

Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research



SUBSTANCE USE RESEARCH CORE



Dr. Christopher Kahler

Core Director, Substance Use Research Core,
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The Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research Substance Use Research Core (CFAR SURC) is led by co-Directors Christopher Kahler, PhD (Brown University) and Karsten Lunze, MD, MPH, DrPH (Boston University). Drawing on the expertise of its faculty members, the core offers comprehensive support to investigators conducting substance use and HIV research.

In 2020, the core established the Inter-CFAR Substance Use Research Community (I-SURC) to identify and bring together substance use researchers from all CFARs. The I-SURC provides a platform to exchange ideas, develop collaborations, and provide mentoring opportunities for early stage investigators. The I-SURC currently comprises over 200 members, representing all 19 CFARs.

You can join the I-SURC [here](#) and view our past and future events on our [webpage](#), including an [Early Stage Investigator Spotlight Seminar](#) that featured our own Drs. Miriam Harris (BMC) and Ju Park (Brown).

Notable recent awards:

Gabapentin to Reduce Alcohol and Improve Viral Load Suppression - Promoting "Treatment as Prevention"

[R01AA030460](#) (Samet, Jeffrey; Lunze, Karsten) 9/20/2022 – 6/30/2027

Integrating long-acting injectable treatment to improve medication adherence among persons living with HIV and opioid use disorder

Notable recent publications:

Lodi S et al. [Correlates of intersectional HIV and substance use stigma affecting people with HIV and substance use in St. Petersburg, Russia.](#) *AIDS Behav.* 2023 Feb;27(2):462-472.

Zelaya DG et al. [Modeling the impact of race, socioeconomic status, discrimination and cognitive appraisal on mental health concerns among heavy drinking HIV+ cisgender MSM.](#) *AIDS Behav.* 2022 Dec;26(12):3925-3938.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAININGS

March 9-10, 2023

2-Day AtKisson Group Grant Writing Workshop

Day 1 will cover Structuring NIH Proposals and Day 2 will cover K Awards.

Attendance Day 1 is a prerequisite for Day 2.



[Register Here](#)

March 22, 2023 at 12pm

Advance-CTR REDCap Virtual Drop-In Session

Presented by Jeff Richardson



[Register Here](#)

July 10-31, 2023

Virtual 31st Annual Principles of STI/HIV Research and Public Health Practice Course

Presented by the University of Washington Department of Global Health and the Centers for AIDS and STD

Applications for the virtual course will open March 2023.



[Learn More](#)

April 24, 2023 at 12pm

At our next HIV and Oral Health

Providence/Boston HIV and Oral Health Scientific Working Group (SWG)

The HIV & Oral Health Scientific Working Group (SWG) is advancing the scientific focus at the intersection of HIV and oral diseases by driving research collaborations investigating innovative scientific hypothesis in conjunction with NIH priorities and fostering the career development of early stage investigators.

The group aims to stimulate multi-disciplinary clinical, social/behavioral, and basic science research across multiple specialties (HIV medicine, dental medicine, infectious diseases, oncology, otolaryngology, addiction medicine), as well as engage the Community Engaged Research Council (C-CERC) and community providers in this work.

SWG meeting, Hongen Yin M.D., Ph.D., MHSc, Director of NIDCR'S HIV/AIDS and Oral Health Program, will join us and present on the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research research priorities.

The next meeting of this group will convene via [Zoom](#).

Please contact [Aurielle Ross](#) for information on joining the listserv.

[Learn More](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

March 7, 2023

NIAID FY23 CFAR Administrative Supplement Applications

*The purpose of this administrative supplement opportunity is to **support innovative research projects (#1-3), pathway programs for URM/BIPOC trainees (#4), and inter-CFAR meetings (#5)** that address key gaps in HIV/AIDS and will advance the field.*

Providence/Boston CFAR is eligible to submit a limited number of proposals.

We will be initiating a one-page Concept Proposal mechanism to determine the strongest proposals to move forward due no later than Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

[More Details](#)

May 1, 2023

Lifespan/Brown Criminal Justice Research Training Program on Substance Use and HIV (PI: Curt Beckwith, MD)

NIDA R25-funded supplemental training program, based at The Miriam Hospital/Brown University, is designed to prepare participants for NIH-funded

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SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT



Neo Gebru, PhD
Postdoc Research
Fellow, Center for
Alcohol and Addiction
Studies, Brown
University

Neo Gebru is a first-year Postdoc Research Fellow at the Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies at the Brown School of Public Health.

Dr. Gebru's research is focused on developing behavioral interventions aimed at reducing alcohol/HIV risk. He is currently preparing a K99 submission to develop and test a text-messaging based intervention for heavy drinking young adult MSM.

Besides research, he enjoys watching basketball, tennis, and painting, when the mood strikes.



**Olena Makarenko,
MD, PhD**
Senior Researcher,
Ukrainian Institute on
Public Health Policy

I am a doctor of medicine, senior research scientist. Since 2009, I am with the Ukrainian Institute on Public Health Policy implementing projects that help people with HIV, TB and addiction access life-saving treatments.

My favorite part of my work is communicating with people, organizing studies, conducting interviews, trainings and webinars. I can find a common language with any audience. If I was not paid money, I would still help people get the necessary medical care. I think that humanity is the most important feature of any person.

I like singing. Once I won a song contest in Kyiv.



**Brooke G. Rogers,
PhD, MPH**
Research Scientist,
The Miriam Hospital

Brooke G. Rogers, Ph.D., M.P.H. is a Research Scientist at The Miriam Hospital and Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine and the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Her research focuses on HIV implementation science, PrEP uptake and initiation, and behavioral interventions to address substance use and mental health in individuals at risk for and living with HIV. She applies a social justice lens and "whole person" approach to her research and clinical practice.

Outside of work, she enjoys trail running and practicing yoga.

C-CERC CORNER

Using Person-First Language When Writing Research Grants: Why It Matters

The language we use in our scientific communications can either empower or stigmatize the people we study and care for. The language we choose reflects our attitudes and can influence others. As scientists, researchers, clinicians, and advocates for the patients and populations we serve, we have a responsibility to learn about and employ the use of inclusive language in all communications.

The Denver Principles, written by HIV advocates in 1983, called for the use of respectful person-first language in the opening words: "We condemn attempts to label us as 'victims,' a term which implies defeat, and we are only occasionally 'patients,' a term which implies passivity, helplessness, and dependence upon the care of others. We are 'People With AIDS.'"

The term —person-first language was officially coined in 1988 in a congressional act in support of people with disabilities and has since been adopted by the AMA Manual of Style. Although the field of infectious diseases has largely adopted and endorsed person-first language without controversy, it is important to acknowledge the nuances in preferred language within the disability community. Person-first language (e.g., people with disability) has been endorsed by the American Psychological Association and is currently the recommended approach in many North American scholarly journals because it aims to empower individuals with disabilities.

To continue reading this article on our website, please [click here](#).



Paul Goulet

Chair, Prov/Bos CFAR
Community Engaged
Research Council (C-
CERC)

FEATURED AWARDS

Sabrina Assoumou, MD, MPH was recognized in 2022 by The Women's Edge for the Extraordinary Women Advancing Healthcare award. This award honors ten women across Massachusetts for their career achievements, innovation, collaboration, and work to foster diversity in their organizations. Dr. Assoumou is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine.



The Providence/Boston CFAR Cores are available to help you with your research.

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ACKNOWLEDGE CFAR (P30AI042853)

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.

