This July marks the eighth round of ICTR funding for the Basic & Clinical Translational Research Pilot Awards (formerly T1TR) and the Community and Clinical Outcomes Pilot Awards (formerly T2TR). In 2014, these awards total $1.9 million, making the eight-year commitment more than $9.7 million. From the inception of UW ICTR in 2007 with the receipt of an NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), pilot funds to support promising ideas and junior investigators have been an integral part of how ICTR promotes research areas crucial to improving human health.

Adding to the original pilot awards, ICTR has expanded the program to include new areas of emphasis and new mechanisms. In December 2013, RFAs for Novel Methods Development, Novel Therapeutics Discovery and Development, Patient Centered Outcomes Research, and Dissemination and Implementation Research (ictr.wisc.edu/files/ICTR_Today_Dec2013_Special.pdf) were added to the pilot program portfolio.

Drug discovery emphasis area

The development of new therapeutics and interventions is a special area of emphasis from the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). In addition to the new RFA for Novel Therapeutics Discovery and Development, the ICTR Translational Technologies and Resources Core offers short-term, low dollar vouchers for laboratory services to advance translation of discovery into therapy. Selection criteria are based on extramural grant review or drug/therapeutic discovery milestones. See page 3 for the latest round of voucher awards.

Dissemination and implementation and outcomes research emphasis area

Recent years have also seen an increase in mechanisms that support efforts to move basic research into community practice. The Patient Centered Outcomes Research Awards provide support for activities and infrastructure development leading to a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) application, while the Dissemination and Implementation Research Awards promote research that addresses how to deliver evidence-based interventions to clinical practice and community health programs. In addition, the Dissemination Supplements address the gap between university-based research and translation of those discoveries into practice. See page 6 for the newest RFA for this program.

Co-funding continues with support from collaborating centers

The latest round of awards has expanded due, in part, to the generous support from institutional sources, such as the Wisconsin Partnership Program, UW Carbone Cancer Center, the UW Chancellor’s Fund, UW Medical Foundation, and UW Hospital and Clinics. Marc Drezner, MD, SMPH senior associate dean and ICTR executive director, comments, “The generous support that ICTR receives from a variety of institutional resources allows us to underwrite a wide array of promising research from a host of investigators at UW and Marshfield Clinic, most notably young investigators. With this support ICTR has succeeded in maintaining an effective pilot awards program, which has led to the publication of numerous research papers and receipt of a significant number of new extramural funding for the award recipients.”

Drezner continues, “We anticipate that the addition of pilot awards for Novel Therapeutics IN THIS ISSUE:
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Continued on page 5

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The aim of the ICTR Pilot Awards Program is to catalyze interdisciplinary research growth and productivity across the translational spectrum by providing funds to support a variety of research projects with outcomes focused on the ultimate improvement of human health. ICTR has been an “early adopter” of funding research across the complete translational spectrum (T0 to T4), which can tangibly improve health across a wide range of diseases and conditions. We have also recognized the unique health challenges of our state, including health disparities in the broadest sense.

Our Pilot Awards Program has been an iterative and facile process, to capitalize on campus strengths and partners, as well as to provide mechanisms for our investigators to prepare for emerging grant opportunities such as Patient Centered Outcomes Research and Dissemination & Implementation Research. We have engaged stakeholder communities in our processes so they can contribute meaningfully across the translational sciences spectrum. We have also ensured that all translational projects are performed in the context of collaborative team science. The projects awarded in this Eighth Round are stellar examples of junior/senior investigator collaborations, collaborative teams across our ICTR academic partners and community partners, exploration of novel methods, and cutting edge science.

The ability to sustain such a large initiative relies on a committed administrative team (Andrea Dearlove, Peggy Hatfield, and Michael Bates), input from key ICTR core personnel to support their initiatives, generous matching and co-sponsorship funds, and a significant number of academic and community reviewers for the submitted proposals. To maintain the integrity of the review process, we require over 400 independent, expert, and timely reviews to get the job done! Whereas there are benefits to being a peer reviewer or a member of the final review panels, we recognize that it takes a lot of work from both our academic and community partners to be such good citizens for the greater good. Our sincere appreciation is extended to all involved. We continue to welcome suggestions for improvement in our Pilot Awards Program, as well as new volunteers to review.
Help for Investigators:

Case Study: How a Previous Voucher Award Helped a Grant Application

Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is a progressive vascular disease with high lethality that preferentially affects the elderly for unknown reasons. The research team of Bo Liu, PhD, associate professor of Surgery, and Naomi Chesler, PhD, associate professor of Biomedical Engineering, applied for an NIH R21 award to examine how arterial stiffness changes vascular distribution of classically activated (M1) vs alternatively activated (M2) macrophages. During the first review, the NIH study section recognized the proposed study as “an innovative approach to study vascular aging,” yet raised concerns over “justification of the markers used for M1 versus M2 polarization.”

Supported by a 2013 ICTR Voucher awarded to Liu, Stephanie Morgan, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow with the research team, carried out a new set of preliminary studies using multiple extracellular and intracellular markers. Under the guidance of Dagna Sheerar of the UWCCC Flow Cytometry Core, Morgan demonstrated that flow cytometry-based methodologies can successfully identify and characterize macrophage subtypes found in aneurysmal tissues using both internal and external cellular markers. Under the guidance of Dagna Sheerar of the UWCCC Flow Cytometry Core, Morgan demonstrated that flow cytometry-based methodologies can successfully identify and characterize macrophage subtypes found in aneurysmal tissues using both internal and external cellular markers. (The Flow Cytometry Core is a TTRC-affiliated lab.)

These results successfully addressed the technical concern raised by the NIH reviewers and the resubmitted R21 proposal received a priority score at the 3rd percentile – well within the expected funding range. The ICTR Voucher Award was key to both the successful development of the flow protocol, and the future ability of the Chesler and Liu research team to study how aged arteries affect vascular inflammation.

Voucher Awardees, Round 3, July 2014

**Epistasis in Steroidogenic Genes in the Prediction of Alzheimer’s Disease**
Craig Atwood, PhD, UW SMPH
ICTR Affiliated Laboratory/Center: Wisconsin National Primate Research Center Assay Services

**Non-invasive Imaging of Metabolism and Oxygenation in Obstructive Nephropathy**
Sean Fain, PhD, UW SMPH
ICTR Affiliated Laboratory/Center: Small Molecule Screening and Synthesis Facility

**Identification of a “Death by Clotting” Gene**
Daniel Greenspan, PhD, UW SMPH
ICTR Affiliated Laboratory/Center: UW Biotechnology Center

**Structure/Activity Relationships of Small Molecule Inhibitors for Prolactin Signals in Breast Cancer**
Linda Schuler, DVM, PhD, UW School of Veterinary Medicine
ICTR Affiliated Laboratory/Center: Small Molecule Screening and Synthesis Facility

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**Keep UW ICTR Up-To-Date with NIH**

**Acknowledge ICTR Support**

Publications arising from UW ICTR supported research should acknowledge support by stating “Supported by grant UL1TR000427 from the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, NIH.”

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**TTRC Announces Recipients of Round Three Voucher Awards**

The ICTR Translational Technologies and Resources Core (TTRC) named four recipients of its third round of voucher awards – short-term, low-dollar awards (up to $5,000 for three months) to advance the translation of discovery into therapy. Applicants must document an urgent need for services based upon recent extramural grant review, or milestones for therapeutic development. Requests are redeemable only at one of the ICTR TTRC affiliated laboratories and centers. Round 3 Awards were made in July 2014. Another round of awards is anticipated for fall 2014.

John Kao, PhD, ICTR TTRC director, notes, “It has been very gratifying to hear from our investigators that the Voucher Program has been successful in providing them with the immediate resources they need to generate the data needed for follow-on funding and drug discovery activities.”
2014 Pilot Awards

BASIC AND CLINICAL RESEARCH
Pilot Awards ($50,000 for one year)

Molecular Imaging to Identify Response to Tumor Immunotherapy Using Anti-PD-1
Douglas McNeel, MD, PhD, UW SMPH
Collaborator: Weibo Cai, UW SMPH
Co-Funding: UW Carbone Cancer Center

Motoneuron and Optic Axonopathy in Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia
Anjon Audhya, MD, UW SMPH
Collaborators: David Gamm, Su-Chun Zhang, UW SMPH
Co-Funding: UW Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Center

Sleep Apnea and Dense EEG: Early Biomarkers and Risk Factors for Alzheimer’s Disease
Ruth Benca, MD, PhD, UW SMPH
Collaborator: Barbara Bendlin, UW SMPH

MRI-based Susceptibility Mapping As an Imaging Biomarker of Liver Iron Overload
Diego Hernando, PhD, UW SMPH
Collaborators: Scott Reeder, Ryan Mattison, Samir Sharma, UW SMPH

Phrenic Motor Neuron Derivation and Transplantation
Gordon Mitchell, PhD, UW SVM
Collaborator: Randall Ashton, UW COE
Co-Funding: UW Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine Center

Methcillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Colonization Detection as a Potential Strategy to Reduce Unnecessary Vancomycin Usage in the Emergency Department
Michael Pulia, MD, Nasia Safdar, MD/PhD; UW SMPH
Collaborators: Kurt Reed, UW SMPH; Sanjiv Shukla, MCRF

Infusing Mesenchymal Stem Cells as Protection from Radiation Injury and GVHD
Christian Capitini, MD, UW SMPH
Collaborator: Peisam Hematti, UW SMPH
Co-Funding: UW Carbone Cancer Center

Role of Estrogen Receptor Alpha in Sex-Specific Neuroprotection by a TrkB Agonist
Pelin Cengiz, MD, UW SMPH
Collaborator: Jon Levine, UW SMPH
Co-Funding: UW Waisman Center

Novel Methods Pilot Awards ($50,000 for one year)

Human Stem Cell Derived Blood-Brain Barrier Model for Central Nervous System Drug Screens
Eric Shusta, PhD, UW COE; John Kuo, MD, PhD, UW SMPH
Collaborator: Jamey Weichert, UW SMPH

A Novel Humanized Mouse Model Using Human Pediatric Tissues
William Burlington, PhD, UW SMPH

PRISM Mouse: Evaluating the Effect of Mutation Profile on Cancer Biology
Dustin Deming, MD, UW SMPH
Collaborator: Richard Halberg, UW SMPH
Co-Funding: UW Carbone Cancer Center

Multi-scale Statistical Analysis of Networks: Applications to Group Analysis of Brain Connectivity Networks and Cortical Surface Based Signals
Vikas Singh, PhD, UW SMPH
Collaborators: Nagesh Adluri, Barbara Bendlin, Moo Chung, Charles Dyer, Sterling Johnson, UW SMPH

Computational Platform for Drug Target and Therapeutic Discovery
F Michael Hoffmann, PhD, UW SMPH
Collaborators: Glenn Liu, Yongna Xing, UW SMPH; Paul Ahlquist, Katrina Forest, John Markley, Julie Mitchell, UW CALS; Miron Livny, Jennifer Schormaker, Tehshik Yoon, UW L&S
Matched Funding: UW Carbone Cancer Center

Novel Therapeutics Pilot Awards ($50,000 for one year)

Calcineurin as a Novel Analgesic for Neuropathic Pain
Vjekoslav Mitevic, PhD, UW SMPH
Collaborator: Gordana Mitevic, UW SMPH

Synthesis of a Novel Radiolabeled Prostate Cancer Therapeutic Agent
Bruce Thomadsen, PhD, UW SMPH; Tod Speer, MD, Willmar Regional Cancer Center, MN
Collaborator: Robert Nickels, Onofre DeJesus, Dhanabalan Murali, UW SMPH
Co-Funding: UW Carbone Cancer Center

Heterobivalent GLP-1/EP3 Molecules as Novel Diabetes Therapeutics
Alan Attie, PhD, UW CALS
Collaborators: Mark Keller, UW CALS; Samuel Gelman, UW L&S

Ecteinascin as a Therapeutic for Treatment of Clostridium difficile
Tim Bugni, PhD, UW SOP
Collaborators: Nasia Safdar, UW SMPH; James Steele, UW CALS

ICTR Co-Funding of 2014 UW Alzheimers Disease Research Center Pilots ($50,000 for one year)

Testing Direct Effects of miGR5 Inhibition on Sleep in an Alzheimer’s Disease Mouse Model
Cara Westmark, PhD, UW SMPH
Collaborator: Rama Maganti, UW SMPH

Imaging Neuroplasticity in Mild Cognitive Impairment
Andrew Alexander, PhD, UW SMPH
Collaborator: Barbara Bendlin, UW SMPH

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH

Clinical and Community Outcomes Research Awards ($75,000 for 12 months)

Stepping Up in Specialty Clinics to Reduce Blood Pressure
Christie Bartels, MD, MS, UW SMPH
Academic Collaborators: Diane Lauber, UW SON; Heather Johnson, Yingqi Zhao, UW SMPH
Community Collaborators: UW Health Rheumatology Clinic

Exploring Over the Counter Medication Safety in Older Adults
Michelle Chui, PharmD, PhD, UW SMPH
Academic Collaborators: Cynthia Phelan, UW SON; Lauren Welch, VA; Jamie Stone, UW SOP
Community Collaborators: Oregon Area Senior Center; Supporting Active Independent Lives (SAIL); Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin; Shopko Pharmacies

Community Pharmacists’ Perspectives of Medication Reconciliation Processes for Recently Discharged Patients
Korey Kenney, PharmD, PhD, UW SMPH
Academic Collaborators: David Kreling, Margaret Wise, UW SOP; Amy Kind, UW SMPH

Community Collaborators: Malliatt’s Pharmacy; Marshfield Clinic Pharmacies

Dissemination & Implementation Research Awards ($150,000 for 18-24 months)

Adapting the Physical Activity for Life for Seniors (PALS) Program for Older African Americans
Kimberlee Gretelebeck, PhD, RN, UW SON
Academic Collaborators: Jane Mahoney, UW SMPH; Earline Ward, UW SON

Community Collaborators: NorthEastSide Senior Coalition (NESCO) in Madison; Milwaukee County Department on Aging (MCDAA); Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging

Implementing Successful Detoxification Continuing Care
Todd Molfenter, PhD, UW COE
Academic Collaborators: David Gustafson, UW COE; Nora Jacobson, UW SON; Randall Brown, UW SMPH & VA

Community Collaborators: Access Community Health Centers; State of WI Department of Health Services; Genesis Behavioral Services; Ministry Behavioral Health; North Central Health Care; Sauk County Department of Human Services; Tellurian; Rock County Human Services

The Wisconsin Coalition for Collaborative Excellence in Assisted Living as a Quality Improvement Dissemination and Implementation Vehicle
David Zimmerman, PhD, UW COE
Academic Collaborators: Jay Ford, UW COE; Jane Mahoney, UW SMPH; DaRae Coughlin, UW-Milwaukee, College of Nursing

Community Collaborators: State of WI Department of Health Services-Divisions of Quality Assurance and Long Term Care; WI State Board on Aging and Ombudsman Program; WI Assisted Living Association; Leading Age Wisconsin; Residential Services Association of Wisconsin; WI Center for Assisted Living

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Awards ($100,000 for 12 months)

Can Community Advisors Improve Recruitment of Underrepresented People?
Barbara Bowers, PhD, RN, UW SON
Academic Collaborators: Roger Brown, Nora Jacobson, UW SON

Community Collaborators: Goodman Community Center; Lussier Community Education Center; Community Advisors on Research Design and Strategy members

Engaging Stakeholders and Developing Partners in Mental Health and Primary Care Integration Research
Nancy Pandhi, MD, PhD, MPH, UW SMPH
Academic Collaborators: Sarah Davis, UW SOP and UW Law School; Nora Jacobson, UW SON

Community Collaborators: United Way of Dane County; WORT Community Radio; National Alliance on Mental Illness; Comucopia, Inc.; Access Community Health Centers; Group Health Cooperative; UW Health

Engaging Stakeholders to Develop a Patient Navigation Tool for High-risk Surgery
Gretchen Schwarze, MD, MPP, UW SMPH
Academic Collaborators: Paul Rathouz, UW SMPH
Community Collaborators: UW Health Patient Relations & Patient/Family Partnerships; Patient-Family Advisors, Center for Patient Partnerships
Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation continues a 40-year tradition of hosting Summer Student Research Interns on the Marshfield campus. The Summer Student Research Internship Program is supported entirely through private philanthropy and was able to host 10 students this year. Interested students should check the Marshfield web site for 2015 application procedures (www3.marshfieldclinic.org/research/pages/default.aspx?page=educational_opportunities)

Directed by Huong McLean, PhD, and Bobbi Bradley, MPH, the summer internship provides a 12-week mentored research experience tailored to the student’s skill level and is related to ongoing research at the Marshfield Clinic. The program enables students to put their education into practice as they work side-by-side with scientists who are experts in their fields. All students are required to prepare an abstract describing their research and present orally at the annual research symposium in August.

This year’s symposium is on August 14, from 8 am-12 pm in Froehlke Auditorium at Marshfield Clinic Marshfield Center and can be viewed via MediaSite Live: mediasite.mfmdclin.edu/Mediasite/Play/81631edbd8f842e585e475030379ea341d.

Top Row, left to right: Colleen Bramwell; Ethan Heinzen; James Bychinski, David Kirkhoff, Charley Gaber, Matthew Buchholz. Bottom Row, left to right: Bethany Blank; Ran Zhao, Krista Koehler, Jessica Perkins.

Pilot Awards Program Continues... Continued from page 1

Discovery and Development, a key NIH goal, will result in a similar bounty of publications and new extramural funding.”

As in the past, individual awards have also been co-funded by collaborating research centers. This year’s cofunders include the UW Carbone Cancer Center (5), the UW Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Center (2), and the UW Waisman Center (1). All applications are processed and reviewed in an identical fashion, but in the final review may be selected by collaborating centers as being of specific interest for funding. Similarly, ICTR collaborates with the Wisconsin Alzheimers Disease Research Center to co-fund grants of interest (2).

Although largely invisible to investigators, ICTR works with the T0 to T4 rubric for describing or classifying where research falls on the translation continuum from basic research discovery to changes in community health. As described in the December 2013 newsletter (https://ictr.wisc.edu/files/ICTR_Today_Dec2013_Special.pdf), this classification system is designed to help CTSA sites support a diverse, balanced research portfolio. This year’s awards are a healthy reflection of that goal.
**ICTR Fall Mentor Training**

A professional development opportunity for faculty who are actively or interested in mentoring postdoctoral trainees or junior faculty developing research careers will be offered this fall.

The training, co-facilitated by Drs. Beth Meyerand and Nasia Safdar, is based on the published curriculum, *Mentor Training for Clinical and Translational Researchers*, which has been successfully tested via a multisite randomized controlled trial led by UW-ICTR. The curriculum uses a case-based approach to explore an intellectual framework for research mentoring, providing opportunities for reflection on mentoring skills and a forum to solve mentoring dilemmas and share strategies for success.

The eight hours of training will be offered in Fall 2014 in four 2-hour sessions. Registration required.

**When:** Wednesdays, 2-4 pm; Sep 17, Oct 1, Oct 15, Oct 29

**Where:** WIMR 3001A

Contact Kim Spencer at kcspencer2@wisc.edu for more information or see the mentoring website: mentoringresources.ictr.wisc.edu/TrainingMain

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**2014-15 K to R Grant Writing Seminar**

**Writing your first R01?**

UW ICTR is offering a grant writing seminar for UW K scholars, VA research fellows, and other UW investigators who are conducting clinical or translational research and planning to submit their first R01 grant in June 2015.

Led by Marc Drezner, MD, and Karen Hansen, MD, MS, the program consists of eight 2-hour sessions running from October 2014-March 2015. Enrollment is limited to six participants to maximize the level of individualized feedback for each participant. Additional details about session content and eligibility are found online ([ictr.wisc.edu/files/KtoR_Reruitment_Flyer_June2014.pdf](ictr.wisc.edu/files/KtoR_Reruitment_Flyer_June2014.pdf)). If interested in enrolling, please contact Pam Asquith, administrative director, Research Education & Career Development, pasquith@wisc.edu, (608)263-8337.

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**ICTR CAP Dissemination Supplement Award**

UW ICTR Dissemination Supplements are part of an overall strategy to address the gap between university-based research discoveries and translation of those discoveries into programs and policies to improve the health of the public.

For the second round of supplements, the program will support dissemination of evidence-based strategies where substantial research that contributed to the evidence base was conducted at UW-Madison or Marshfield Clinic. However, the principal investigator for the proposed project does not need to be the individual who conducted the research. For more information contact Andrea Dearlove, adearlove@wisc.edu, (608)262-7125, or Melody Bockenfeld, bockenfeld@wisc.edu, (608)262-8173.

- Three tiers of funding (up to $5,000, up to $10,000, up to $15,000).
- 12-month timeline – NO extensions allowed.
- No letter of intent.
- Application due date: Mon, Sep 15
- Award date: Nov 3

More information about the supplement awards and the application process is available online: [ictr.wisc.edu/FundingOpportunities](ictr.wisc.edu/FundingOpportunities).

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**Save The Dates:**

**UW SMPH 2014 Health Disparities Symposium**

**Incarceration, Infections and Inequalities: Creating an Agenda for Research and Community Action in Wisconsin**

**When:** Thurs, Sep 18, 2014, 1-3:30 pm

**Where:** 1306 Health Sciences Learning Center

Wisconsin is affected by dramatic racial disparities in rates of incarceration as well as infectious diseases such as HIV and viral hepatitis. This symposium will bring together people from multiple disciplines across the UW-Madison campus and the wider Madison community who are interested in promoting equity in health and criminal justice through research and advocacy.

Free and open to the public. Check the ICTR web portal for more details and a final agenda ([ictr.wisc.edu](ictr.wisc.edu)).

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**When is an Algorithm a Medical Device? Regulatory Issues in the Era of Computation in Biology**

**When:** Wed, Sep 24, 2014, 1-3:30 pm

**Where:** DeLuca Forum, The Discovery Building, UW-Madison Campus

Free and open to the public. Registration is requested and will open in mid-August.

This symposium will explore the current and potential regulatory framework for medical software development, guidelines for identifying when software becomes a medical device, and guidance on how to integrate the required practices into biomedical research.

Co-sponsors include:

- Morgridge Institute for Research
- Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics, UW-Madison
- UW Carbone Cancer Center
- UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research
- Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation

For more information: [discovery.wisc.edu/home/morgridge/media/in-the-news/2014/when-is-an-algorithm-a-medical-device.cmsx](discovery.wisc.edu/home/morgridge/media/in-the-news/2014/when-is-an-algorithm-a-medical-device.cmsx)

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