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# CTSI UPDATES

## Virginia Kaufman Pain Research Challenge Awardees Announced

Congratulations to the 2022 Virginia Kaufman Pain Research Challenge awardees! Each year we challenge investigators to submit innovative research proposals addressing solutions to pain related problems. Two worthy projects recently received support: *Easing the Pain of Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)*, PI Edith Tzeng MD, and *Neuropeptide-Y Nasal Spray to Relieve Neuropathic Pain*, PI Bradley K. Taylor, PhD. To learn more about the novel solutions these projects propose and about CTSI sponsored opportunities for research funding that occur throughout the year, visit our [website](#).

## In Case You Missed It...

CTSI was proud to have our collaboration with the Manchester Bidwell Corporation, the STRickland Research Training (START) program, featured in a July issue of [Pittwire](#). The START program is a free workforce development program; through education and externship placements, the program provides students with the education and experience necessary to become entry-level clinical research assistants. The program is a true win-win, providing research education to students and increasing the potential pool of trained entry level researchers for Pitt.

## RCR Returns

After a summer hiatus, CTSI's Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) seminar series will begin again in September. The series is free and held virtually over the noon hour. Scheduled topics for September sessions include responsible conduct of research principles, rigor and reproducibility in research, study design, working with the IRB, and ethical considerations in informed consent and study design when special populations are involved. More information and registration links are available on our [website](#). All are welcome and we hope to see you there!

## September Lunch and Learn

Please join us on Thursday, September 8 at noon for a lunch hour discussion on equitable disaster management. We will hear from various members of the University community and the Pittsburgh community at large about what equitable disaster management means in theory and in practice, how it affects public health, and what it looks like close to home. This event is the result of a collaboration between the CTSI Community PARTners Core, the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, the New Pittsburgh Courier, and UPMC's Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

Click here to reserve your spot: <https://bit.ly/3btloN7>

## REGULATORY NOTES

### New National Institutes of Health (NIH) Policy to Report Harassment

A recently passed federal law resulted in a [policy](#) which requires that anyone named as principal investigator or key personnel on NIH grants who has been disciplined or removed from their position due to bullying, harassment, retaliation, or hostile working conditions be reported to the NIH.

At Pitt, the Office of Compliance, Investigations, and Ethics (OCIE) is responsible for reporting these violations. Concerns about harassment related issues can be registered with the [Pitt Concern Connection](#), which is monitored by OCIE. OCIE will determine if the reported incidents meet the criteria for NIH reporting. Pitt Concern Connection can also be used to report all concerns related to regulatory violations, Title IX issues, conflicts of interest, and other questions related to research ethics.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, August 19 | noon to 1 p.m.**

[PIVOT Finding Funding Workshop](#)

Presented by the University of Pittsburgh Office of Sponsored Programs  
*Virtual event*

**Tuesday, September 6 | 1 to 1:30 p.m.**

[Computing Resources and Infrastructure for Research at Pitt](#)

Presented by the University of Pittsburgh Library System  
*Virtual event*

**Thursday, September 15 | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

[Beyond Altruism – Exploring Payment for Research Participation](#)

Presented by the Office for Human Research Protections  
*Virtual Event*

**Thursday, September 22 | noon to 1 p.m.**

[September Smooth Sailing with the IRB](#)

Presented by the CTSI Responsible Conduct of Research Center/University of Pittsburgh Human Research Protection Office  
*Virtual Event*

### Recorded Webinar

[Democratizing Clinical Research](#)

Presented by the Center for Information and Study on Clinical Research Participation

### Recorded Webinar

[Innovative Consent Building Solutions for Multi-Center Trials](#)

Presented by the Trial Innovation Network

## DEAR CTSI,

**Question:** What is a Certificate of Confidentiality? Which research studies does this apply to?

**Answer:** A Certificate of Confidentiality (CoC) is a special privacy protection that can be issued by Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies to help researchers protect the privacy of people enrolled in biomedical, behavioral, clinical and other forms of sensitive health-related research. Certificates protect against legal demands, such as court orders and subpoenas, for identifying information of a research participant by allowing researchers to refuse to provide identifiable research information. CoC protections cover all copies of information, documents, or biospecimens gathered by the investigator during the research.

There are some limited circumstances under which CoC privacy protections do not apply: even with a CoC, disclosure of information may be necessary if required by other federal, state, or local laws. Information may also be disclosed if the participant consents, or if disclosure is necessary for the medical treatment of the participant and made with the consent of the participant.

For NIH funded projects, CoCs are automatically issued for research that collects or uses identifiable, sensitive information that was on-going on or after December 13, 2016. For these projects the CoC is issued as a term and condition of the award.

Several non-NIH, HHS agencies also issue CoCs. Investigators whose research is funded by one of these entities should contact the Certificate Coordinators; contact information can be found on the NIH [website](#). Investigators whose research is operating under an IND or IDE and is under the authority of the FDA should contact the FDA Certificate Coordinators at the relevant Center.

## QUESTIONS FOR US?

We'd love to hear from you: [ctsi@pitt.edu](mailto:ctsi@pitt.edu)

Pitt+Me specific study questions: [ASKPPM@pitt.edu](mailto:ASKPPM@pitt.edu)

**Pitt** CTSI

Clinical and Translational  
Science Institute