

Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research



CLINICAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES CORE UPDATES



Philip A. Chan, MD, MS
Core Director, Clinical and
Behavioral Science Core,
Associate Professor of Medicine,
Brown University



Karen Jacobson, MD, MPH
Core Director, Clinical and
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Larry K. Brown, MD
Core Director, Clinical and
Behavioral Science Core,
Academic Director of the
Division of Child and Adolescent
Psychiatry and Vice Chair of the
Department of Psychiatry and
Human Behavior, Brown
University

Recently Published DoxyPREP Landmark Publication:

In June of 2024, the official guidelines for doxycycline as post-exposure prophylaxis (DoxyPEP) were published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/rr/rr7302a1.htm).

This exciting innovative biomedical intervention offers an approach to preventing bacterial STIs and is recommended for men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW) who are at higher risk of STI acquisition. *It is recommended* that MSM and TGW who have had a bacterial STI (specifically syphilis, chlamydia, or gonorrhea) diagnosed in the past 12 months should receive counseling *about* doxy PEP *and then they can* self-administer *it within* 72 hours after having oral, vaginal, or anal sex. The studies have mainly been conducted among people living with HIV and those on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Dr. Philip A. Chan, MD, helped lead these guidelines and is involved in local implementation efforts related to DoxyPEP which were recently published (pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38821877/) and are being presented at the national CDC HIV Prevention Conference (stipreventionconference.org/program-at-a-glance).

In addition, Dr. Chan recently presented at the AIDS 2024 Conference in Munich on DoxyPEP (www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2024/07/21/default-calendar/mobilize-for-action-on-sexually-transmitted-infections). This work has led to efforts in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Health and other community-based organizations including Open Door Health with Dr. Amy Nunn and AIDS Project Rhode Island to promote DoxyPEP for STI prevention across the state.

Dr. Jun Tao has been instrumental in epidemiological analyses and both Dr. Chan and Dr. Tao are using these data for numerous NIH grant submissions. Similar to HIV PrEP, DoxyPEP offers an exciting new approach to HIV/STI prevention among MSM and TGW.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND UPDATES

November 12, 2024
11pm EST

The Substance Use Research Core (SURC) is organizing a virtual meet-and-greet event where attendees will have the opportunity to introduce themselves and their research and meet other working in this field!

[Register Here!](#)



Are you a post-doc, resident, or faculty member who wants to connect with colleagues in the Prov/Bos CFAR around HIV and substance use research?

[Register to join us on November 12 at 11am ET](#)

The Substance Use Research Core (SURC) is organizing a virtual meet-and-greet event on **Tuesday, November 12 from 11am-12pm ET** to connect HIV/substance use researchers across our institutions. Attendees will have an opportunity to introduce themselves and their research and to meet others working in this field.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Notice of Intent to Publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity for Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) and Quality of Care Contributors to Cancer Disparities in People with HIV (U01; Clinical Trial Optional)

FOA: NOT-CA-24-106

Award amount: \$3M for 4 awards

Full proposal due January 10, 2025
(Estimated) (January 3, 2025, in OSP/BMRA)

► Please visit this website for more information

[View Opportunity](#)

CFAR International Research Awards

For more detailed information, please visit our [website](#).

Applications due January 13, 2025

- ▶ Letters of Intent due November 8, 2024
- ▶ Notification of selected LOI's for full submission announced on November 15, 2024

Apply Here



SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT



Ethan Moitra, PhD

Associate Professor,
Department of
Psychiatry and Human
Behavior, Primary
Faculty in the
Mindfulness Center,
Brown University

Dr. Moitra is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and Primary Faculty in the Mindfulness Center at Brown University. Dr. Moitra specializes in behaviorally based interventions to promote engagement in HIV care and prevention. He also focuses his research on mental health among people who identify as sexual and gender minorities.

Dr. Moitra is a dependable, motivated research collaborator with a long history of mentoring trainees. In his spare time, he volunteers at Rhode Island-based animal shelters.

Over the past 5 years, Dr. Moitra and his family have fostered over 40 cats and kittens.



Jaclyn White Hughto, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor,
Behavioral and Social
Sciences and
Epidemiology,
Center for Health
Promotion and Health
Equity, Brown University

Dr. Hughto employs mixed-methods, community-engaged approaches to documenting the role of individual, interpersonal, and structural stigma in shaping access to care and morbidity and mortality for people who use drugs, sexual and gender minority populations, and people living with or at risk for HIV. She also works to develop bio-behavioral interventions to prevent and treat substance use disorders, overdose, HIV, and poor mental health in diverse populations domestically and internationally. As an expert witness, she has used her research to support the passage of policies to ensure equitable access to healthcare and civil rights protections for underserved communities.

Dr. Asundi is an infectious disease and HIV clinician investigator. She is also Director of the Infectious Disease Clinical Research Unit which facilitates the conduct of ID



Archana Asundi, MD

Assistant Professor of
Medicine, Director of ID-
Clinical Research Unit,
Boston University

clinical and translational research at BMC. Her research interests focus on HIV, aging and cardiometabolic comorbidities. She is founder of the HIV-Endurance (HIVE) clinic, a HRSA funded multidisciplinary HIV and aging clinic where she hopes to contribute to improving health-related quality of life for the community aging with HIV. Dr. Asundi has lived in several countries including Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada and the UK and tries to travel as much as she can!

C-CERC CORNER

CCERC Announces Awards for Community Engaged Research

The C-CERC mission is to provide leadership and support to the Providence/Boston CFAR community and broader local communities to support effective and responsive HIV-related science. To do this, the Providence/Boston CFAR C-CERC continues to lead efforts to develop, enhance, and sustain bidirectional partnerships between Providence/Boston CFAR researchers and community organizations and members. These bi-directional partnerships serve to support meaningful involvement of communities in the design, implementation, and dissemination of research, and to support capacity building among CFAR researchers, and overall better science

Members of the C-CERC believe that when conducting community engaged research (CER) it is essential to include diverse communities to ensure that research ideas respond to the needs of community members, particularly women, individuals struggling with substance abuse, individuals with a history of incarceration, people living with HIV, men who have sex with men, and underserved/marginalized populations. To respond to these needs the C-CERC provides a list of services which include, troubleshooting research projects, connecting researchers with study participants, promote partnerships with community-based organizations and individuals, consent form language, development of recruitment flyers, data dissemination and research findings, letters of support for funding. Services provided by the C-CERC are tailored to each specific research project to ensure that there is meaningful community involvement from the inception of the research project to the completion of the project.

As Providence/Boston and national CFAR researchers are increasingly paying attention to community based participatory research, and engaging the CCERC in all of their work,



Paul B. Goulet

Chair, Providence/Boston
CFAR CCERC-
Community Engaged
Research Council

beginning this year the CCERC will initiate four new annual awards:

Vicki Godleski Award – Researcher who has used innovative approaches to include community members from inception of research ideas to dissemination of research findings.

Innovators Award – Has used innovative approaches to disseminate research findings back to the community.

Significant Contribution Award – Has made a significant contribution in research to improve clinical/medical practices and or social issues involving HIV Prevention, treatment and care efforts.

CCERC Community Member Award - Someone who has made a significant contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS in the role of advocate/provider/community activist.

All winners of these awards will be announced on December 1, 2024 – World AIDS Day. Actual awards will be presented at the annual Providence/Boston Research Symposium in Spring, 2025.

If anyone from the Providence/Boston CFAR/CCERC would like to nominate someone for any of the above awards, please send nomination to pgoulet@lifespan.org. Please be sure to include award name, award recipient, and a brief description of the group or individual project.

FEATURED WORK

[Dr. Andrew Henderson](#) and **[Dr. Suryaram Gummuluru](#)** have recently received R01 funding from NIAID for their work on "[Defective HIV proviruses and Persistent Innate Immune Activation](#)".

[Dr. Rami Kantor](#) has recently received R01 funding from NIAID for his work on "[HIV Drug Resistance in the New Antiretroviral Therapy Era in Kenya](#)"

[Dr. Jun Tao](#) has received her first R01 (with MPI **[Dr. Phil Chan](#)**) - "[A multidisciplinary approach to integrate HIV prevention services into clinical care settings for people with opioid use disorder \(R01DA059503\)](#)".

Rogers BG, Toma E, Harkness A, **Arnold T**, Nagel K, Bajic J, Maynard M, Almonte A, **Nunn A**, **Chan P**. "[Why Not Just go on PrEP?": A Study to Inform Implementation of an HIV Prevention Intervention Among Hispanic/Latino Men Who Have Sex With Men in the Northeastern United States](#). *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2024 Sep 1;97(1):26-39. doi: 10.1097/QAI.0000000000003461. PMID: 39116329.

Fulton J, **Novitsky V**, **Gillani F**, Guang A, **Steingrimsson J**, **Khanna A**, **Hague J**, Dunn C, **Hogan J**, Howe K, MacAskill M, Bhattarai L, Bertrand T, Bandy U, **Kantor R**. [Integrating HIV Cluster Analysis in Everyday Public Health Practice: Lessons Learned From a Public Health--](#)

[Academic Partnership](#). J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2024 Sep 1;97(1):48-54. doi: 10.1097/QAI.0000000000003469. PMID: 39116331; PMCID: PMC11310557.

Shangani S, Winter MR, Shea M, Kim TW, **So-Armah K**, Magane KM, Bellamy SL, Saitz R, **Stein MD**. [Social Vulnerability and Mental Health Among People with HIV and Substance Use: The Role of Race](#). AIDS Behav. 2024 Sep 27. doi: 10.1007/s10461-024-04510-z. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39327395.

Kahler CW, Surace A, **Liu T**, Pantalone DW, Mastroleo NR, Yan Y, **Wray TB**, Mayer KH, **Monti PM**. [Efficacy of Behavioral Intervention, Text Messaging, and Extended Intervention to Address Alcohol Misuse in Sexual Minority Men with HIV: A Factorial Randomized Clinical Trial](#). AIDS Behav. 2024 Sep 13. doi: 10.1007/s10461-024-04493-x. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39266891.

The Providence/Boston CFAR Cores are available to help you with your research. Please click the link to request services.

[Request Core Services](#)



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Funding from NIH for the CFAR is dependent on evidence that the CFAR is providing value added in the conduct of HIV/AIDS research. One way this support is documented is through the acknowledgement of the Providence/Boston CFAR in publications, abstracts and presentations. If you have received funding, consultation, mentorship, research support services, materials, training, access to shared equipment and/or space from one of the CFAR Cores, please acknowledge the CFAR by using the following statement:

This work was facilitated by the Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research (P30AI042853).

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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.



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