

EINSTEIN-ROCKEFELLER-CUNY CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH NEWSLETTER



March 2024

ERC-CFAR Website

Letter from the ERC-CFAR Director, Harris Goldstein, M.D

Dear ERC-CFAR members,

As the days get longer and warmer and the baseball season starts, I am excited to share all the incredible work members of our CFAR have accomplished in the last few months and describe our future plans for the Spring and beyond. Before that, I am overjoyed to acknowledge the transformational gift of \$1 billion from Dr. Ruth Gottesman, Chair of the Einstein Board of Trustees and a board member of Montefiore Health System to make Einstein a tuition-free medical school which will likely change the lives and career paths of countless Einstein students. Hopefully, the relief of the economic pressure of hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt will enable students to follow their passion to give back to their communities and bolster underserved areas of medicine including those relevant to HIV infection.

The ERC-CFAR recently submitted our comprehensive progress report to the NIH on all the developments within our center from the past year. Reviewing all of our accomplishments compiled in the report is a demonstration of the passion, initiative and dedication of our ERC-CFAR investigators.



I am thrilled to share that The Einstein- Community HIV Ambassador Program (Einstein- CHAMP) recently applied for additional funding to expand our existing planned pathway program to encourage high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, particularly from historically underrepresented populations in medicine, to pursue careers in HIV research. The proposed program will not only enroll students from the Bronx but will build on our research relationships in Rwanda and include 20 students from schools in Rwanda to participate in the CHAMP program. The 20-week program includes mentorship, didactics, a summer research program, and an international conference for the enrolled scholars. The phenomenal leadership of the Einstein CHAMP program includes **Hector Perez, M.D., M.S.**, **Jon Ross, M.D., M.S.**, and Assistant Dean of Diversity Enhancement at Einstein, **Reginald Hayes, B.S, B.Mus, M.Div.**, as well as the Director of the Einstein-Rwanda Research and Capacity Building Program, **Gad Murenzi, M.D., M.P.H.**, Boniface Nsengiyumva, M.S.. and **Clarisse Musanabaganwa, Ph.D.** This groundbreaking program was strongly supported by **Lynne Holden, M.D.** the Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, as well as **Vinayaka R. Prasad, Ph.D.**, Director of the Developmental Core, and **Kathy Anastos, M.D.**, Director of the Clinical and Translational Science Core and would not have been submitted without the heroic efforts of our Administrators, Georgia Veroutis and Sonya Rusanov. The proposed program will expose students from underrepresented backgrounds in research to mentors and provide opportunities in HIV research and empower them to pursue further education and careers in this field. The current version of the program, funded by a one year supplement, BRONX-CHAMP, is limited to students in the Bronx, and is about to begin the inaugural sessions with six scholars enrolled in the program from local high schools and colleges. I look forward to sharing the results of the application soon and encourage anyone interested in participating as a mentor to reach out to **Dr. Perez**.

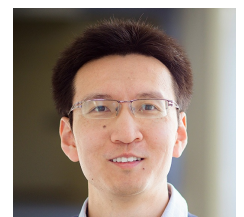
Wishing everyone a warm and successful spring,

Harris Goldstein

New Grants and Awards

Multiomics analysis of the microbiome and subclinical cardiovascular (CVD) disease in HIV infection

Zheng Wang, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, recently received a five-year K01 award from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute for \$660,000 to correlate multiomics analysis of the microbiome with subclinical cardiovascular disease in HIV infection. Wang's research interests include the role of the gut microbiome in HIV infection and its impact on cardiovascular health.



HIV infection. Working closely with his mentor, **Qibin Qi, Ph.D.**, Dr. Wang will use the MACS/WIHS cohorts to measure oral microbiome taxa and functional components using shotgun metagenome sequencing. This research aims to identify potential microbial features, biomarkers, and targets for individual CVD risk prediction and prevention. This holds promise for personalizing medication, such as therapeutic modulation of the microbiome and other interventions, to avert CVD among HIV-infected patients.



ERC-CFAR Associate Director, Betsy Herold, M.D. To Be Honored

Congratulations to **Betsy Herold, M.D.**, for being honored with the Changemaker Spirit of Achievement from the Women's Division of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She will be honored at the 70th annual Spirit of Achievement Luncheon in May. In addition to being an Associate Director of the ERC-CFAR, Dr. Herold is a Professor of Pediatrics and Microbiology- Immunology, the Harold and Muriel Block Chair in Pediatrics, the Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Pediatrics, and the Chief of Pediatric Infectious Disease at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

News from the ERC-CFAR Cores

HIV and Mental Health SWG Welcomes New Co-Director

The HIV and Mental Health Scientific Working Group is excited to introduce **Bryan Kutner, Ph.D, M.P.H.** (he/him) as the new Co-Director, working with **Anjali Sharma, M.D., M.S.** Dr. Kutner is a Clinical Psychologist and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Medicine who recently joined the faculty at Einstein from the HIV Center at Columbia University. Dr. Kutner aims to improve health equity by understanding behavior change techniques and mechanisms of action responsible for mitigating HIV-related stigma in healthcare settings. He is currently conducting studies to understand how to address anal sex stigma in HIV clinics and is also a co-investigator on several other translational science studies, including to understand how to implement equitable access to long-acting injectable antiretroviral therapy and how to implement internet-based motivational interviewing training among HIV service workers. Dr. Kutner will be leading the next SWG meeting with a training on motivational interviewing for researchers, please see the information below.



Upcoming Seminar from the HIV and Mental Health SWG- *"Motivational Interviewing for HIV Researchers"*

The HIV and Mental Health SWG will be hosting a seminar on **June 20 from 10:30 -12:00** where **Bryan Kutner, Ph.D., M.P.H.** will give a presentation titled **"Motivational Interviewing for HIV Researchers"**.

Motivational interviewing is a widely studied and implemented evidence-based practice that supports a large set of human behavior change targets, including medication adherence, harm reduction, and mental health. While many HIV researchers know of motivational interviewing, it can feel esoteric and therefore difficult to understand in the absence of concrete examples that are relevant to their work. In this talk, we will introduce an overview of motivational interviewing for a researcher audience to promote understanding of its terminology and practice. with a particular emphasis on practical examples of motivational interviewing spirit, change talk, and microskills.

Please keep an eye out for the flyer and zoom link, coming soon.

CFAR National Directors Meeting 2024 in NYC

The ERC-CFAR is excited to be hosting the annual National CFAR Directors Meeting this year in New York City! We invite all of our ERC-CFAR Members to join us on Tuesday, October 29 for our Scientific Symposium.

Please register here by September 15, 2024.



Acknowledging the ERC-CFAR

It is very important for the NIH to document the impact of the global CFAR



program to enable continued funding of the CFARs as well as for our ERC-CFAR to document the impact of its funding on our research efforts. For this reason, it is very important that our investigators acknowledge the Einstein-CUNY-Rockefeller Center for AIDS Research in publications, presentations, and posters where the ERC-CFAR played any role, no matter how minor, in supporting these studies.

For future publications, please use the following language to acknowledge the CFAR. **"Research reported in this was supported by the Einstein-Rockefeller-CUNY Center for AIDS Research, an NIH-funded program under award number P30AI124414 which is supported by the following NIH Institutes and Centers: NIAID, NCI, NICHD, NHLBI, NIDA, NIMH,**

NIA, NIDDK, NIMHD, NIDCR, NINR, FIC, and OAR."

Alternatively, if space is limited or the ERC-CFAR support was minimal, you can just acknowledge as the Einstein-Rockefeller-CUNY Center for AIDS Research (grant P30 AI124414).

For slides or posters, the ERC-CFAR logo acts as acknowledgment. Please right-click on the logo to save it for future use.

New ERC-CFAR Publications

HealthCall: Smartphone Enhancement of Brief Interventions to Improve HIV Medication Adherence Among Patients in HIV Care

A joint study between researchers in the ERC-CFAR, the HIV Center, NY Psychiatric Institute, and Columbia University showed that an intervention using a smartphone app in conjunction with the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA) Clinician's Guide (CG) or Motivational Interviewing improved ART adherence among people living with HIV who drink heavily. Results from this year-long intervention showed that the use of a smartphone app can be used to initially extend the reach of a brief drinking intervention to improve ART adherence over a short period of time; however, sustained long-term improvements in ART adherence after intervention activity ends remains a challenge.

Knox J, Aharonovich E, **Zingman BS**, Stohl M, Walsh C, Elliott JC, Fink DS, **Durant S**, **Menchaca R**, **Sharma A**, Denning M, Hasin D. HealthCall: Smartphone Enhancement of Brief Interventions to Improve HIV Medication Adherence Among Patients in HIV Care. *AIDS Behav.* 2024 Mar 13. doi: 10.1007/s10461-024-04289-z. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38478322.

[Read More](#)

Addressing Mental Health Barriers in HIV Care Coordination Is Crucial to Providing Optimal HIV/AIDS Care

Researchers from CUNY's Institute for Implementation Science in Population Health recently published a paper in *AIDS Patient Care and STDs* that reported results from a comprehensive qualitative study with providers and clients from six care coordination programs (CCPs) in New York City. The CCPs have been shown to improve outcomes across the HIV care continuum, but mental health issues are often insufficiently managed. Although the CCP model calls for providers to address clients' unmet mental health needs primarily through screening and referrals to psychiatric and/or psychological care, both clients and providers reported that the routine provision of emotional support is a major part of providers' role that is highly valued by clients. Some providers, however, feel they have insufficient training to properly address the mental health needs of their clients, which indicates a strong need for formally integrating mental health services in the CCPs.

Hernandez M, Guarino H, Kozlowski S, Srivastava A, Schenkel R, Tapia T, Seabrook TB, Nash D, Irvine MK. Addressing Mental Health Barriers in HIV Care Coordination Is Crucial to Providing Optimal HIV/AIDS Care. *AIDS Patient Care STDs.* 2024 Mar;38(3):107-114. doi: 10.1089/apc.2023.0240. PMID: 38471091.

[Read More](#)

Two ERC-CFAR Publications Resulting from Together 5,000 Cohort Study

Two recently published papers from ERC-CFAR members and collaborators analyzed data from the groundbreaking **Together 5,000 (T5K) cohort study**. The longitudinal study, spearheaded by **Christian Grov, Ph.D.** and ERC-CFAR investigators at CUNY (**Sarit Golub, Ph.D., M.P.H., Yan Guo, Ph.D., Denis Nash, Ph.D., M.P.H., and Drew Westmoreland, Ph.D., Ms.P.H.**), is designed to investigate missed opportunities for HIV prevention and PrEP uptake among populations with high vulnerability for HIV. The cohort aimed to enroll 5,000 HIV-negative men who are at high risk for HIV infection, and successfully followed over 6,000 participants for four years. One paper, recently published in *Health Affairs*, examined the high rates of PrEP discontinuation in the cohort and identified certain risk factors (housing instability and prior history of PrEP discontinuation) decreased likelihood of continued PrEP use. Another paper, published in *AIDS and Behavior*, examined PrEP uptake and Methamphetamine use patterns in this cohort, and found that methamphetamine use was associated with PrEP uptake, especially for those who were considered "newly initiated" methamphetamine users.



PrEP Uptake and Methamphetamine Use Patterns in a 4-Year U.S. National Prospective Cohort Study of Sexual and Gender Minority People, 2017–2022

PrEP Discontinuation In A US National

Funding Opportunities for HIV Research

NIH Funding Opportunities for HIV Research

NOT-OD-24-060 | Request for Information (RFI) to inform development of the FY 2026-2030 NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research
Response Date: March 28, 2024

Administrative Supplements for P30 Cancer Centers Support Grants (CCSG) to Stimulate Research in HIV/AIDS Cancer Research Projects at NCI-Designated Cancer Centers

Application Due Date, April 5, 2024

Administrative Supplements for P30 Cancer Centers Support Grants (CCSG) to Stimulate Research in HIV-Associated Cancers in Aging Populations

Application Due Date, April 5, 2024

Administrative Supplements for P30 Cancer Centers Support Grants (CCSG) to Stimulate Research in Immunotherapy and Tumor Microenvironment in HIV/AIDS Cancer Patients at NCI-Designated Cancer Centers

Application Due Date, April 5, 2024

PAR-23-296 | Opportunities for HIV Cure Strategies at the Time of ART Initiation (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
AIDS - New/Renewal/Resubmission/Revision, as allowed: May 07, 2024

PAR-23-297 | Opportunities for HIV Cure Strategies at the Time of ART Initiation (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
AIDS - New/Renewal/Resubmission/Revision, as allowed: May 07, 2024

RFA-AI-24-011 Tailoring HIV Curative Strategies to the Participant (UM1 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

- NIAID intends to commit \$7M to fund 2-3 awards in fiscal year 2025
- Application Receipt Date: July 30, 2024 (Letters of intent due on June 30, 2024)
- Scientific inquiries can be sent to Leia Novak (leia.novak@nih.gov)
- Scheduling a pre-application meeting is **highly** encouraged

PAR-22-185: Resources Access for Preclinical Integrated Drug Development (RAPIDD) Program (X01)
AIDS Due Dates: September 01, 2024; January 17, 2025

PAR-23-198 | NIAID New Innovators Awards (DP2 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
AIDS Application Due Dates: October 11, 2024; October 10, 2025

RFA-CA-24-006 | Translational Research Toward Development of a Kaposi Sarcoma Herpesvirus (KSHV) Vaccine (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)
AIDS - New/Renewal/Resubmission/Revision, as allowed: December 04, 2024

PAR-23-22 | HIV/AIDS Scholars Using Nonhuman Primate (NHP) Models Program (K01)
Standard AIDS due dates, Expiration Date: September 08, 2025

PAR-23-073 | Mentored Career Development Program for Early Stage Investigators Using Nonhuman Primate Research Models (K01)
Standard AIDS due dates, Expiration Date: January 8, 2026

NOT-AI-23-046 | Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): HIV Cure-Related Research in Diverse Populations (R21, R01)
Expiration Date: May 08, 2026

Mentoring Opportunities in HIV Research



HIV Implementation Science
Coordination Initiative

Application
Deadline:
March 31st,
2024

VISITING SCHOLARS IN HIV IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE PROGRAM 2024

Program Period: **May 1st, 2024 - September 30th, 2024**

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

ISCI is accepting applications for the Visiting Scholars in HIV Implementation Science (IS) Program whose goal is to strengthen academic-community partnerships that can conduct implementation research and utilize findings from implementation research to help end the HIV epidemic. Chosen applicants (Scholars) will receive networking opportunities and mentorship from an individual Sponsor to accomplish specific goals between the Scholar and their elected community partner. The focus of the inaugural year of the program will be Scholars working on HIV in LGBTQ+ focused organizations. There will be 1 Scholar per ISCI Hub in the inaugural year; 9 Scholars in total.

SUBMIT AN
APPLICATION :



MORE PROGRAM
INFORMATION:



<https://hivimpsi.northwestern.edu/visiting-scholars-program/>

For more information please contact isci@northwestern.edu

Sustained Training in Aging and HIV Research (STAHR)

The annual UC San Diego Sustained Training in Aging and HIV Research (STAHR) Workshop and Summer Institute are open to individuals who wish to improve their knowledge and skills on mental health research in HIV and aging.

The deadline to apply is March 31, 2024, at 12AM PT.

Learn more about the STAHR program and apply

Registration Open

Workshop for Early Career Investigators in HIV

Wednesday, April 24, 2024
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Event



NIH Office of AIDS Research Workshop for Early Career HIV Investigators

April 24, 2024 | 11AM - 4PM ET | Online

The 2024 Workshop for Early Career Investigators in HIV, hosted by the NIH Office of AIDS Research (OAR), will provide early stage investigators and early career investigators (ECIs) with mentor discussions, information about OAR and HIV research at NIH, and NIH resources that are available to support ECIs. Speakers include Jennifer Jao, MD, MPH, at Lurie Children's Hospital and Northwestern University, and the TC CFAR's Clinical Sciences Core co-director. Attendees will also have an opportunity for networking and will learn about NIH's HIV funding opportunities and the grant application process.

Register for the NIH OAR workshop



EMORY TRAINING PROGRAM IN HIV TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH TO END THE EPIDEMIC

Openings available for NIH-funded T32 post-doctoral fellowship program at Emory University! Apply to gain expertise in cross-cutting HIV science and translation to the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative.

DEADLINE:
MAY 3, 2024

More info & how to apply:
cfar.emory.edu/HIV-T32-Program

HIV RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

 **EMORY UNIVERSITY** | Center for AIDS Research

Upcoming Conferences, Seminars, and Symposiums



3RD NATIONAL ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESEARCH MEETING

APRIL 15-16, 2024 • LOS ANGELES, CA
UCLA MEYER AND RENE LUSKIN CONFERENCE CENTER

[REGISTER NOW](#)

3rd National Ending the HIV Epidemic Partnerships for Research Meeting

"Accelerating Innovations for Equitable Reach and Uptake of HIV Services"

April 15-16, 2024

UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center.

Registration is free and required for attendance

Inter-CFAR Antiretroviral for Prevention (AFP) Working Group webinar

The Inter-CFAR Antiretrovirals for Prevention (AFP)

Working Group was created to facilitate the sharing of new knowledge regarding the use of antiretrovirals to control the domestic and global HIV epidemic. This series is a collaboration between Emory CFAR & Harvard University CFAR.

April 1st, 12 - 1pm ET: Ken Mayer (Fenway Health) and Patrick Sullivan (Rollins School of Public Health) will recap 2024 CROI meeting in Denver, CO.

[Join via Zoom](#)

SYNC 2024: Registration Now Open & Call for Abstracts

May 29-31, 2024

Washington, DC

19th International Conference on HIV Treatment & Prevention Adherence – Continuum 2024

June 9-11, 2024

Puerto Rico

IAS 2024

July 22-26

Munich, Germany

2024 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care & Treatment

August 20-23, 2024

Washington, DC (Hybrid)

US Conference on HIV/AIDS (USCHA) 2024: Registration Open

September 12-15, 2024

New Orleans, LA



Inter-CFAR MACC School of Nursing (SON) Conference

May 2-3, 2024

Baltimore, MD

ACTHIV 2024: Registration Open

May 2-4, 2024

Atlanta, GA | Hybrid

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for (audience)? Why should they care (benefit)? What do I want them to do (call-to-action)?

Create a great offer by adding words like "free," "personalized," "complimentary," or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take action, so consider inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

National LGBTQ Health Conference

August 15-17, 2024

Atlanta, GA

HIVR4P 2024, the 5th HIV Research for Prevention Conference (Registration Now Open and Application for Scholarships Available!)

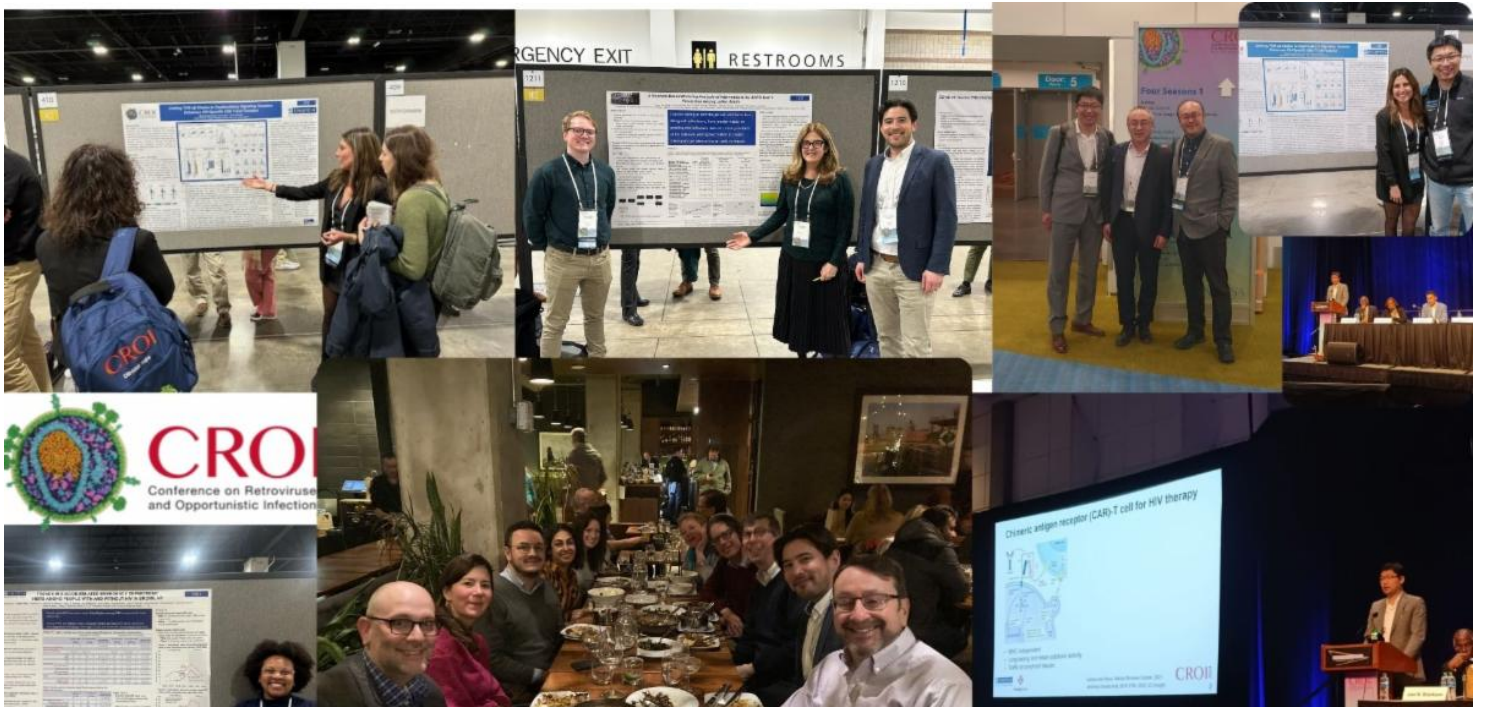
October 6-10, 2024

Lima, Peru (Hybrid)



HIVR4P 2024

ERC-CFAR Members at CROI 2024





Have something to include in the next ERC-CFAR Newsletter?

Did you recently publish a paper, receive funding, or win an award? Did you hear about an opportunity for mentorship, a seminar, or conference that you think we should share with the ERC-CFAR members? **Let us know** so we can put it in the next newsletter!

Sci Resources | 1300 Morris Park Ave, Bronx, NY 10461

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