

EINSTEIN-ROCKEFELLER-CUNY CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH NEWSLETTER



Message From The ERC-CFAR Director Harris Goldstein, MD

Dear ERC- CFAR members,

While when we think of summer, we think of a quieter time in academia, I am delighted to share several exciting accomplishments by our ERC-CFAR this summer. First, the ERC-CFAR is co-hosting a NYC-wide scientific symposium with Delaney REACH For the CURE presenting updates on progress researchers are making to cure HIV on September 7th at Rockefeller's beautiful campus overlooking the East River. The symposium will have seminars with nine leading HIV Cure researchers from across the country presenting their latest research in the fields of HIV reservoir and persistence, Immune control of the reservoir, and HIV Cure clinical trials. Before and after the seminars, there will be a reception with refreshments and the opportunity to network with other NYC HIV researchers, meet with the speakers, and initiate new collaborations with investigators and colleagues at the different NYC research institutions. Please see the poster and information on how to register for the symposium below.



I am delighted to announce that we received the notice of award for four supplements totaling over \$1.5 million in grant money for two years. **Matthew Akiyama, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Medicine (Einstein), received 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, Ph.D.**, Professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Behavioral Sciences (Einstein), was funded for a project entitled "Pharm4PrEP: Developing and Testing a Pharmacy-Driven Model of PrEP to Address Health Inequities in Access." **Michael Bogaisky, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Geriatrics (Einstein), received funding to study "Implementation of a Fall Risk

Screening Protocol for Older Adults In an HIV Practice."The fourth supplement will fund our new CFAR DEI initiative, titled "Bronx CHAMP" and is lead by **Hector Perez, M.D., Jonathan Ross, M.D., M.S.,** and **Reginald Hayes, B.S., B.Mus., M.Div.**

Finally, the annual National CFAR director's meeting will be hosted by Johns Hopkins this November and we will be sending two Early Stage Investigators (ESIs), **Bryan Kutner, Ph.D., M.S.,** (Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Medicine, Einstein) and **Yan Guo, Ph.D.** (Research Scientist, CUNY) to the ESI mentoring sessions and to present their research. The National Director's meeting is an excellent opportunity for ESIs to receive critical feedback and mentoring from other researchers as well as NIH program officials. As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, we will be hosting this meeting in the fall of 2024, from October 28 – 30 at the Marriot Marquis in Times Square. More details will be forthcoming in the next year, so please stay tuned.

Best wishes for a successful academic year,
Harris Goldstein, M.D.

Interim Dean
Director, Einstein-Rockefeller-CUNY Center for AIDS Research
The Charles Michael Chair in Autoimmune Diseases
Professor of Pediatrics and Microbiology & Immunology

ERC-CFAR AWARDS

New NIH Grant Awards

Congratulations to **Gregoire Lauvau, Ph.D.,** Professor of Microbiology and Immunology (Einstein), and **Jon Lai, Ph.D.,** Professor of Biochemistry (Einstein), on receiving a \$500,000, two-year grant from the NIAID titled “**Developing a new bispecific antibody mimicking rapid antigen-specific memory CD8+ T cell-mediated protection**”. This grant will fund research into designing, producing, and conducting proof of concept experiments to test a novel therapeutic reagent that has the potential to rapidly activate immune defenses against many infectious diseases. The project builds on results from research on basic immunological mechanisms conducted over the past decade and on the combined expertise of Gregoire Lauvau and Jon Lai with T-cell signaling and protein engineering design and production.

Congratulations to **Qibin Qi, Ph.D.,** Associate Professor of Epidemiology (Einstein), **Robert Burk, M.D.,** Professor of Pediatrics, Microbiology & Immunology, Gynecological Oncology, and Epidemiology (Einstein), and **Jorge Kizer, M.D., M.SC.,** (UCSF) on receiving a five -year, \$2.8 million grant to study multi-omic signatures of gut dysbiosis and cardiovascular comorbidities associated with HIV infection. This grant, entitled “Multi-omic signatures of gut dysbiosis and cardiovascular comorbidities associated with HIV infection,” follows up on a previous grant where the group analyzed the association between CVD risk in HIV and gut microbiota, immune function, and metabolites. This new grant allows them to include more omics and also extend their study of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease to multiple cardiovascular comorbidities, including cardiac dysfunction, associated with HIV infection from patient data in the MWCCS Cohort.

The ERC-CFAR has successfully received funding for four supplements in this round of funding. **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 received 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 received 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, received 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** received funding to study "Implementation of a Fall Risk Screening Protocol for Older Adults In an HIV Practice."

Other Awards

Congratulations to **Sarit Golub, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, co-director of the ERC-CFAR Behavioral and Implementation Science Core (BISC), for being named "**Distinguished Professor**" by the City University of New York (CUNY) for her achievements in behavioral psychology. The title of distinguished professor is CUNY's highest faculty honor, and it is very well deserved.

News From the ERC-CFAR Cores

New Service from the Biomarkers Core

The Biomarkers Core of the ERC-CFAR will offer quantitation of tenofovir-diphosphate (TFV-DP) and total tenofovir levels from dried blood spots (DBS) as a new service. **The Stable Isotope and Metabolomics Core (SIMC**, Dr. Irwin Kurland, Director) Facility of the ES-DRC provides mass spectrometric assays for the Biomarkers Core, and has optimized an assay in which concentrations are determined from a 6 mm DBS punch extracted into a 70:30 methanol:water solution (lysed cellular matrix). The assay has been validated by comparing results using samples previously tested using the assay **established** by Peter Anderson at the University of Colorado. The modification the SIMC Facility has developed does not require dephosphorylation of TFV-DP for measurement. Rather both TFV and TFV-DP are directly measured and quantified via standard curves with stable

isotope standards for both TFV and TFV-DP by our LC//MS/MS method. This allows them to offer this assay for the low price of \$100/sample. TFV-DP has a 17-day half-life and reaches a steady state in ~8 weeks. Thus, the assay provides a biomarker of adherence for PrEP or tenofovir-based treatment. For further information, please contact **Dr. Kurland**.

HIV and Mental Health SWG Meeting

The HIV and Mental Health Scientific Working Group (SWG) will be holding its next meeting on September 20, at 11 AM. **Tyrel Starks**, Ph.D., M.A, Professor of Psychology (CUNY) will present on the topic of: "Intimate partner relationships and health: lessons learned from sexual minority men about how becoming 'we' changes 'me'". Please register by clicking on the poster to the right.



ERC-CFAR'S HIV AND MENTAL HEALTH
SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP
PRESENTS:



TYREL STARKS, PH.D., M.A
PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY
DIRECTOR OF THE RELATIONSHIP HEALTH
RESEARCH TEAM
HUNTER COLLEGE, CUNY

**"INTIMATE PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS AND
HEALTH: LESSONS LEARNED FROM SEXUAL
MINORITY MEN ABOUT HOW BECOMING 'WE'
CHANGES 'ME'"**

WEDNESDAY, SEP 20
11:00 AM

[REGISTER NOW FOR OUR
VIRTUAL MEETING](#)

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 have some available slots in 2024, please contact **Sonya Rusanov** if you would like to present for either a half-hour or full-hour slot.

**ERC-CFAR
TRANS-INSTITUTIONAL SEMINAR SERIES
KICKOFF LECTURE**



Sarit A. Golub, PhD, MPH

Distinguished Professor, Department of Psychology
Director, Hunter Alliance for Research and Translation (HART)
CUNY Graduate Center and Hunter College

Quality-Based Financing of HIV Prevention in
NYC: Methods and Findings from an
Implementation Science Partnership

September 8

9:00 AM

Register to join the Zoom

The Einstein- Rockefeller- CUNY
Center For AIDS Research
Trans-Institutional Seminar Series

FALL - WINTER 2023
FRIDAYS 9 AM

September 8

Sarit Golub, PhD, MPH

September 22

**T-32 Mini Symposium
Part II**

October 6

Guinevere Lee, PhD

October 20

**Yan Guo, PhD
Kevin Fiori, MD, MPH,
MS**

November 3

**Andrea Jakubowski,
MD, MS**

November 17

**Laura Cheney, MD, PhD
Molly Fisher, DO**

December 1

**Bryan Kutner, PhD, MPH
Uriel Felsen, MD, MS**

December 15

**Breanne Lott, PhD, MPH
Aaron Chance, MD**

Join us on Zoom

Implementation Science Interest Group (ISIG) Meeting -Save the Date!

The Implementation Science Interest Group (ISIG) will be meeting **virtually on Friday, September 29th, from 12:30 pm-1:30 pm** (note, there is no morning weekly CFAR seminar on that date). The purpose of the meeting will be to more fully identify the range of implementation science interests, needs, and competencies among CFAR members, and to provide information about the upcoming ISIG “incubator” that will meet in October and December of 2023. Look for an email with an official invite and more information about this meeting. If you have any questions, feel free to **contact** Sarit Golub, Co-Director of the Behavioral and Implementation Science Core (BISC).

CPP Looking to Expand

Do you collaborate with a community-based organization in your research? The Community Participatory Partnership (CPP) is expanding its membership and is specifically looking to invite new members who have previous experience working with CFAR investigators. Please let us know by filling out the form below.

CPP
Survey

New Publications (ERC-CFAR Members in Bold)

Collaborative PrEP Implementation Strategies for Latino Men Who Have Sex with Men: A Health Center-Community Consensus Process

Community engagement is increasingly emphasized as part of the strategy to prevent new HIV infections, but this does not typically include participating in decisions about how to design health services. The research described in this paper builds on work the researchers have been doing with four community-based organizations (CBO) working to end HIV in NYC: The Latino Commission on AIDS, Voces Latinas, Destination Tomorrow, and our own Montefiore Prevention Program. For this project, the researchers met regularly with a group of frontline staff in these organizations to develop a package of PrEP delivery strategies that they could then implement together. *“The group came up with innovative and impactful ideas and it has been really exciting to work with our CBO partners to pilot test and now scale them up”*, said Dr. Ross, one of the PIs on the grant and the author of the paper. This study also highlights an innovative approach for collaboration between health centers and CBOs to produce actionable steps that may produce significant impact. The BISC supported the study by training investigators on rapid qualitative analytic methods as well as helping to conduct focus groups and then to analyze and interpret the data. This research was funded by an NIH CFAR EHE supplement grant.

Ross J, Betancourt GS, Andrade EA, Klein A, Marrero L, Morales GA, Rivera S, Watnick DL, Patel VV. Collaborative PrEP Implementation Strategies for Latino Men Who have Sex with Men: A Health Center-Community Consensus Process. *J Community Health*. 2023 Aug 7. doi: 10.1007/s10900-023-01266-w. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37548892.

Association of HIV and viral suppression status with hospital acute kidney injury in the era of antiretroviral therapy

Fisher MC, Fazzari MJ, Felsen UR, Hanna DB, Tappan N, Wyatt CM, Abramowitz MK, Ross MJ. Association of HIV and viral suppression status with hospital acute kidney injury in the era of antiretroviral therapy. *Kidney Int*. 2023 Aug 18;S0085-2538(23)00560-4. doi: 10.1016/j.kint.2023.07.022. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37598853.

Individual and Health System Factors for Uptake of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Among Young Black and Latino Gay Men

Andrade EA, Stoukides G, Santoro AF, Karasz A, **Arnsten J**, **Patel VV**. Individual and Health System Factors for Uptake of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Among Young Black and Latino Gay Men. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2023 Jul 10. doi: 10.1007/s11606-023-08274-5. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37429976.

Impact of misclassified defective proviruses on HIV reservoir measurements

Reeves DB, **Gaebler C**, **Oliveira TY**, Peluso MJ, Schiffer JT, Cohn LB, Deeks SG, **Nussenzweig MC**. Impact of misclassified defective proviruses on HIV reservoir measurements. *Nat Commun*. 2023 Jul 13;14(1):4186. doi: 10.1038/s41467-023-39837-z. PMID: 37443365; PMCID: PMC10345136.

Midlife body mass index, central adiposity and neuropsychological performance over 10 years in women living with and without HIV

Vásquez E, **Kuniholm MH**, Appleton AA, Rubin LH, Adimora AA, Fischl MA, Fox E, Mack WJ, Holman S, Moran CA, Minkoff H, Plankey MW, **Sharma A**, Tien PC, Weber KM, Gustafson DR. Midlife body mass index, central adiposity and neuropsychological performance over 10 years in women living with and without HIV. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne)*. 2023 Jul 7;14:1108313. doi: 10.3389/fendo.2023.1108313. PMID: 37484940; PMCID: PMC10361616.

A Novel HPV/Host DNA Methylation-Score and Detection of Cervical Adenocarcinoma

Gradissimo A, Clarke MA, **Xue X**, Castle PE, Raine-Bennett TR, Schiffman M, Wentzensen N, **Strickler HD**, **Burk RD**. A Novel HPV/Host DNA Methylation-Score and Detection of Cervical Adenocarcinoma. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2023 Jul 19:djad134. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djad134. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37467068.

Formation of nuclear CPSF6/CPSF5 biomolecular condensates upon HIV-1 entry into the nucleus is important for productive infection

Luchsinger C, Lee K, Mardones GA, KewalRamani VN, **Diaz-Griffero F**. Formation of nuclear CPSF6/CPSF5 biomolecular condensates upon HIV-1 entry into the nucleus is important for productive infection. *Sci Rep*. 2023 Jul 6;13(1):10974. doi: 10.1038/s41598-023-37364-x. PMID: 37414787; PMCID: PMC10325960.

Upcoming HIV-Relevant Seminars, Symposia, and Activities

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



September 15, 2023

The 78th Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA)

September 20, 2023

Charleston, WV (Hybrid)

14th International Workshop on HIV and Aging 2023 - (Registration and Call for Abstracts)

October 26-27, 2023

Washington, DC

2023 Inter-CFAR HIV and Women Symposium

(Abstracts due September 18, submit here)

December 6-7, 2023

San Francisco, CA

CROI: Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections 2024

(Abstract Submission here)

March 3-6, 2024

Denver, CO

Save the Date – AIDSWatch 2024

March 17-19, 2024

Washington, D.C.

2024 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care & Treatment

August 20-23, 2024

HIV Related Funding, Training, and Mentoring Opportunities

Call for Abstracts: 2023 Inter-CFAR Women and HIV Symposium - Women and HIV across the Lifespan

The goal of the Inter-CFAR Women and HIV Symposium is to identify gaps in knowledge in HIV and women's research and develop strategies that will move the field forward. In order to accomplish this goal, we aim to generate collaborative activity between CFARs and other research networks, highlighting cutting-edge science and promoting opportunities for early career investigators. Submit your abstract [here](#). Questions can be directed to Lauren Sterling (lauren.sterling@ucsf.edu).

"Race, Health, and Inequality: The Roots of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Washington DC" Presentation hosted by the Center for Health, Risk, and Society at American University

Please join the Center on Health, Risk, and Society (CHRS) in launching our 2023-2024 weekly speaker series. Presentation by Sanyu A. Mojola, PhD, Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, the Maurice P. During Professor of Demographic Studies, and the Director of the Office of Population Research at Princeton University.

Hybrid Experimental Designs for Optimizing Behavioral Interventions

Join the R3EDI Hub and Dr. Inbal Billie Nahum-Shani, Research Professor at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan for a virtual seminar on Hybrid Experimental Designs for Optimizing Behavioral Interventions. Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023. For Zoom link and any other questions, please contact Alane Kelly at alane.kelly@yale.edu

ADVANCE Predoctoral T32 Training Program to Promote Diversity in Health Disparities Research, Preventive Interventions, and Methodology (T32, Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) and participating Institutes, Centers, and Offices are inviting applications to develop T32 programs to train predoctoral scholars from diverse backgrounds in all three of the following areas: Health disparities/health equity research, Development and implementation of multi-level preventive interventions, and Methods for the design and analysis of studies to evaluate multi-level preventive interventions. See full announcement [here](#).

NOSI – Promoting implementation research to address HIV-associated comorbidities and risk factors within well-established cohorts (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has posted a funding opportunity to support dissemination and implementation (D&I) research proposals leveraging well-established cohorts of people living with HIV (PLWH) to increase the acceptability, feasibility, implementation, scale-up, scale-out, and sustainability of evidence-based interventions (EBIs) that target comorbid conditions and diseases.

NOSI on Implementation Science to Advance the United States HIV Prevention and Treatment Goals and the Global HIV Prevention and Treatment Targets

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is issuing a NOSI focused on implementation research, for applications designed in partnership with domestic and global service providers to advance HIV prevention and treatment goals (domestically) or targets (globally).

NOSI: Mental Health Comorbidities in HIV Prevention and Treatment

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is issuing a NOSI focused on understanding and addressing the impact of mental health comorbidities, including mental health disorders, violence, and trauma, on HIV prevention and treatment outcomes.

NIAID MENAT Visiting Post-Doctoral Fellowship (MVF) Program

The MVF program, a component of the NIAID-MENAT Initiative, is focused on strengthening scientific collaboration between U.S. and MENAT scientists. The MVF program will be implemented under the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Visiting Fellowship Program (VFP).

NIH Funding Opportunities

Engaging Survivors of Sexual Violence and Trafficking in HIV and Substance Use Disorder Services (R34 Clinical Trial Optional)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-DA-25-018

Addressing HIV in Highest Risk Sexual and Gender Minorities (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-DA-25-001

Addressing HIV in highest risk sexual and gender minorities (R34 Clinical Trial Required)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-OD-23-018

HIV/AIDS Scholars Using Nonhuman Primate (NHP) Models Program (K01 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Funding Opportunity Number: PAR-22-248 (Reissue)

Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Admin Supp - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Funding Opportunity Number: PA-23-189

NIAID New Innovators Awards (DP2 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Funding Opportunity Number: PAR-23-198 (Reissue)

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): HIV Cure-Related Research in Diverse Populations

Funding Opportunity Number: NOT-AI-23-046

The **NIH Build UP Trust Challenge** was recently launched. The goal of this challenge is to identify new and promising scalable strategies that increase research participation and the adoption of existing and new tools and approaches to detect, treat, and monitor diseases, conditions, and disorders by improving engagement with minority health populations and populations with health disparities.

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

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