

EINSTEIN-ROCKEFELLER-CUNY CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH NEWSLETTER



Message from the ERC-CFAR Director, Harris Goldstein, MD



Welcome to the first ERC CFAR newsletter of 2023! As Winter enters the rear-view mirror and we look forward to Spring, I am delighted to share new developments and plans in the ERC-CFAR. We are currently working on developing a new initiative supported by the NIH CFAR Program that is designed to 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/or post-doctoral levels and to develop pathways for these "CFAR Scholars" to successful careers in science and medicine. We are working together with several ERC-CFAR members to develop this initiative in collaboration with the Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at Einstein, [Dr. Lynne Holden, MD](#). **If you are interested in joining this initiative by volunteering to mentor one of these trainees, in either a clinical or laboratory setting, please contact [me](#) or [Sonya Rusanov](#).** This has the potential to be a life-changing experience for a trainee that you mentor that will put them on a course for a future in HIV research.

A major benefit of being part of the national CFAR program is having access to funding for new research programs (\$150,000 direct costs) through both EHE (Ending the HIV Epidemic) and administrative CFAR supplements. In response to a request for letters of intent for EHE supplements, our Developmental Core Advisory Committee selected two compelling and competitive proposals for submission to the NIH, [Matthew Akiyama, MD's](#) proposal titled "A Decentralized, Status neutral, Stakeholder-engaged, post-incarceration hub for people living with and at risk for HIV: The DEST2nation Study", and [Laurie Bauman, PhD's](#) proposal titled "Leveraging Pharmacies to Advance HIV Testing, Prevention, and Care". I wish them great success during the review process at the NIH.

Next month we are hosting a meeting of our External Advisory Committee, with the ERC-CFAR Leadership including the Directors of Developmental, Biomarker and Advanced Technology, Behavioral and Implementation Science Core, and the Mental Health SWG. This meeting provides us with an opportunity to showcase the work that we have been doing at our center and receive valuable feedback from a distinguished group of experts in the field to incorporate into our Strategic Planning process.

Finally, in collaboration with the REACH for the Cure Delaney Collaboratory led by [Brad Jones, PhD](#) (Weill-Cornell Medicine) and our Associate Director, [Marina Caskey, MD](#) (Rockefeller) will be jointly sponsoring a **NYC-wide joint symposium on 9/7/23 starting at Noon** as an in-person meeting at Rockefeller University with a Zoom option focused on Pathways to an HIV Cure. This meeting will feature nine leading investigators from UCSF, University of Pennsylvania, Yale School of Medicine, Emory University, and University of Pittsburgh (please see poster below). This symposium will also have panel discussions and opportunities for ESIs for flash presentations and networking. Please save the date and join us.

New NIH Grant Awards to ERC-CFAR Members

Congratulations to Einstein MSTP student Vanessa Ruiz for receiving an [F31 grant](#) to support her research relevant to HIV-associated neurocognitive impairments (HIV-NCI) which affect 15-40% of people with HIV (PWH) despite successful suppressive antiretroviral therapy (ART), and greatly compromise their quality of life. This F31 grant from NIMH entitled, "Characterizing subsets of HIV-infected and uninfected CD14+CD16+ monocytes that contribute to neuropathogenesis", funds her research to characterize newly identified groups of HIV-infected and uninfected peripheral blood CD14+CD16+ monocytes that contribute to HIV neuropathogenesis. The goal is to characterize the migratory and inflammatory properties of specific subsets of CD14+CD16+ monocytes to enable the development of novel interventional

News from the ERC-CFAR Cores

The Developmental Core is hosting an event on April 3rd called "**The Highway to Becoming a PI and Beyond**", which aims to assist early-stage investigators in navigating academia. The series will provide a forum for discussion of the challenges involved in becoming a PI, and attendees will have the opportunity to learn from ESIs who have successfully transitioned into R01-funded PIs about their experiences and strategies for success. The inaugural presenter is Dr. Matt Akiyama, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Clinician-Investigator in the Divisions of General Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. Please join us for this interactive event which will describe lessons learned by Dr. Akiyama's path to success and how they can potentially be applied to advance the academic careers of current Basic, Translational, Implementation, Behavioral, and Clinical Science ESIs.

INTRODUCING

The Highway to Becoming a PI and Beyond Series

Inaugural presentation of interactive sessions for Early-Stage Investigators engaged in HIV/AIDS research

April 3, 2023 | 4-5 PM

Presenter:

Matt Akiyama, M.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine

Organized by the Developmental Core of ERC CFAR

If you are an HIV ESI or an ESI interested in pursuing HIV/AIDS research and you are not in our email list and wish to benefit from our services, please contact: Sonya Rusanov at sonya.rusanov@einsteinmed.edu

Scan the QR code to join on Zoom for this virtual event:

CFAR
Einstein-Rockefeller-CUNY
Center for AIDS Research

EINSTEIN
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

On March 17, the HIV and Mental Health Scientific Working Group (SWG) held a working group meeting with a presentation by Dr. Adam Carrico, PhD titled "Blue Monday: Biobehavioral Processes and Psychiatric Comorbidities in People with HIV." Dr. Carrico is a Professor of Public Health Sciences and Psychology at the University of Miami and the director of their CFAR's Developmental Core. The SWG was a huge success with over 30 attendees and a lively discussion between Dr. Carrico and members of the SWG.

New Publications by ERC-CFAR Members

Several members of our CFAR, including Kathy Anastos, MD, Denis Nash, PhD, MPH, and Marcel Yotebieng, MD, PhD, MPH, collaborated on a large study of HIV-related stigma in Cameroon. The results of the study were recently published in *AIDS Patient Care and STDs* in a paper titled "HIV-Related Stigma, Social Support, and Symptoms of Mental Health Disorders

Among People with HIV Initiating HIV Care in Cameroon.” Through over 400 interviews of PWH in Cameroon, the study found that ~80% anticipated HIV- related stigma and was highly associated with depression. The study also found that social support did not meaningfully modify the relationship between HIV-related stigma and symptoms of mental health disorders.

A recent paper published in the *International Journal on Drug Policy* titled “Predictors of hepatitis C cure among people who inject drugs treated with directly observed therapy supported by peer case managers in Kenya” describes a study where people who inject drugs (PWID) attended medication-assisted treatment and needle and syringe programs sites in Kenya and where then tested on their sustained virologic response (SVR) to Hepatitis C (HCV). Collaborators from Einstein and Montefiore, led by Matt Akiyama, MD, worked with researchers in Kenya, Yale, and Bristol to find that directly observed therapy with peer case managers’ support was an effective model for HCV treatment among PWID in this setting, especially as the most important driver of SVR in this study was adherence.

In a paper recently published in the journal *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, researchers from Einstein, Columbia, and the NYC Department of Health collaborated on a mixed methods study. The resulting paper, titled “Health care provider decisions to initiate oral HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in New York City (NYC) public sexual health clinics”, reported that although providers showed strong support for offering PrEP to eligible patients, only 20% of patients with a PrEP indication were initiated. Over half (55%) of providers had concerns that PrEP use might limit condom use. Women, Black, and Latinx patients were less likely to be initiated on PrEP. This study was partially funded by a CFAR administrative supplement received by Laurie Bauman, PhD and Joanne Mantell, PhD.

Other Papers Published by ERC-CFAR Members

- Evaluation of the Revised Versus Original Ryan White Part A HIV Care Coordination Program in a Cluster-Randomized, Stepped-Wedge Trial
- Combination anti-HIV antibodies provide sustained virological suppression
- Recommendations for measuring HIV reservoir size in cure-directed clinical trials
- Cumulative Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)-1 Viremia Is Associated With Increased Risk of Multimorbidity Among US Women With HIV, 1997-2019
- Masibambane-Ladies Chat: Developing an Online Gender-Enhanced PrEP Information-Motivation Workshop for Young South African Women
- Menopausal Hormone Therapy and Subclinical Cardiovascular Disease in Women With and Without Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- Perceived racial/ethnic discrimination and cigarette smoking behaviors among a sample of people with HIV

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 list acknowledge as the Einstein-Rockefeller-CUNY Center for AIDS Research (grant P30 AI124414).

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



Upcoming HIV Relevant Seminars, Symposia, and Activities

The Einstein-Rockefeller-CUNY CFAR and the Delaney REACH for the Cure Present

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



The ERC-CFAR is partnering with the Delaney REACH for the Cure to present an NYC-Wide research symposium this fall. This event is promising to be an exciting opportunity to hear from top experts in HIV research from all across the country about their latest developments.

Please register for the event to save your seat at Rockefeller University's beautiful campus.

- [Third Coast CFAR Seminar: "Precision Development and Implementation of Multi-Level HIV Prevention Interventions for Youth" with Sarah Wood, MD, MSHP](#)
 - April 3, 2023
- [ERC CFAR "The Highway to Becoming a PI and Beyond" for early stage investigators](#)
 - April 3, 2023
- [JH CAHN Center Annual Conference on Development of NeuroHIV Therapeutics](#)
 - April 6, 2023
- [2023 Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit](#)
 - April 11-12, 2023

- Las Vegas, Nevada
- [NIDA HIV Seminar with Jonathan Karn, Ph.D.: "A vicious cycle: The impact of inflammation and substance use on the control of HIV latency in microglia"](#)
 - April 13, 2023
- [NIH OAR Workshop for Early Career Investigators in HIV](#)
 - April 24, 2023
- [2023 National Latinx Conference on HIV/HCV/SUD](#)
 - May 11-13, 2023
- [2023 HPTN Annual Meeting](#)
 - June 3-7, 2023
 - Washington, DC
- [Virtual 30th Annual Principles of STI/HIV Research and Public Health Practice Course](#)
 - July 10-21, 2023
- [2023 IAS Conference](#)
 - July 23-26, 2023
 - Brisbane, Australia
- [2023 HIV Cure & Immunotherapy Forum](#)
 - July 22, 2023
 - Brisbane, Australia
- [NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute](#)
 - August 7-11, 2023
 - Bethesda, Maryland

HIV Related Publishing, Funding, Training, and Mentoring Opportunities

- **[Call for Abstract: The Impact of Emerging Infections on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health](#)**
 - The Frontiers in Reproductive Health Journal is accepting abstracts for a special issue on The Impact of Emerging Infections on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health. This collection will bring together articles that highlight the social and clinical epidemiology of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases like SARS-CoV-2, Mpox, and Ebola on adolescent sexual and reproductive health. Submissions are due March 31st.
- **[JIAS Call for Abstracts on Implementation Research](#)**
 - The Journal of International AIDS Society (JIAS) is accepting abstracts proposing research articles for a supplement titled "Implementation research and the HIV response: Taking stock and charting the way forward". The deadline is May 15.
- **[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.
- **[Summer Program for Hispanic/Latino Undergraduates Interested in HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Research](#)**
 - The Latino Scholars for HIV/AIDS Research Education (SHARE) 2023 summer program is now open. This program is an innovative 10-week summer mentored internship and learning experience for eligible undergraduate students from Hispanic/Latino communities. Based in Washington, DC at the George Washington University, this program aims to support Hispanic/Latino undergraduates interested in pursuing further studies and careers in HIV/AIDS and substance abuse-related research.

NIH Grant Funding Opportunities

(Posted in Order of the Closing Date)

[Conference for Early Stage HIV/AIDS Researchers Using Nonhuman Primate Models \(R13 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

Funding Opportunity Number: PAR-22-262

Posting Date: January 31, 2023

Closing Date: May 7, 2023

[Administrative Supplements to Support Collaborative HIV/AIDS Research Projects at NIMHD-Funded Research Centers in Minority Institutions \(RCMI\)](#)

Funding Opportunity Number: NOT-MD-23-007

Posting Date: March 13, 2023

Closing Date: June 24, 2023

[NIH Medical Scientist Partnership Program \(FM1 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-DA-24-001

Posting Date: March 10, 2023

Closing Date: August 8, 2023

[Ex Vivo Models for Studies at the Intersection of HIV and Poly-Substance Use \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-DA-24-001

Posting Date: February 28, 2023

Closing Date: August 10, 2023

[Leveraging Big Data Science to Elucidate the Mechanisms of HIV Activity and Interaction with Substance Use Disorder \(R21 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-DA-24-009

Posting Date: February 23, 2023

Closing Date: August 10, 2023

Leveraging Big Data Science to Elucidate the Mechanisms of HIV Activity and Interaction with Substance Use Disorder (R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-DA-24-008

Posting Date: February 23, 2023

Closing Date: August 10, 2023

Avenir Award Program for Research on Substance Use Disorders and HIV (DP2 Clinical Trial Optional)

Funding Opportunity Number: PAR-23-125

Posting Date: March 10, 2023

Closing Date: August 15, 2023

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

Have something to share? Were you recently published? Did you receive a grant?
Please reach out to [Sonya Rusanov](#) to be featured in the next edition of the CFAR
newsletter! We love sharing your successes!

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