

EINSTEIN-ROCKEFELLER-CUNY CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH NEWSLETTER



Message From The ERC-CFAR Director Harris Goldstein, MD



Welcome to the Spring Edition of the ERC-CFAR newsletter! I am delighted to share many exciting developments and plans in the ERC-CFAR. In April, we invited our External Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC) to participate in a morning of strategic planning. Each of our cores and SWG presented their successes and struggles from the last year and the ESAC was able to provide cogent advice that our cores and SWG will be able to heed to provide more support to our researchers.

Our catalytic pilot program has been very successful in the past, and many of our past awardees received larger NIH grants based on their pilot research. Our next Catalytic Pilot application is accepting applications, please see the RFA below. I encourage all Early-Stage Investigators and new HIV/AIDS researchers to apply.

I am eager to share that late last week, the NIH CFAR Program leadership sent me the outcome of their review of the five administrative supplement applications submitted in response to the recent CFAR Administrative and EHE supplement announcements. I am delighted to inform you that our ERC-CFAR investigators were highly successful with four of the applications selected for funding. It is very noteworthy that one of these successful supplements was submitted in response to the CFAR Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Pipeline Initiative with the support of the Einstein Senior Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, **Lynn Holden, MD**, and will enable us to join the other CFARs in participating in this important program. Please see more details below. We may be recruiting you to be mentors for future participants in this program. While this information is not a notice of award, I am highly optimistic that they will be funded.

Last month, we awarded a pilot award to **Barbara Milrod, MD**, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and **Jack Keefe, PhD, PRIME** Research Fellow, for \$50,000 to pilot a feasibility proposal to adapt trauma-focused psychodynamic psychotherapy (TFPP) for people living with HIV and PTSD.

Lastly, I am excited to announce that we will be hosting the annual National CFAR Directors Meeting in November of 2024 which brings together the leadership of the 19 CFARs. The National CFAR Meeting will be an excellent opportunity to showcase our research and collaborations between our three institutions. The three-day event will include a full-day scientific symposium, mentorship meetings for ESIs, sessions with the NIH program leads, meetings for the community advisory boards and much more.

ERC-CFAR AWARDS

New NIH Grant Awards

Congratulations to **Marina Caskey, MD**, Professor of Clinical Investigation at Rockefeller University and Associate Director of the ERC-CFAR, on receiving a five-year, \$4.3 million **grant** from NIAID to support the first-in-human study of a potent anti-HBsAg neutralizing antibody.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Shuter, MD**, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology & Population Health (Einstein), for receiving a five-year, \$3.5 million **grant** from the NIH to support research on a harm reduction strategy for PLWH who smoke cigarettes.

Congratulations to **Betsy Herold, MD**, Professor of Pediatrics, Microbiology & Immunology, and Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women's Health (Einstein) and Associate Director of the ERC-CFAR, on receiving a five-year, \$3 million **grant** from NIAID to support research on optimizing the generation of monoclonal antibodies for prevention and treatment of HSV disease.

NIH Supplements

The NIH CFAR Program leadership has recommended funding for four of the ERC-CFAR applications in response to the NIH's latest announcement for CFAR Administrative and EHE Supplements.

Hector R. Perez, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, **Jonathan Ross, MD, MS**, Associate Professor of Medicine, **Reginald Hayes, BS, BMus, MDiv**, Assistant Dean For Diversity Enhancement at Einstein, and **Lynn Holden, MD**, Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at Einstein applied for funding for the ERC CFAR's new CFAR Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Pathway Initiative (CDEIPI). The program, titled "Increasing diversity in HIV science: Bronx-CHAMP" will increase the number of Underrepresented Minorities (URM) / Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) trainees who are engaged in HIV science at the high school, undergraduate, graduate (masters, doctoral or medical) and post-doctoral levels and develop pathways for these "CFAR Scholars" to successful careers in science and medicine.

Matthew Akiyama, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine applied for funding to study "A Decentralized, Status neutral, Stakeholder-engaged intervention for people living with and at risk for HIV post-incarceration: The DEST2nation Study."

Laurie Bauman, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Behavioral Sciences, applied for funding to study "Pharm4PrEP: Developing and Testing a Pharmacy-Driven Model of PrEP to Address Health Inequities in Access."

Mike Bogaisky, MD, Associate Professor of

Medicine, along with **Anjali Sharma, MD, MS**, Professor of Medicine, and **Laurie Bauman, PhD** applied for funding to study “Implementation of a Fall Risk Screening Protocol for Older Adults In an HIV Practice.”

Other Awards

Congratulations to **Viraj Patel, MD, MPH**, for receiving the Department of Medicine Award for Mid-Career Excellence. The award recognizes his commitment, dedication, experience, expertise, and contributions to clinical medicine and education. In the words of **Julia Arnsten, MD, MPH**, who nominated him, “*Dr. Patel has made invaluable contributions to global and HIV health programs, provided direct primary care for patients at Montefiore’s Comprehensive Health Care Center, led Montefiore-wide clinical and educational initiatives, and successfully taught and mentored trainees at all levels.*” Dr. Patel is also featured in the May edition of the **Department of Medicine’s enCOMPASS Newsletter**.

Congratulations to several ERC-CFAR members who recently received Tenure at Einstein:

Earle C. Chambers, PhD, MPH, Professor of Family and Social Medicine, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and of Epidemiology & Population Health

Marina Konopleva, MD, PhD, Professor of Oncology and Molecular Pharmacology

Shadi Nahvi, MD, MS, Professor of Medicine and of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Marcel Yotebieng, MD, PhD, MPH, Professor of Medicine

News From the ERC-CFAR Cores



Catalytic Research Projects on HIV/AIDS-Related Research Due July 31

- Up to two projects to be funded
- Budgets can be \$50,000 or \$75,000
- For ERC-CFAR Early Stage Investigators (ESIs) or any Einstein, Rockefeller, or CUNY researcher new to HIV/AIDS
- **Due July 31, 2023**

Questions? Contact **Sonya Rusanov** or **Georgia Veroutis**

**Read Full RFA
Here**

The Developmental Core also hosted a very successful webinar earlier this month titled "How to Obtain an ERC CFAR Catalytic Pilot Grant". Over a dozen ESIs and new-to-HIV/AIDS researchers joined the meeting to learn skills and tips for successfully applying for ERC-CFAR pilot grants.

ERC-CFAR Trans-Institutional Seminar Series

The ERC-CFAR Trans-Institutional Seminar Series takes place every other Friday at 9 AM on Zoom, where investigators from the ERC-CFAR present updates on their research, look for collaborators, and receive feedback from other researchers. ESIs who present are also invited to a private session afterward with several members of the Developmental Core for mentorship and advice.

We are starting to schedule seminars for the next academic year, please contact **Sonya Rusanov** if you would like to present for either a half-hour or full-hour slot.

New Publications (ERC-CFAR Members in Bold)

HSV-2 Triggers Upregulation of MALAT1 In CD4+ T Cells And Promotes HIV Latency Reversal

Pierce CA, Loh LN, Steach HR, Cheshenko N, Preston-Hurlburt P, Zhang F, Stransky S, Kravets L, Sidoli S, Philbrick WM, Nassar MN, Krishnaswamy S, Herold KC, Herold BC. J Clin Invest. 2023 Apr 20:e164317. doi: 10.1172/JCI164317. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37079384.

Co-infection with herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) significantly contributes to the HIV epidemic. Epidemiological studies consistently show that HSV-2 increases the risk of acquiring HIV. Dual infection of HIV and HSV-2 leads to more frequent HIV viremic episodes, larger HIV-1 tissue reservoirs, and increased divergence from the most recent common ancestor, even in patients on antiretroviral therapy. This suggests that HSV-2 affects the maintenance and reactivation of the HIV reservoir. Understanding the molecular mechanisms by which HSV-2 negatively impacts HIV could help identify new strategies for ending the HIV epidemic. The hypothesis was that exposure of activated CD4+ T cells to HSV-2 locally (skin or mucosa) induces transcriptional changes in HSV-infected and bystander cells, triggering HIV reactivation and replication. To test this, CD4+ T cells from HIV-infected individuals and 2D10 cells (a Jurkat T cell model of HIV latency) were exposed to HSV-2. HSV-2 infection increased HIV protein and gene expression in cells from HIV+ patients and triggered HIV latency reversal in 2D10 cells. Bulk and single-cell RNA sequencing studies identified transcriptional changes in CD4+ T cells exposed to HSV-2, including decreased expression of restriction factors and increased expression of transcripts that could promote HIV reactivation and replication. These changes were observed in both infected and bystander cells, with a stronger response in infected cells. The focus was on MALAT1, a long noncoding RNA highly expressed in immune cells that regulates gene expression. Upregulation of MALAT1, decreased histone H3 protein trimethylation, and HIV latency reversal were observed upon transfection of 2D10 cells with VP16, an HSV-2 protein that regulates transcription. Knockout of MALAT1 reduced the response to VP16 and HSV-2 infection, highlighting its role in

HSV-2-induced HIV reactivation. These studies were a collaboration between Einstein and Yale investigators.

Longitudinal Associations of Psychiatric Risk Factors with Non-psychiatric Hospitalization in a Large Cohort of People Living with HIV in New York City

Breslow AS, Fazzari M, Franz PJ, Hanna DB, Felson UR, Cavic E, Fisher MR, Bauman L. . AIDS Behav. 2023 Apr 21. doi: 10.1007/s10461-023-04064-6. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37084105.

Correlates of Mpox Vaccination among Sexual Minority Men in the United States: Sexual Behavior, Substance Use, and Main Partner Relationships

Starks TJ, Scales D, Castiblanco J, Gorman J, Cain D. J Sex Res. 2023 Mar 15;1-11. doi: 10.1080/00224499.2023.2188443. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36920105.

Predictors Of Hepatitis C Cure Among People Who Inject Drugs Treated With Directly Observed Therapy Supported By Peer Case Managers In Kenya

Akiyama MJ, Riback LR, Nyakowa M, Musyoki H, Lizcano JA, Muller A, **Zhang C,** Walker JG, Stone J, Vickerman P, Cherutich P, Kurth AE. Int J Drug Policy. 2023 Mar;113:103959. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2023.103959. Epub 2023 Feb 7. PMID: 36758335;

Association Between Time to Antiretroviral Therapy and Loss to Care Among Newly Diagnosed Rwandan People Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus

Murenzi G, Kim HY, Shi Q, Muhoza B, Munyaneza A, Kubwimana G, Remera E, Nsanzimana S, **Yotebieng M, Nash D, Anastos K, Ross J.** AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses. 2023 Mar 17. doi: 10.1089/AID.2022.0023. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36800896.

The Gut Microbiome, Microbial Metabolites, and Cardiovascular Disease in People Living with HIV

Peters BA, Burk RD, Kaplan RC, Qi Q. Curr HIV/AIDS Rep. 2023 Apr;20(2):86-99. doi: 10.1007/s11904-023-00648-y. Epub 2023 Jan 28. PMID: 36708497.

"The Familiar Taste of Poison": A Qualitative Study Of Multi-Level Motivations For Stimulant Use In Sexual Minority Men Living In South Florida

Davis-Ewart L, Lee JY, Viamonte M, Colon-Burgos J, Harkness A, Kanamori M, Duncan DT, Doblecki-Lewis S, Carrico AW, **Grov C.** Harm Reduct J. 2023 Apr 26;20(1):58. doi: 10.1186/s12954-023-00787-w. PMID: 37101251;

Upcoming HIV-Relevant Seminars, Symposia, and Activities

Inter-CFAR Antiretrovirals for Prevention Working Group: Strategies to engage healthcare providers in PrEP

June 19, 2023

Webinar: Launch of SGMRO Sexual & Gender Minority Methods & Measurement Website

June 20, 2023

Integrating IS Methods into Health Dept HIV Programs: Case Studies from NYC & Philadelphia

June 21, 2023

Payment to research participants: Regulations, stakeholder perspectives, and data

June 22, 2023

DC CFAR Basic Sciences Core for a Virtual Lab Open House on the Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) Lab

June 23, 2023

Third Coast CFAR Webinar: Limited Interaction Targeted Epidemiology to End the HIV Epidemic
June 26, 2023

Emory CFAR Special Seminar: "Dispatches from the AIDS Pandemic" - A Virtual Book Tour
June 28, 2023

NIH Meeting: Pharmacy-Centered HIV Research: Current Landscape and Future Frontiers
June 28-29, 2023

Grantseeking for Clinical Faculty
June 29, 2023

JIAS Webinar Publish or Perish: How to write and submit a scientific manuscript
June 29, 2023

Virtual 30th Annual Principles of STI/HIV Research and Public Health Practice Course
July 10-21, 2023

Long-Term Survivors & HIV Cure Research Webinar Series
July 11, 2023

2023 IAS Conference
July 23-26, 2023 Brisbane, Australia

2023 HIV Cure & Immunotherapy Forum
July 22, 2023 Brisbane, Australia

7th International Conference on Retroviral Integration
July 31-August 4, 2023 Boulder, Colorado

NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute
August 7-11, 2023 Bethesda, Maryland

Long-Term Survivors & HIV Cure Research Webinar Series
August 15, 2023

ERC-CFAR and Delaney REACH for the Cure Present: NYC Wide Research Symposium: Pathways to an HIV Cure
September 7, 2023 12-5 PM Rockefeller University

A NYC-WIDE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: PATHWAYS TO AN HIV CURE



Scheduled Speakers and Topics

HIV Reservoir and Persistence



John W. Mellors, MD
Distinguished Professor of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine



Ya-Chi Ho, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Microbial Pathogenesis and Medicine
Yale School of Medicine



Katherine Bar, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Immune Control of the Reservoir



Rafick-Pierre Sékaly, PhD
Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Emory University School of Medicine



Michael R. Betts, PhD
Professor of Microbiology
Perelman School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania



Rachel Rutishauser, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine

In Vivo HIV Cure Trials



Steven Deeks, MD
Professor of Medicine in Residence
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine



Pablo Tebas, MD
Professor of Medicine
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania



Ann Chahroudi, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Emory University School of Medicine

September 7, 2023 12 Noon to 5:00 PM
The Rockefeller University



HIV Related Funding, Training, and Mentoring Opportunities

New HIV Vaccine Trial to Optimize ALFQ Adjuvant Dosage is Enrolling at WRAIR

The U.S. Military HIV Research Program (MHRP) at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) and collaborators recently launched a Phase 1 trial that will evaluate safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of varying doses of the Army's novel ALFQ adjuvant in a candidate HIV vaccine to optimize adjuvant dosage. For more information including eligibility, please see the flyer [here](#).

SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Substance Use and HIV Prevention Navigator Program for Racial/Ethnic Minorities

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is offering a funding opportunity to support substance use and HIV prevention services for racial and ethnic minority populations at high-risk for substance use disorders (SUDs) and HIV infection. **Applications are due June 20.**

WHO Online Scoring Survey: Research Priorities for Sexually Transmitted Infections

The World Health Organization (WHO) is undertaking a global research priority setting exercise for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), to address the most pressing gaps in STI prevention, management, and control. And currently asking for input from STI stakeholders through the survey [here](#), which should take 20-25 mins.

ISCI Resources: Implementation Science Webinars and More

ISCI has available links to webinars that feature an array of topics including presentations guiding users through implementation science (IS) and implementation research (IR).

Positions Available with CDC/NCHHSTP

Available job opportunities at National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention can be accessed through this [link](#).

NIH Office of AIDS Research Seeks Physician and Budget Analysts

NIH OAR is seeking exceptional candidates with diverse skill sets to provide direction on the planning, development, and implementation of NIH HIV research.

NIH Grants

Interventions for Stigma Reduction to Improve HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care in Low- and Middle- Income Countries (R01 - Clinical Trial Optional)

Funding Opportunity Number: PAR-23-190

Posting Date: May 10, 2023

Closing Date: December 20, 2023

HIV-associated Non-Communicable Diseases Research at Low- and Middle-Income Country Institutions (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)

Funding Opportunity Number: PAR-23-191

Posting Date: May 10, 2023

Closing Date: December 8, 2023

Innovation for HIV Vaccine Discovery (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Funding Opportunity Number: PAR-23-169

Posting Date: April 21, 2023

Closing Date: August 2, 2023

Synthetic Nucleic Acid Platforms for HIV-1 (SNAPH): (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-AI-23-026

Posting Date: April 21, 2023

Closing Date: August 2, 2023

International Research in Infectious Diseases (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-AI-23-023

Posting Date: April 14, 2023

Closing Date: August 2, 2023

Understanding Persistent Oral Human Papillomavirus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Co-infection and Its Role with Oropharyngeal Cancer Induction (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-DE-24-002

Posting Date: April 7, 2023

Closing Date: July 24, 2023

Understanding Persistent Oral Human Papillomavirus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Co-infection and Its Role with Oropharyngeal Cancer Induction (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-DE-24-001

Posting Date: April 7, 2023

Closing Date: July 24, 2023

[Click here](#) for additional funding opportunities available from the National Institutes of Health.

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

[Unsubscribe sonya.rusanov@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:sonya.rusanov@einsteinmed.edu)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by sonya.rusanov@einsteinmed.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!