

Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research



CFAR COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH COUNCIL (C-CERC)



Paul Goulet

Chair, Providence/Boston C-CERC



Raynald Joseph

Vice Chair, Providence/Boston C-CERC

CCERC 2024 and Beyond

The CCERC continues to be a model for other CFARs who are realizing the importance of CBPR (Community Based Participatory Research) and the role it plays in research studies. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is an equitable approach to research in which researchers, organizations, and community members collaborate on all aspects of a research project. CBPR empowers all stakeholders to offer their expertise and partake in the decision-making process. CBPR builds trust between researchers and communities and helps bridge culture gaps. A stronger relationship with the community will minimize recruitment & retention barriers related to the fear of being exploited and treated like a guinea pig. CBPR can enhance participants' personal development and opportunities. It can empower those who are most affected by conditions or issues in the community to analyze and change them. And, most important, it can lead to long-term social change that improves the quality of life for everyone.

The Providence/Boston CFAR continues to use the model of CBPR with many on-going and recent projects including, the HIVE Clinic at Boston Medical Center, I-STRIVE, Project Matter, HIV testing in dental clinics, PrEP adherence applications and uptake as well as many other on-going research projects.

The CCERC will continue its work with junior researchers to ensure that social determinants of health are kept in mind when planning and implementing research, that community perspectives are introduced and understood in research proposals and that community members are not just participants, but partners in the research process from the inception of ideas to the dissemination of results back to the community.

With the nomination of Paul who is Chair of the Providence/Boston CCERC, to the Vice Chair of the

National CAB Coalition (N3C), the opportunities for further collaborations with other CFARs and other ASOs and CBOs throughout the US will be a priority in the coming year. Currently, the CCERC is helping with the I-STIVE study which is a collaboration between Boston/Miami/Ft Lauderdale to implement a tool kit for people who are not virally suppressed. The unique aspect of this study is that it is being implemented by all researchers who identify as gay, for the gay community. This study is advertised as research by the queer community for the queer community.

In the coming year the CCERC will implement a tool kit/ training program that will be useful for all researchers on the mechanics and nuances of community engagement and what it may mean for their research projects.

The CCERC continues to recruit community members as research needs and research focus changes. Our central focus is to continue to work with researchers and community to develop relationships, improve research, and create better health outcomes in the communities we serve, particularly the communities who have been historically marginalized and disenfranchised by unequal access to healthcare and other social determinants of health.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAININGS

May 3, 2024
9am-4pm EST

2024 URBAN ARCH Annual Meeting
Call for Abstracts

URBAN ARCH invites poster abstract submissions from **trainees and early stage investigators** for the 2024 URBAN ARCH Annual Meeting to be held in Boston, MA and virtually.

Abstract submissions should focus on alcohol/HIV research. Research previously presented or submitted to other conferences is welcome.

Abstracts due February 26, 2024



Uganda Russia Boston Alcohol Network for
Alcohol Research Collaboration on HIV/AIDS

[Apply Here](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The **Boston University Clinical HIV/AIDS Research Training Program (BU-CHART)** is looking for a recently graduated, PhD post-doc interested in HIV research for T32 appointments starting in July 2024.



- ▶ Two-year mentored postdoctoral research training program designed for physicians and other health scientists to enable them to conduct high-quality, ethical HIV/AIDS research focused on disadvantaged populations.
- ▶ Only U.S. citizens or permanent residents may apply.

[More Details](#)

Applications due January 19, 2024 for earliest consideration. *If after the January 19, 2024 deadline, please submit an application and it will be reviewed based on slot availability.*

Improving the Quality of Life of People with HIV Aged 50 Years and Older in the United States

- ▶ Letter of Intent (Optional) due February 20, 2024
- ▶ Application due date February 26, 2024
- ▶ Estimated start date is September 1, 2024

[View Opportunity](#)

Applications due March 20, 2024

Addressing the Impact of Syndemics on the Health of People with HIV and Diseases and Conditions within the Missions of NIDDK and NHLBI (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

- ▶ Open Date (Earliest Submission Date) is February 20, 2024
- ▶ Letters of Intent are due February 19, 2024

[View RFA](#)

Applications due March 20, 2024

Spring 2024 CFAR Developmental Awards

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

- ▶ Letters of Intent due **February 9, 2024**
- ▶ Full Applications due **April 12, 2024**

[Apply Here](#)

Applications due April 12, 2024



SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

Vanessa J. Carson-Sasso is the Co-Investigator and Senior Project Director of the [New England AIDS Education and Training Center](#) at the UMass Chan Medical School. She is a



Vanessa Carson-Sasso

Co-Investigator/
Senior Project
Director, UMass Chan
Medical School - New
England AIDS
Education and
Training Center

Social Worker by training and has been working within the fields of HIV prevention and care for over 23 years.

Vanessa is an Instructor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at UMass Chan, is the President of the National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development and sits on several national and local HIV-related advisory boards, including the Prov/Boston C-CERC.

During her "off hours" Vanessa enjoys going to the beach and karaoke.



Raynald Joseph

Vice Chair,
Providence/Boston C-
CERC

Raynald Joseph is the Prevention Supervisor for AIDS Care Ocean State (ACOS), a community-based organization serving People Living with HIV in Rhode Island. He currently manages all prevention programs within ACOS including RI's needle exchange program, ENCORE. While at ACOS, Raynald has filled various roles which have provided intimate knowledge, experience, and understanding of needs for HIV-vulnerable populations.

His deep passion for working and serving in the community he calls home, has allowed him to give back by; 1. Providing education and services to a vulnerable population, in a manner that is well received. 2. Empowering the community, through individuals that reflect the community ACOS serves.

Raynald also serves as the Co-Chair for the Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Community Engaged Research Council (C-CERC), working closely with researchers and leaders of community-based organizations in strategic planning for HIV research in RI and MA. In this position he connects communities and patients to the research community, as well as translates the needs of HIV-vulnerable populations to world-class researchers.



Samantha Johnson

Senior Manager:

Samantha Johnson is the Senior Manager of Public Health Disease Prevention and Navigation Programs for the Section of Infectious Diseases at Boston Medical Center (BMC). She is responsible for the fiscal oversight and operational management of a variety of public health programs, including the Boston STD Clinic and BMC's harm reduction drop-in center, Project TRUST.

Samantha has worked in harm reduction and infectious disease prevention since 2014, starting as an outreach worker at Project TRUST providing harm reduction education and patient

Prevention and
Navigation
Programs, Boston
Medical Center

navigation.

Fun Fact: Her dream career would be to buy a large piece of land and start an animal rescue.

FEATURED WORK

[Dr. Karsten Lunze](#) has recently received R03 funding from NIDA for his work on "[Community-engaged implementation strategies for acceptance interventions to improve access to care for people with HIV and injection drug use](#)".

[Dr. Amy Nunn](#) and [Dr. Philip Chan](#) have recently received R01 funding from NIMH for their work on "[Intervention to Enhance Prep Persistence Among African American Men Who Have Sex With Men](#)".

Langdon KJ, Hitch AE, Collins AB, Beckwith CG, Becker S, Tashima K, Rich JD. Integrating long-acting injectable treatment to improve medication adherence among persons living with HIV and opioid use disorder: study protocol. *Addict Sci Clin Pract.* 2023 Oct 14;18(1):60. doi: 10.1186/s13722-023-00418-6. PMID: 37838707; PMCID: PMC10576282.

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

[Request Core Services](#)



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.

