There are two new members of CICATS available to you in your research investigator corner — the Regulatory Analyst and the Investigator Advocate. Each helps researchers navigate in different ways.

Jessica Carlson, MS is the newest member of the CICATS team. She has been appointed as the Regulatory Analyst for the Regulatory Core. In this role, she will work collaboratively with Principal Investigators, the Investigator Advocate, and the CICATS IRB. She will play an integral role in providing support to PI’s in navigating all aspects of regulatory compliance. Ms. Carlson is available to answer any inquiries regarding CICATS Regulatory requirements. She can be reached at (860) 679-2557 or via email to jcarlson@uchc.edu.

Rebecca Crowell, PhD is the CICATS Investigator Advocate. Dr. Crowell will help researchers navigate CICATS resources and services, and consult with investigators who are seeking assistance from
Core Interest Groups

Core Interest Groups (CIGs) are composed of new and existing investigators spanning multiple disciplines. CIGs jumpstart the use of infrastructure and pilot new resources within CICATS. CIGs are organized around particular diseases, systems, or health topics, and methodological or technological domains, with relevance to the mission of the larger CICATS initiative. CIGs can span basic science, clinical research, and community engagement. The formation of CIGs will allow researchers, practitioners, state agencies, community groups, and service organizations to work collaboratively with CICATS to advance science and practice in a particular scientific, medical or methodological area.

Community Engagement

Multidisciplinary Obesity Research: Amy Gorin, PhD. Assistant Professor of Psychology

Occupational Health Research: Martin Cherniak, PhD. Professor. Occupational Medicine.

Community Research in Geriatrics & Gerontology
Richard Fortinsky. PhD. PHS Chair in Geriatrics & Gerontology and Professor, Center on Aging.

Community-based Brief Interventions: Jean Schensul, PhD. Senior Scientist, Institute for Community Research (ICR).

Basic Science


Implant and Reconstructive Dentistry: Martin Freilich, DDS and David Shafer, DMD.

Biomedical Engineering: Cato Laurencin, MD, and Jon Goldberg, PhD.

Innovative Translational Technologies: Jay Lieberman, MD. Director of the New England Musculoskeletal Institute.
There has been a crisis in the manpower of clinical investigators noted for the last two decades. In 1999, both the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Commonwealth Fund published recommendations calling for improvements in the status of clinical investigation, especially in education and training. The National Institute of Health responded to concerns by developing the Clinical Research Training Curriculum Development Award (K30) and the number of successful, active clinical investigators has increased.

The University of Connecticut Health Center was successful in obtaining a curriculum development award (K30), effective September 13, 2010, under the direction of the Principal Investigator, Anne Kenny, MD. The resources will be used to strengthen the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research program (MSCTR). The MSCTR, accredited by the Connecticut State Board of Higher Education in 2008, is an interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates faculty and resources across campuses and was developed in response to the need for training a cadre of clinical and translational investigators. The overall goals of the MSCTR are to provide interdisciplinary research training in approaches to the conceptualization, design, and performance of clinical and translational research by educating up to six clinical scientists per year as scholars, researchers, educators, leaders, and administrators in the field of clinical and translational research. The K30 award will allow refining and expanding the core curriculum of the MSCTR under the direction of the Executive and Advisory Committee for the program.

The primary objective of the K30 award is to develop two new graduate courses in translational research to add to the core curriculum currently available. The courses to be developed are tentatively titled "Basic Science Methods for the Clinical Investigator" and "Health Outcome Methods for the Clinical Investigator." These courses will be developed by a committee of content experts chaired by Dr. Betty Eipper for the basic science course and Dr. Richard Fortinsky for the health outcomes course.

Further, the award will allow for further refinement and graduate-level accreditation of a course, Introduction to Clinical Research. This course is currently taught by Dr. Anne Kenny in the fall semester. The course is geared to early investigators that required an overview of clinical research.

A final aim of the K30 award is to develop and implement curricula to train mentors in skills necessary to advise clinical and translational investigators and to extend the training in mentorship to the students.

All aspects of the curriculum development will be evaluated and tracked. The evaluation of the program will be conducted by Dr. Thomas VanHoof.

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CICATS to develop translational research projects, form multidisciplinary research teams, or identify potential collaborators. She is currently working with other faculty and staff to develop and implement programs and policies that will benefit investigators and promote translational research within the CICATS community. Reach her at (860) 679-2897 or via email to crowell@uchc.edu.
**Basic Science Research in Cardiac Disease:** Dr. Bruce T. Liang, MD, FACC. Director, Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center

**Clinical and Translational Research in Cardiovascular Diseases:** Dr. Bruce T. Liang, MD, FACC. Director, Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center.

**Personalized Immunotherapy:** Dr. Pramod Srivastava, professor and chair of the Department of Immunology. Ion Mandoiu, associate professor of computer science from the School of Engineering, Storrs Campus.

**CIGs approved in 2010**

**Women’s Cancer Consortium:** Kevin Claffey, PhD, University of Connecticut Health Center.

**The Correctional Health Research:** Deborah Shelton, PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN, University of Connecticut, School of Nursing.

**Sickle Cell Disease:** William T. Zempsky, MD. Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

**Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases:** Louise McCullough, MD, PhD. The Translational Stroke Program is fully integrated between UCHC and Hartford Hospital.

**Injury Prevention:** Brendan Campbell, MD, MPH. Children’s Medical Center.

**Clinical and Translational Research in Geriatrics and Gerontology:** George Kuchel, MD, Citicorp Chair in Geriatrics & Gerontology.

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**CICATS IRB continued from page 1**

Applying for CICATS IRB approval in order to receive direction and guidance on expeditiously navigating the IRB processes. Additional information including application deadlines, forms and instructions can be found on the CICATS website at [http://cicats.uconn.edu/services/irb.html](http://cicats.uconn.edu/services/irb.html) or by contacting the CICATS Gateway at 860-679-6213.