

The Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute (A-CTSI)

The Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute marks a new chapter in Emory University's long history as a clinical and translational research center of excellence. Emory partnered with Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Institute of Technology, Kaiser Permanente of Georgia and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to form a city-wide Institute. The A-CTSI was one of 12 CTSA's funded September 2007, and is one of 24 centers nationwide, and only one of three in the southeastern United States. Dr. David Stephens, Vice President for Research in the WHSC, serves as the Principal Investigator of this Institute, and Drs. Sands and Chapman serve as Co-PIs from the Department of Medicine. (<http://www.actsi.org>)

What can the Atlanta-CTSI do for you as a faculty member of the Department of Medicine?

The A-CTSI provides a cohesive, supportive research infrastructure to clinical and translational Emory investigators in the areas of: 1) research education, training and career development; 2) community engagement and participatory-based research; and 3) scientific discovery and translation. Each program of the A-CTSI is designed to facilitate, support and enhance clinical and translational investigators. To follow is a brief description of each program and contact information.

Clinical Interactions Network (previously our GCRCs): Provides support for investigators for: 1) inpatient and outpatient facilities with site expansion; 2) research nursing; 3) biological sample processing, aliquotting, short and long term storage; 4) patient scheduling and tracking; 5) population registries (e.g. Kaiser Permanente of Georgia) for subject recruitment; and 6) practical training for nurses, coordinators, scholars and investigators.

Contact person: Debora Clem, dcllem@emory.edu or Tedra Flynn, tflynn2@emory.edu

Research Design and Biostatistics: Provides expanded investigator support for: 1) initial statistical consultation regarding research projects; 2) review of study design and analytical plans for research proposals; 3) statistical analysis of complex datasets; and 4) database development and guidance.

Contact person: Michael Kutner, PhD, mkutner@sph.emory.edu

Research Education Training and Career Development (previously the Emory K30 and K12 programs) is now expanded and includes: 1) KL2 program has been expanded to include non-MD investigators; 2) MSCTR to include an expanded pool of trainees, including non-MD investigators; and 3) T32 PhD training awards to support MSCR and short-term training in clinical and translational research for medical students and PhD

students.

Contact person: Cheryl Sroka, csroka@emory.edu

Pilot and Collaborative Translational and Clinical Studies (PiCoTracs): Provides competitive funding for clinical and translational investigators twice a year in conjunction with the University Research Council.

http://www.urc.emory.edu/urc_actsi.cfm

Contact person: Robert Taylor, MD, rtaylo@emory.edu

Community Engagement: Provides 1) training for investigators interested in community or participatory based research; 2) community locations throughout the city of Atlanta to conduct clinical and translational research; and 3) improved access to previously identified patient populations.

Contact person: Dan Blumenthal, MD, MPH, dblumenthal@msm.edu; Karen Glanz, PhD, MPH, kglanz@emory.edu

Ethics Regulatory Knowledge Support: Provides 1) Ethics consultative services as they relate to clinical and translational research; 2) safety support and oversight of human subject protocols with assistance in developing study charters, data safety monitoring plans, data safety monitoring boards; and 3) investigator and protocol support for regulatory affairs.

Contact person: Tedra Flynn, tflynn2@emory.edu or John Banja, PhD, jbanja@emory.edu

Translational Technologies: Provides investigators with support for: 1) Seed and pilot funds for discovery programs in conjunction with the Center for Drug Discovery; 2) pilot funds for new assay development (http://www.actsi.org/auto_page.cfm?pageid=610); and 3) identification of potential assay resources for clinical investigators.

Contact person: Deb Smith, deb.smith@emory.edu

Biomedical Informatics: Provides investigator support for: 1) training in bioinformatics; 2) electronic web-based subject scheduling and case report form development; 3) approved access to large de-identified clinical datasets through the clinical data warehouse for the purposes of data mining; and 4) informatic support throughout the life cycle of clinical and translational research protocols within the A-CTSI.

Contact person: Circe Tsui, ctsui2@emory.edu or Neeta Shenvi, nshenvi@sph.emory.edu

As the CTSA national program grows and moves forward, more opportunities for utilizing resources from other CTSA's throughout the country will become available. National consortiums in rare diseases, bionutrition,

national biorepositories, research imaging and sleep studies are currently being proposed. We look forward to the growth of the A-CTSI at Emory University and its partner institutions. Participation of clinician scientists and investigators from our Department of Medicine will play a crucial role in the success of the A-CTSI.