI (indoors, accessible to clients of HH)

FEATURED GRANTS AND PUBLICATIONS

JOSEPH HOGAN, HAMISH FRASER, AND ANN MWANGI, Brown University, received R01 funding in the amount of \$740,419 from NIAID for their research on Data Science for Decision Support in the HIV Care Cascade.

DON OPERARIO, Brown University, received R21 funding in the amount of \$186,292 from Fogarty International Center and NIMH for his research on Stigma Reduction and Gender Affirmation to Promote HIV Prevention/Testing in Trans Women.

TIBOR PALFAI, Boston University Medical Campus, received P01 funding in the amount of \$368,079 from NIAAA for his research on Integrated telehealth intervention to reduce chronic pain and unhealthy drinking among people living with HIV.

LORA SABIN AND CATHERINE ORRELL, Boston University Medical Campus, received R01 funding in the amount of \$687,050 from NIMH and Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health for their research on Supporting Sustained HIV Treatment Adherence after Initiation (SUSTAIN)

Exploring the Association Between Social Support and Hazardous Alcohol Use Among Persons Living with HIV in South Western Uganda

Ngabirano C, Fatch R, Muyindike WR, Emenyonu NI, Adong J, Weiser SD, Samet JH, Cheng DM, Hahn JA. AIDS and Behavior.

[Read the article here.](#)

Intragenic Proviral Elements Support Transcription of Defective HIV-1 Proviruses

Kuniholm J, Armstrong E, Bernabe B, Coote C, Berenson A, Patalano SD, Olson A, He X, Lin NH, Fuxman Bass JI, Henderson AJ. PLoS Pathogens.

[Read the article here.](#)

Site-Randomized Controlled Trial of a Combined Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and a Medication Management Algorithm for Treatment of Depression Among Youth Living With HIV in the United States

Brown LK, Chernoff M, Kennard BD, Emslie GJ, Lypen K, Buisson S, Weinberg A, Whiteley LB, Traite S, Krotje C, Harrieff L, Townley E, Bunch A, Purswani M, Shaw R, Spector SA, Agwu A, Shapiro DE; IMPAACT 2002 team. Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

[Read the article here.](#)

Statewide Longitudinal Trends in Transmitted HIV-1 Drug Resistance in Rhode Island, USA

Novitsky V, Steingrimsson J, Gillani FS, Howison M, Aung S, Solomon M, Won CY, Brotherton A, Shah R, Dunn C, Fulton J, Bertrand T, Civitarese A, Howe K, Marak T, Chan P, Bandy U, Alexander-Scott N, Hogan J, Kantor R. Open Forum Infectious Diseases.

[Read the article here.](#)

PROVIDENCE/BOSTON CFAR

The Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) is a joint research effort between Brown University/Lifespan and Boston University/Boston Medical Center.

The Providence/Boston Center for AIDS research is devoted to the pursuit of translational research to reduce the burden of HIV infection worldwide, with special focus on substance users, women, MSM, justice-involved persons, and at-risk youth. To achieve this goal, we are committed to fostering emerging HIV investigators both domestically and within resource-limited settings.

ADMINISTRATIVE CORE TEAM

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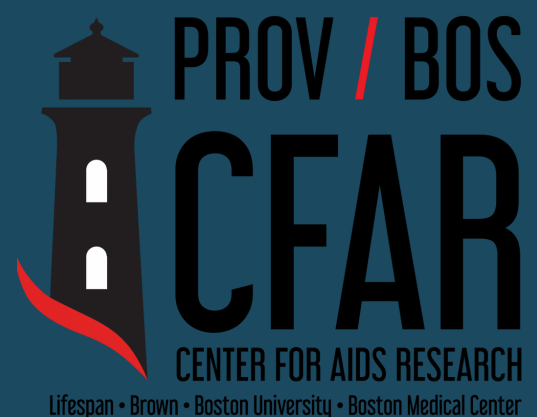
Rhonda DiCesare

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REQUEST CORE SERVICES!

See what each Core has to offer:

- [Developmental Core](#)
- [Clinical and BioBehavioral Core](#)
- [Biostatistics Core](#)
- [Basic Science Core](#)
- [Substance Use Research Core](#)



 @ProvBosCFAR

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE!](#)