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RESEARCH RESOURCES | Recruitment Innovation Center (RIC) Recruitment and Retention Study Material Content and Design Toolkit

The Recruitment Innovation Center (RIC) is one component of the Trial Innovation Network (TIN), an affiliation of more than 60 Clinical and Translational Science Awardee sites around the country. The RIC offers evidence-based tools for recruitment and retention, and recently developed a design and content toolkit to help researchers create study promotion materials, like brochures and flyers.

The RIC toolkit has three components: guidelines for content creation, Canva resources for creating content, and Canva tutorials. Canva is a free-to-use online graphic design tool. Templates for both participant recruitment and retention and clinician awareness and referral materials are included.

The guidelines component provides tips on design, layout and content, while the templates section shares actual templates for brochures, posters, and flyers. The tutorials section provides Canva training to help users make the most of this tool to create attractive study materials.

Community engagement played a significant role in toolkit development. The RIC engaged over 1,300 community members from across the nation in the design process to ensure that voices from a broad sample of the population from different geographic areas informed the final product. The toolkit quotes community member tips throughout for consideration during the design process.

A recent presentation on the toolkit can be found on the TIN website; it includes a helpful Canva demonstration highlighting templates and design features.

This latest tool is only one of many recruitment and retention tools that can be found in the TIN recruitment toolkit, a resource that is free to the research community.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Health Sciences Bridge Funding

The Bridge Funding Program funds faculty members within the six schools of the health sciences to support a project that has a high probability of receiving external funding, but has yet to be funded.

Bridge funding will be provided by the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor – Health Sciences. Projects awarded bridge funding will need to be co-funded, in equal part, by the department/institute/center that has primary fiscal responsibility for the applicant’s faculty position.

Evidence for Action (E4A)

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation seeks innovative research proposals to advance racial equity. Evidence for Action prioritizes research that evaluates specific interventions that have the potential to counteract the harms of structural and systemic racism and improve health, well-being, and equity outcomes. Research should center on the needs and experiences of communities exhibiting the greatest health burdens and should be able to inform a specific course of action and/or establish beneficial practices.

Healthy Aging: Optimizing Physical and Mental Functioning Across the Aging Continuum

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is in the process of issuing a targeted funding announcement seeking to support comparative clinical effectiveness research projects that focus on optimizing physical and mental health for community-dwelling older adults and their caregivers.

PCORI seeks studies that focus on different phases of the aging continuum and aim to achieve one or more of the following four goals: maintaining function and independence, facilitating chronic disease management, supporting individuals with significant functional impairment, and reducing caregiving burden and improving quality of life.
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 STrickAnd 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/3btIoN7](https://bit.ly/3btIoN7)

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.
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.