

# **Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science**

**Joseph G. Verbalis, MD**

**Professor, Georgetown University and GHUCCTS PI/Director**

**Thomas A. Mellman, MD**

**Professor, Howard University and GHUCCTS PI/Director**

**Jason Umans, MD, PhD**

**Associate Professor, Georgetown University and  
GHUCCTS KL2 Director**

**Kathryn Sandberg, PhD**

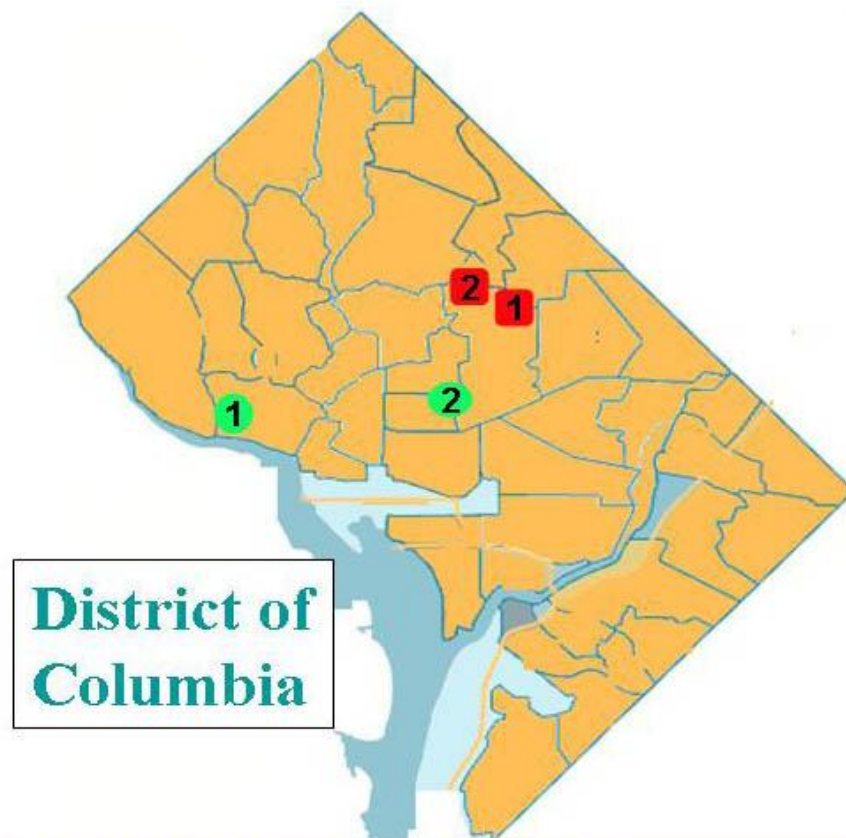
**Professor, Georgetown University and GHUCCTS TL1 Director**

• GU • HU • MHRI • ORNL • WDCVAMC •



**Georgetown-Howard Universities  
Center for Clinical and Translational Science**

# **GHUCCTS encompasses 2 Universities and University hospitals and 3 affiliated teaching hospitals in Washington DC**



- 1** Georgetown University and Hospital
- 2** Howard University and Hospital
- 1** Washington Veterans Administration Medical Center
- 2** Washington Hospital Center and National Rehabilitation Hospital

**Georgetown-Howard Universities  
Center for Clinical and Translational  
Science (GHUCCTS)**

Deans
Edward Heaton, MD (GU) Edward Cornwall, MD, (HU)

<b>GHUCCTS External Advisory Board</b>
--

<b>GHUCCTS Community Advisory Board</b>
---

Principal Investigators
Joseph Verbalis, MD, PI (GU) Thomas Mellman, MD, PI (HU)
GHUCCTS Executive Committee
Neil Weissman, MD (MHRI) Kristina Thiagarajan, PhD, MN, RN (ORNL) Marc Blackman, MD (DC VAMC)

GHUCCTS Steering Committee
GHUCCTS CTSA PIs and Executive Committee (ex officio) Module Directors and Associate Directors (20) GU and HU Professional School Representatives (2) Investigator Representatives (2) Community Representatives (2) Trainee Representatives (2)

Administrative Core (AC)
Organization & Governance
Investigator Portal
Evaluation & Continuous Improvement

Translational Science Base (TSB)
Informatics
Collaboration & Multidisciplinary Team Science
Community Engagement
Quality & Efficiency

Research Expertise & Methods (REM)
Translational Workforce Development
Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design
Regulatory, Ethics Knowledge & Support

Research Implementation & Participation (RIP)
Pilot Translational & Clinical Studies
Integrating Special Populations
Participant & Clinical Interactions

Network Resources & Optional Modules (NRO)
Multisite Study Support
Recruitment of Research Participants
Novel Translational Methodology

Mentored Career Development (MCD)
KL2 Program

NRSA Training Core
Predoctoral & Postdoctoral Training

# **GHUCCTS Specific Aims: CTSA 1.0**

- 1. To speed improvements in human health by stimulating *innovative, multidisciplinary, and cross-institutional research* among the GHUCCTS investigators.**
- 2. To support the careers of clinical and translational investigators through a *wide variety of didactic educational programs coupled with focused mentorship*.**
- 3. To enhance clinical and translational research on *underserved populations*, both in the Washington DC region and nationally, *prominently including minorities, the aged, and the disabled*.**

# **GHUCCTS Aim 1: Accomplishments**

***“To speed improvements in human health by stimulating innovative, multidisciplinary, and cross-institutional research among the GHUCCTS investigators.”***

- established a data governance body that developed access to >2M de-identified patient records across GHUCCTS hospitals
- successfully launched and supported adoption of a common clinical research reporting platform (REDCap) and promoted its use across all GHUCCTS institutions
- launched a CTSA-dedicated IRB to facilitate evaluation and approval of multi-institutional GHUCCTS research protocols
- supported >100 GHUCCTS investigators resulting in 441 acknowledged publications from 2010-2015
- catalyzed a new business venture based on pilot studies of *in silico* drug discovery using ORNL supercomputing prowess

# **GHUCCTS Aim 2: Accomplishments**

*“To support the careers of clinical and translational investigators through a wide variety of didactic educational programs coupled with focused mentorship.”*

- established the first joint GU-HU institutional K program: 2 new Clinical Scholars per year for a steady-state cohort of 6 Scholars
  - Pilot MedStar Research Scholars program has led to 4 K award applications
- multiple faculty members from the KL2 program have secured independent extramural funding (R21, R01, industry)
- a new Masters of Science in Clinical and Translational Research (MS-CTR) degree program was successfully launched in 2012
  - Graduates include physicians, clinical research coordinators, staff
- SOAR-Health summer program was implemented for 4 years to provide early exposure to clinical and translational research for under-represented minority trainees

# **GHUCCTS Aim 3: Accomplishments**

*“To enhance clinical and translational research on underserved populations, both in the Washington DC region and nationally, prominently including minorities, the aged, and the disabled.”*

- established a highly interactive 14-member Community Advisory Board representing diverse advocacy and service groups (e.g., community leaders, patients, community health care providers, and public health professionals)
- CRUs currently support 163 active research protocols, with a predominant African-American enrollment; 25% of approved protocols focus on minorities, 23% on the elderly, and 10% on people with disabilities
- nine of 22 (41%) GHUCCTS-supported pilot studies have an explicit focus on underserved populations
- 10 of 66 pilot award investigators are from under-represented minority groups and 20 of 66 are female



# **GHUCCTS: Affiliated Centers and Programs**

- **GU Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center (*LCCC, NCI funded*)**
- **HU Research Center in Minority Institutions (*RCMI, NIMHD funded*)**
- **GU-HU Center of Excellence in Health Disparities (*CEHD, NIMHD-funded P60*)**
- **GU Center for Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation (*CERSI, FDA funded*)**
- **GU Innovation Center for Biomedical Informatics (*ICBI, multiple source grant support*)**
- **GU Center for Brain Plasticity and Recovery (*Stroke Capitol Area Network for Research, NINDS funded*)**

# NCATS Division of Clinical Innovation Strategic Goals

- 1. Train**, develop and cultivate future leaders in translational science
- 2. Innovate** in translational science
  1. Engage patients and **communities** in every phase of the translational process
  2. Promote the **integration** of special and underserved populations in translational research across the lifespan
  3. Innovate **processes** to increase the quality and efficiency of translational research, particularly of multi-site trials
  4. Advance the use of modern **informatics** in translation
- 3. Communicate** effectively with internal and external audiences using clear, timely, and consistent messages
- 4. Measure** success of the CTSA program through a set of common metrics



Clinical Innovation



# **GHUCCTS Vision: CTSA 2.0**

**Advance the CTSA research and training missions with excellence, innovation, collaboration, and efficiency while realizing the potential of the unique capacities of our constituent institutions for developing new technologies, promoting ethical clinical and translational research, and engaging underserved and diverse populations.**



# **GHUCCTS Specific Aims: CTSA 2.0**

- **Increase efficiency and quality of inter-institutional collaborations and multicenter trials, leveraging innovative informatics methods**
- **Further evolve as a model of inter-institutional collaboration that capitalizes upon the strengths and attributes of its diverse participating institutions**
- **Increased impact on underserved populations, including minorities, people with disabilities, and elderly populations**
- **Further develop innovative educational programs via focused mentorship, promotion of team science, and distance learning**
- **Draw from and contribute to the collective efforts of the national CTSA consortium**

# **GHUCCTS CTSA 2.0: Challenges**

- promote integrated activity with lower resources but increased number of required functional modules
- maintain viability of our Clinical Research Units across four active clinical research sites
  - **Support at VA and MHRI decreased**
- train future clinical and translational science leaders in the face of decreased KL2 training slots, decreased NIH grant funding, and increased pressure for greater clinical activity
  - **KL2 decreased from 6 to 4 trainees, SOAR discontinued**

# **GHUCCTS CTSA 2.0: Opportunities**

- dominance of MedStar Health in the mid-Atlantic region (20% of covered patients)
- historical and enduring relationship of Howard University with the African American community
- partnership with ORNL – ultra-scale computing for mining large volumes of biomedical data and modeling and simulating complex biological systems
- partnership with DC VAMC- aged veterans and unique EHR data bases
- **new TL1 training program to introduce and motivate pre- and post-docs toward translational science careers**



# **GHUCCTS Specific Aims: CTSA 2.0 Accomplishments**

- Cross modular collaboration to break down silos and increase efficiency
- Trial Innovation Network Team
- First wave of the Common Metrics roll-out (across the CTSA network)
- Established a Participant Advisory Board
- Coordinator focus groups
- Research Participant Satisfaction Survey
- GHUCCTS IRB processes updated based on survey results
- Multisite master agreement
- Recruitment core (Research Participant Recruitment Unit)
- Multi Site Study Support Unit to expedite trial activation and enrollment



Home

Community

Researchers

Education

News & Events

Help Me

Search

Go

## Discovery through Diversity About GHUCCTS

The Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS) was founded to advance the health of our community and our nation by performing research that will have a positive impact on human health and well-being.

[Learn More](#)

### Upcoming Events

**Sep 22** Deadline for for KL2 Post-Doctoral Scholars Program...

### Top News & Initiatives

September 10, 2015  
Developing a Regional Clinical Research

### Meet Our Researchers

 Adeyinka O. Laiyemo, MD, MPH, FACP is an Assistant Professor at Howard University. He is a board member of the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

<http://georgetownhowardctsa.org>

**Oct 13** Introduction to the Principles and Practice of Clinical...  
More Details

[See All Events](#)

July 23, 2015  
Request for KL2 Post-Doctoral Scholars Program Applications

[See All News](#)

University which he obtained as a Cancer Prevention Fellow in the Office of Preventive Oncology of the National Cancer Institute (NCI).  
...read more

[More Stories](#)

[All Programs](#)