DC CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH PILOT AWARDS 101

August 6, 2021



Welcome and agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- DC CFAR Overview
- Pilot Awards Program Overview
- Pilot Awardee Presentation Sarah Calabrese, Assistant Professor of the
 Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at George Washington University
- Open Discussion & Questions
- Closing at 1:30 PM



INTRODUCTIONS



OVERVIEW OF THE DC CFAR



NIH-Funded Centers for AIDS Research in the US



Network of 17 CFARs in the U.S. that address the NIH CFAR mission of supporting "a multi-disciplinary environment that promotes basic, clinical, epidemiologic, behavioral, and translational research in the prevention, detection, and treatment of HIV infection and AIDS."



DC CFAR Mission and Specific Aims

• **Mission:** to intensify our multi-institutional effort to promote and support research that contributes to ending the HIV epidemic in Washington, DC and beyond in partnership with government and community.

Specific Aims:

- Providing scientific leadership and institutional infrastructure to advance HIV research among the eight collaborating DC CFAR institutions.
- Stimulating and supporting innovative and consequential HIV research in the basic, clinical, prevention and social and behavioral sciences while promoting an interdisciplinary approach to addressing the NIH high priority scientific HIV focus areas.
- Driving the development and recruitment of early stage, new, and women and minority HIV investigators.
- Enhancing communication and fostering meaningful new collaborations between DC CFAR investigators and academic, government, community and clinical partners.



DC Center for AIDS Research 2010-2021

Mission: Intensify our multi-institutional effort to support research that contributes to ending the HIV epidemic in Washington, DC and beyond in partnership with government and community.

















260 current members
76 pilot awards for \$3.2M
22 supplemental awards for \$7.1M (5 pending for > \$4M)
110 new HIV investigators recruited
112 NIH HIV awards received
Cumulative FRB of \$190M supported



Scientific Advisory Committee

Chris Beyrer (Hopkins)
Hannah Cooper (Emory)
Carlos del Rio (Emory)
Kenneth Mayer (Harvard)
Greg Millett (amfAR)
Luis Montaner (Penn)
Vinayaka Prasad (Einstein)

Administrative Core

Alan Greenberg – Director Gary Simon – Co-Director Patti Simon – Administrative Director Lorena Segarra – Center Associate Marcia Ellis – Community Coordinator

Oversight Committee

Barbara Bass (GW SMHS)
Mark Batshaw (CNMC)
Marc Blackman (VAMC)
Lynn Goldman (GW SPH)
Anthony Wutoh (HU)
Princy Kumar (GU)
Peter Starr (AU)
Paul Wahlbeck (GW CCAS)
LaQuandra Nesbitt (DC DOH)
Don Blanchon (WWH)

Executive Committee

Community Partnership
Council

Developmental Core

Michael Bukrinsky (GW) – Director Sylvia Silver (GW) – Co-Director Anthony Wutoh (HU) – Co-Director Kim Blankenship (AU) – Co-Director Mark Burke (HU) – Co-Director Brandi Robinson (GW) – Sr. Research Program Manager

Basic Sciences Core

Sergei Nekhai (HU) – Director Sanjay Maggirwar (GW) – Co-Director Alberto Bosque (GW) – Co-Director Marta Catalfamo (GU) – Assoc. Director

Clinical and Populations Sciences Core

Seble Kassaye (GU) – Director Manya Magnus (GW) – Co-Director Sam Simmens (GW) – Co-Director Natella Rakhmanina (CNH) – Advisor Debra Benator (VA) – S. Advisor

Social and Behavioral Sciences Core

Lisa Bowleg (GW) – Director David Huebner (GW) – Co-Director Maria Cecilia Zea (GW) – Co-Director Deanna Kerrigan (GW) – Sr Scientist Nina Yamanis (AU) – Assoc. Director

Institutional Rep

Anjali Talwalker (Interim, DC Health) TBD (WWH)

Scientific Working Groups

HIV Cure (Bollard, Lynch)
Ending the HIV Epidemic
(Castel, Ellis)

Scientific Interest Groups

Women and HIV Drug User Health



DC CFAR Executive Committee

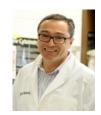
Administrative



Alan Greenberg (GW) Director



Gary Simon (GW) Co-Director



Michael Bukrinsky (GW) Director



Sylvia Silver (GW) Co-Director



Developmental

Anthony Wutoh (HU) Co-Director



Kim Blankenship (AU) Co-Director



Mark Burke (HU) Co-Director

Interim Institutional Rep



Anjali Talwalker (DC Health)

Basic Sciences



Sergei Nekhai (HU) Director



Sanjay Maggirwar (GW) Co-Director



Alberto Bosque



Marta Catalfamo (GW) Co-Director (GU) Assoc. Director



Seble Kassaye (GU) Director



Manya Magnus (GW) Co-Director (GW) Co-Director



Sam Simmens



Natella Rakhmanina (CN) Scientific Advisor



Debra Benator (VA) Scientific Advisor

Social and Behavioral Sciences



Lisa Bowleg (GW) Director



Maria Cecilia Zea (GW) Co-Director



David Huebner



Nina Yamanis (GW) Co-Director (AU) Assoc. Director



Deanna Kerrigan (GW) Sr. Scientist

HIV Cure SWG



Cath Bollard (CN) Lead



Rebecca Lynch (GW) Co-Lead

EHE SWG



Amanda Castel (GW) Lead



Major DC CFAR Activities

- Stimulate and support research in NIH HIV Research Priority Areas
- Pilot Awards and Mentoring Programs for early stage and new investigators
- Core services lab, clinical, epidemiology, biostatistics, and behavioral
- Encourage and support recruitment of HIV investigators to DC
- Support of multi-institutional NIH grant applications
- Tracking of services, grants and publications
- Promote community-engaged research
- Citywide and Core/SWG seminars and symposia
- Website, Social Media and Weekly Update



Administrative Core – Core A







Gary Simon (GW) Co-Director



Patti Simon Administrative Director



Lorena Segarra Center Associate



Marcia Ellis Community Coordinator



Cara Thompson Program Assistant

Leadership and governance

- Greenberg (PI)
- Strategic planning and decision-making
- Convenes EC, OC, SAC and CPC meetings
- Leads/supports recruitment efforts

Multi-disciplinary science

Organize citywide events, SWGs, SIGs and Inter-CFAR activities

Administrative oversight and fiscal management

- Grants awarded to/managed within Core A
- Creates overall annual budgets (in consultation with the Cores)
- Issues sub-awards

Collaboration and communication

- Promote scientific programming
- NIH program officers and NIH grants management
- CFAR institutions' business offices
- Website, Weekly Update, Social Media and Special Announcements



Developmental Core – Core B



Michael Bukrinsky (GW) Director



Svlvia Silver (GW) Co-Director



Anthony Wutoh (HU) Co-Director



Kim Blankenship (AU) Co-Director



Mark Burke



Brandi Robinson (HU) Co-Director (GW) Senior Research Program Manager



Vivian Kirkham (GW) Developmental Core Manager

Core Objectives & Aims

- To promote and support innovative, collaborative and multidisciplinary HIV research that is pertinent to the epidemic in Washington, DC
- To lead a dynamic mentoring program for early stage and transitioning HIV investigators with an emphasis on women and underrepresented minorities
- To provide educational and networking activities that promote multidisciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration in HIV research

Pilot Awards Program

- Early Stage and New Investigators awards up to \$50K
- Competitive awards program
- Two cycles each year, spring and fall

Microgrants

- Competitive, small grants, \$2,500 \$5,000
- Core services (all CFAR investigators)
- Publication fees, poster printing, travel to scientific conferences (pilot award and NIH supplement recipients)

Mentoring Program

- Developing research ideas
- Implementing a research project
- Grant application and manuscript preparation

Education and Training

- Grant writing workshops
- Research Seminars
- Journal Club Webinars
- Mixers



Basic Sciences Core – Core C



Sergei Nekhai (HU) Director



Sanjay Maggirwar (GW) Co-Director



Alberto Bosque (GW) Co- Director



Marta Catalfamo (GU) Assoc. Director



Cara Thompson (GW) Core Manager

High impact laboratory services

- Virologic and molecular services
- Immunological services
- Sequencing services
- Imaging services

Training to investigators in techniques and assays

- Core Providers Day
- Lab Open Houses
- Resources for training opportunities

Consultations

- Manuscript preparation
- Grant application support



Clinical and Population Sciences Core – Core D



Seble Kassaye (GU) Director



Manya Magnus (GW) Co-Director



Sam Simmens (GW) Co-Director



Lari Warren-Jeanpiere (GU)

Core Manager

Comprehensive clinical, epidemiological, and biostatistical research services

- Consultations
- Manuscript preparation
- Study design
- Biostatistical analysis

Access to longitudinal HIV Cohorts for research and collaborations

- DC Cohort
- MACS-WIHS Combined Cohort Study (MWCCS)
- Seronegative Cohort (new)



Social and Behavioral Sciences Core – Core E



Lisa Bowleg (GW)
Director



Maria Cecilia Zea (GW) Co-Director



David Huebner (GW) Co- Director



Nina Yamanis (AU) Assoc. Director



Allison O'Rourke (GW) Core Manager

Services supporting development of new grant applications

- Peer review sessions
- Consultations
- Statistical analysis
- Manuscript preparation

Networking and building collaborations

Mixers, mini-conferences, virtual coffee hours

Education, training, and resources

Social and Behavioral Instruments (SABI) database

Community-engaged research

Best practices for researcher-community collaboration and disseminating results

Community Partnership Council (CPC)



Marcia Ellis Community Coordinator

- Community Partnership Council (formerly the Community Advisory Board)
 - Prominent members and leaders of the DC HIV community
 - Leaders of various DC HIV community-based organizations (CBOs)
 - Representatives of the HIV research CABs of DC CFAR institutions
- The CPC's active participation is one of the hallmarks of the DC CFAR
 - Participate in DC CFAR CPC meetings
 - Review and provide input on articles and publications
 - Review pilot award applications
 - Participate in pilot award consultation calls
 - Review and provide input on research applications
 - Participate in and present at meetings and conferences
 - Assist in the implementation of research studies
 - Engage with community on CPC and related activities
 - Provide the unique perspective of the various communities represented on the

OVERVIEW OF PILOT AWARDS PROGRAM



Pilot Awards Program

- Aims to provide pilot funds on a competitive basis to HIV/AIDS investigators to assist them in the development of their NIH-funded research careers
 - Scope includes basic, clinical, epidemiologic, social behavioral, and prevention HIV/AIDS science
 - Two RFA cycles per year Spring & Fall; typically award 7-8 per year
 - Awards up to \$50,000
 - Faculty investigators at 8 participating DC CFAR institutions are eligible to apply as PI
 - The funds are provided to support early stage or new/transitioning investigators, with an emphasis on women and underrepresented minorities
 - Applications reviewed by 3 peer reviewers and 1 CPC member
- RFA to be released in mid-August
 - Pre-submission is required to submit a full application
 - Strongly encourage applications that focus on the DC CFAR priorities of Women & HIV; HIV Cure Research;
 Ending the HIV Epidemic; Drug User Health
 - Applications also strongly encouraged with other large NIH-funded HIV studies in DC including the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study/Women's Interagency HIV Study Combined Cohort Study (MACS/WIHS CCS), and the DC Cohort
 - 1 ½ day grant writing workshop scheduled for September 23 & 24



Recent Pilot Award Recipients

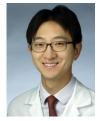


Yan Wang, George Washington University; Spring 2021
Substance use, mental health problems and HIV outcomes among female sex workers



Ruth Kanthula, Georgetown University; Fall 2020

Prevalence of subclinical atherosclerosis among female adolescent and young adults with perinatally acquired HIV infection



Chul Kim, Georgetown University; Fall 2020 Evaluation of immune microenvironment in patients with non-small-cell lung cancer and HIV infection



Ana Maria del-Rio Gonzalez, George Washington University; Fall 2019

Feasibility of "On Demand" PrEP among Latina Immigrant Transgender Women in the DMV Area



Recent Award Recipients New to HIV



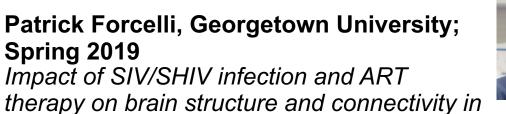
Alexander Zestos, American University; Spring 2021

Assessments of potential impacts of cognitive deficits on drug use and their implications for HIV intravenous drug users



Mark Laubach, American University; Spring 2021

Effects of HIV1 Tat and Antiretroviral Therapy on the Rodent Frontal Cortex



Marjorie Gondre-Lewis, Howard University; Fall 2018

Spring 2019

infants

Linking Genetic Risk for Addiction and HIV **Pathology**





Thomas Heinbockel, Howard University; Fall 2020

HIV Tat Protein in CB1 Receptor-Mediated Signaling in Central Olfactory Circuits



DC CFAR Pilot Award Experience – Sarah Calabrese, PhD

- 2017 Pilot Award: Optimizing PrEP Social Marketing to Black MSM in DC to Raise Awareness and Uptake
 - PI: S. K. Calabrese
 - Co-Is: M. C. Zea, M. Magnus, V. Patel, J. F. Dovidio, M. Kharfen
- Application Process
 - Supportive
 - Developmental core consultation
 - Stats consultation
 - Comprehensive
 - Practice writing NIH R-series grant app
- Implementation Process
 - Presentation to/feedback from Executive Committee
 - Responsive and resourceful when (numerous) roadblocks encountered



DC CFAR Pilot Award Experience

Outcomes

Academic Presentations

- Boone, C.A.†, Modrakovic, D.†, Rao, S.†, Galvao, R., Kalwicz, D.†, Wilbourn, B.†, Patel, V., Zea, M.C., Dovidio, J., Kharfen, M., Magnus, M., Poppen, P.J., Yeung, E.W., Bowleg, L., Calabrese, S.K., Factors associated with Black MSM's participation in biomedical HIV research, Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit, 2020 Dec, [virtual conference].
- Calabrese, S.K., Dovidio, J.F., Patel, V.V., Modrakovic, D.†, Boone, C.A.†, Galvao, R.W., Rao, S.†, Kalwicz, D.†, Wilbourn, B.†, Kharfen, M., Magnus, M., & Zea, M.C., The stigmatizing effect of "targeting" US Black men who have sex with men in the social marketing of PrEP: A mixed methods study, XXIII International AIDS Conference, 2020 Jul, [virtual conference].

Non-Academic Presentations

- Calabrese, S.K., Online Survey Data Collection: Lessons Learned and Recommendations, Adelante Scholars Webinar, Washington, DC [virtual], 2020 Jul
 - Also presented at DC CFAR Social and Behavioral Sciences Coffee Hour
- Calabrese, S.K., Targeted Social Marketing of PrEP May Inadvertently Perpetuate Stigma, AIDS Foundation. Chicago, Chicago, IL, Chicago, IL [virtual], 2020 Oct

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Calabrese, S.K., Dovidio, J.F., Patel, V.V., Modrakovic, D.†, Boone, C.A.†, Galvao, R.W., Rao, S.†, Kalwicz, D.†, Wilbourn, B.†, Kharfen, M., Magnus, M., & Zea, M.C., The stigmatizing effect of "targeting" US Black men who have sex with men in the social marketing of PrEP: A mixed methods study.
- Modrakovic, D.†... Calabrese, S.K. Dissecting the onion: Identifying and remediating issues surrounding data validity in online survey research
- Pilot Data and Methodological Wisdom for NIH R01 App

Other DC CFAR Experience

- Involvement
 - Sexual and Gender Minority Scientific Working Group
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences Core
 - Pilot grant peer review
- Consultations
 - Grant
 - Statistics
- Didactic Opportunities
 - Seminars, conferences, etc.
- Funding Opportunities
 - Administrative supplement award
- Networking
 - Local research resources (e.g., DC Cohort)
 - New collaborations

AIDS and Behavior https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-021-03375-w

ORIGINAL PAPER



Optimizing Provider Preexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Training: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Recommendations from Providers Across the PrEP Implementation Cascade

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Abstract

Expanding PrEP access necessitates training that supports healthcare providers' progression along the PrEP implementation cascade, moving from PrEP awareness to prescription. We surveyed 359 USA providers about PrEP training content and format recommendations. We examined the association between cascade location and training recommendations. Most providers were aware of PrEP (100%), willing to prescribe PrEP (97.2%), had discussed PrEP with patients (92.2%), and had prescribed PrEP (79.9%). Latent class regression analysis revealed that cascade location was associated with training recommendations. Although all providers recommended PrEP-specific content (e.g., patient eligibility), providers who were located further along the cascade also recommended more comprehensive content, including sexual history-taking and sexual and gender minority competence training. Providers further along the cascade were also more likely to recommend interactive training formats (e.g., role-playing). These insights from providers furthest along the cascade indicate the importance of including comprehensive content and interactive formats in future PrEP training initiatives.

Keywords Pre-exposure prophylaxis · HIV prevention · Healthcare providers · Training programs

Sharanya Rao and Ashley E. Reed are co-first authors.

Damon Ogburn worked on the project when employed by The George Washington University.

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- Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, USA

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QUESTIONS?



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