

# NLITeS: Northern Leadership for Innovative Team Science

**Description & Directory**  
2019 – 2020



CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL  
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Driven to Discover®**



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC  
CLINICAL AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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## Office of Academic Clinical Affairs

The Office of Academic Clinical Affairs (OACA), led by Jakub Tolar, MD, PhD, Vice President for Clinical Affairs, encourages interdisciplinary collaboration that strengthens clinical practice, promotes experimentation, advances patient care, educates the next generation of healthcare professionals and serves as a national model for innovation and discovery.

The year-long Northern Leadership for Innovative Team Science (NLITeS) program is managed by CTSI in partnership with the Vice President for Clinical Affairs and provides participants with opportunities to develop new working relationships while working on a team project that addresses a real clinical or translational problem identified by University of Minnesota leadership.

The Northern LITeS program aims to help senior or advanced mid-career faculty and academic leaders expand their leadership skills, promote team science, and increase multidisciplinary team science research activity and funding across the University of Minnesota's health sciences. The program is synergistic with OACA's interprofessional education focus of facilitating opportunities for providers to work together across disciplines to deliver the most effective patient care in a team-based, patient-centered and interprofessional setting.

OACA is home to key academic units that facilitate clinical research and clinical training at the University of Minnesota and is a liaison to the Minnesota Department of Health to advance the integration of disciplines in health systems across the state. OACA in partnership with the Office of Vice President for Research (OVPR) and the Office of the Provost are responsible for ensuring collaboration across the health sciences at the University of Minnesota.

# OACA Leadership

## The Office of Academic and Clinical Affairs

### **Jakub Tolar, MD, PhD**

Dean of Medical School, Vice  
President for Clinical Affairs



Jakub Tolar, MD, PhD, is the Vice President for Clinical Affairs, Dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School and a Distinguished McKnight Professor in the Medical School's Department of Pediatrics. He is also the Board Chair for University of Minnesota Physicians and co-leader of M Health Fairview, the Joint Clinical Enterprise between the University of Minnesota Medical School, University of Minnesota Physicians and Fairview Health Services. Dr. Tolar is active in many professional societies and is a strong advocate for cooperation and communication within the clinical and research communities. He has a clinical practice through the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, and his interests include educating and mentoring new physicians.

## The Clinical and Translational Science Institute

The University of Minnesota's Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is supported through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program. The institute is one of approximately 60 medical research institutions working together to improve the way clinical and translational research is conducted nationwide, enhancing its efficiency and quality.

The CTSA consortium aims to accelerate the process of translating laboratory discoveries into treatments for patients, to engage communities in clinical research efforts, and to train a new generation of clinical and translational researchers.

### Our mission

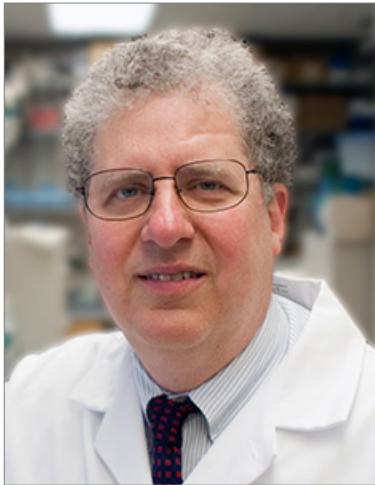
CTSI is accelerating discoveries toward better health.

### Our goals

- Train an outstanding multidisciplinary, diverse workforce across the spectrum of clinical and translational science research that is skilled in and rewarded for team science.
- Streamline methods and processes to increase CTSI's research capacity, both locally and nationally.
- Engage communities and stakeholders to improve the process of translation and the delivery of healthcare across the lifespan and to a diverse population.
- Contribute unique U of M resources to the CTSA network.

# CTSI Leadership

**Bruce Blazar, MD**  
CTSI Director



Dr. Blazar directs the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) as well as the Center for Translational Medicine, an integrated component of CTSI, created to bring innovative, early phase therapies into the clinic. He has served as a past member of three NIH study sections and past Chair of one. Dr. Blazar's research focuses on the blood and marrow transplantation immunobiology and he has authored more than 770 manuscripts.

**Daniel Weisdorf, MD**  
Deputy Director



Dr. Weisdorf is co-leader of the Transplant Biology and Therapy Program at the Masonic Cancer Center, and serves as the Senior Research Advisor for the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research. Dr. Weisdorf's research is in application of blood and marrow transplant therapies for hematologic malignancies as well as studying the clinical complications of transplantation including opportunistic infections and graft versus host disease (GVHD).

# The NLITeS Program

## The Northern Leadership for Innovative Team Science (NLITeS) Program

The University of Minnesota's Northern LITeS program is an annual, structured, year-long leadership training experience for senior or advanced mid-career faculty and academic leaders involved in clinical or translational research or with responsibilities related to academic administration or education and training programs in which clinical or translational research is involved.

The Northern LITeS program, managed in partnership with the University of Minnesota Vice President for Clinical Affairs, is the first sister site of the University of Colorado LITeS model. The Northern LITeS program is further customized to help increase multidisciplinary team science research activity and funding across the health sciences, with a particular focus on stimulating submission of multi-project large grants that include collaborations across multiple University of Minnesota schools.

# Visiting Directors

## **Judith Albino, PhD**

President Amerita, Director of University of Colorado, Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute's LITeS program;  
Visiting Director for UMN NLITeS



Judith Albino, PhD, is the Principal Investigator and Director of the Center for Native Oral Health Research, the only NIH-funded center for research in oral health disparities that is focused on the American Indian/Alaska Native population. The Center's work in Early Childhood Caries relies heavily on social and behavioral approaches, including motivational interviewing and culturally adapted strategies for provider-parent alliances.

Dr. Albino is a health psychologist; her ColoradoSPH appointment is in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health, and she also is a faculty member of the CU School of Dental Medicine. In addition, Dr. Albino participates in program planning and instructional activities for the Clinical Faculty Scholars and Leadership Development Programs of the CCTSI Education, Training and Career Development Core.



# Visiting Directors

**Susan Johnson, PhD**

Associate Director, University of Colorado, Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute's LITeS program; Visiting Director for UMN NLITeS



Susan Johnson PhD, is a Professor, Department of Pediatrics, at University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Johnson has published extensively on nutrition issues including maternal feeding behaviors, obesity, child feeding, studies regarding ethnic differences (Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic) in infant and child obesity and self-regulation, as well as a recent comparison of nutritional intake differences in ASD and typically developing children. Grant support includes feeding practices of child care professionals and effects of energy state on to visual and taste stimuli, and an Autism Speaks grant to investigate nutrient and food intake pattern in young children ASD compared to children with other neurocognitive impairments and typically developing children. Dr. Johnson serves as the Nutrition Discipline Director for the JFK LEND Grant.

## **David Ingbar, MD**

Director, NLITeS Program;  
Professor, Medicine, Pediatrics and  
Integrative Biology & Physiology;  
Director, Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical  
Care & Sleep Division;  
CTSI Associate Director, Education,  
Career Development & Training  
(CTSI-Ed);  
Executive Director, Center for Lung  
Science and Health



Dr. David Ingbar leads the Research Education, Career Development and Training Core (CTSI-Ed), providing training and education to advance researchers through the career development continuum through mentorship, educational opportunities, and by working to enhance faculty rewards and recognition.

Dr. Ingbar is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota with joint appointments in Pediatrics and Integrative Biology & Physiology, and has served as Director of the Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Division for more than ten years. Prior to becoming a CTSI Associate Director, he served as Director of the K Scholar Multidisciplinary Seminar Series and led CTSI faculty scholar progress evaluations.

**Michelle Lamere, MPA, ACC, CDWF**  
Administrative Director, NLITeS Program;  
Assistant Director for Education Programs, CTSI



Michelle is the Assistant Director for Education Programs at the University of Minnesota's CTSI.

Michelle holds a Masters of Public Affairs, from the Humphrey School Public Affairs, with an emphasis on policy and leadership, and a graduate minor in Integrative Therapies and Alternative Healing Practices with a focus on resilience. She has also studied at the Dalai Lama's Medical Research Institute in Dharamsala, India. Michelle is a certified executive coach through the International Coach Federation (ICF), and specializes in coaching health science faculty. Michelle is currently completing her certification in the techniques and methodology of professor and researcher Dr. Brené Brown. Michelle has been developing the careers of researchers and leaders for over fifteen years.

## **Jayne Fulkerson, PhD**

Professor, School of Nursing;  
Cora Meidl Siehl Endowed Chair in  
Nursing Research; Director, Center for  
Child & Family Health Promotion  
Research; Director, CTSI TL1  
Program & Translational Research  
Development Program



Dr. Jayne Fulkerson leads the TL1 Program, providing mentored research training for pre- and post -doctoral trainees through an individualized curriculum that focuses on professional development activities, effective collaboration and communication with the larger community, mentorship, and more. She also leads the Translational Research Development Program (TRDP) for early stage investigators to gain significant experience with clinical and translational research.

Dr. Fulkerson is a Professor in the University of Minnesota's School of Nursing and an Affiliate Professor in the Division of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health. She also serves as the Director, Center for Child and Family Health Promotion Research. Her research interests include family-based health promotion in community settings; Child and adolescent obesity prevention, particularly through the home food environment and family meals; Research methodology, Program evaluation, Measurement, and Instrument development.

## **Timothy Beebe, PhD**

Mayo Professor and Division Head,  
Division of Health Policy and  
Management, School of Public Health



Dr. Beebe has a long history of team-based healthcare delivery research. Prior to his current role at the University of Minnesota, he served as Deputy Director of Research for the Mayo Clinic Kern Center for the Science of Health Care Delivery (CSHCD), a center dedicated to discovering and applying new ways to improve health and the way people experience health care. His other research interests focus on patient-reported outcomes measurement, developing and testing health measures, health care policy, and health care access for vulnerable populations. He has received support from numerous extramural sources over his career, including, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the U.S. Bureau of the Census (Census), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). He currently serves as the Principal Investigator of the Minnesota Learning Health System Mentored Career Development Program, a collaboration between the University of Minnesota, Mayo Clinic, Hennepin Healthcare, and six other collaborating clinical sites. With funding from AHRQ and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), the program endeavors to train researchers to conduct patient-centered outcomes research within learning health systems.

## **Anja Bielinsky, PhD**

Associate Dean, Foundational Science; Professor, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics, School of Medicine



Anja Bielinsky PhD, is a Professor of Biochemistry and runs an NIH- and NSF-supported basic research program that focuses on genome maintenance in human cells. In addition, she serves as co-leader of the Genetic Mechanisms program in the Masonic Cancer Center as well as Associate Director of Basic Shared Resources. Her main objectives are to promote collaborations between basic and clinical researchers and translate basic science into the clinic. In the Medical School, Dr. Bielinsky serves as Associate Dean for Foundational Science. She oversees the State-funded Medical Discovery Teams and facilitate team science within the Medical School and between the Medical School and other colleges.

## **Angela Birnbaum, PhD, FAES**

Professor, Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology (ECP); Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology (ECP); Co-Director, Center for Clinical and Cognitive Neuropharmacology, College of Pharmacy



Angela Birnbaum PhD, FAES, is a Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, and Co-Director of the Center for Clinical and Cognitive Neuropharmacology. She is a translational researcher studying the pharmacokinetics of neurological medications with an emphasis on special populations including the elderly, pregnant women, and children. Dr. Birnbaum's research program involves laboratory measurement of biological specimens; evaluation of the stability of drugs in vivo and in vitro; pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies including investigations of bioavailability, pharmacogenomics and drug interactions; and the incorporation of quantitative pharmacological (pharmacometric) modeling and simulation to answer questions in both intensive and sparse sampling settings. Her translational research (T0-T4) program is supported with funding from The National Institutes of Health, foundations, and the pharmaceutical industry.



## **Anne Blaes, MD**

Associate Professor of Medicine,  
Division of Hematology, Oncology and  
Transplantation, Medical School;  
Section Head of Medical Oncology



Anne Blaes MD, is an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the University of Minnesota. She is the section head of Medical Oncology within this division. She is an active medical oncologist with a special interest in the late effects of cancer therapy, particularly in the area of cardio-oncology. As Director of the University of Minnesota's Cancer Survivorship Services and Translational Research, she collaborates on an institutional level with researchers in designing and implementing strategies to help prevent the long term complications of treatments in cancer survivors, particularly in the areas of cardiovascular health, secondary cancers and quality of life. Dr. Blaes is the Chair Elect for the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Cancer Survivorship Committee, an active member of the ALLIANCE for Cancer Clinical Trials, and works on the Cancer Health Outcomes Committee on a national level as well as the International Cardio Oncology Society. As PI or co-investigator on several university and NIH-funded grants, she has a special interest in cancer survivorship, the late effects of cancer therapy, cardio-oncology and medical education for which she conducts ongoing research.



## **Iris Borowsky, MD, PhD**

Professor, Department of Pediatrics;  
Division Director, Fellowship Program  
Director, and Faculty Member, Division  
of General Pediatrics and Adolescent  
Health, Medical School



With nearly 25 years at the University of Minnesota, Iris Borowsky MD, PhD, has had the tremendous privilege of collaborating with learners and colleagues as a mentor, teacher, clinician, researcher, and administrator. Her research focuses on reducing health-risk behaviors, particularly violence, among youth. Her academic focus in this area stems from the patients for whom she cares for as well as the public health significance of the problem. As Gisela and E. Paul Konopka chair in adolescent health and development and director of the Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health, Dr. Borowsky is passionate about the overarching goals to: 1) Answer critical questions about child and adolescent health; 2) Partner with communities to translate research into practice, policy, and programming; 3) Partner with communities in clinical practice; 4) Educate and develop future leaders; and 5) Create and sustain a culture that fosters equity, diversity, and inclusion.

She directs an interdisciplinary post-doctoral research training program dedicated to preparing health care professionals for academic and public health leadership roles in primary care research. Leading a new initiative at the Medical School, the Master Mentoring Program, has been an exciting opportunity to learn and implement best practices in meeting the mentoring needs of faculty.

## **Sonya Brady, PhD**

Associate Professor, Division of  
Epidemiology and Community Health,  
School of Public Health



Sonya Brady PhD, is a member of the Prevention of Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (PLUS) Research Consortium, a transdisciplinary scientific network established by NIDDK (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases) in 2015. The PLUS Consortium is comprised of a broad network of professionals across 8 sites, including community advocates, health care professionals, and scientists specializing in more than 20 disciplines. She has been responsible for helping the PLUS Research Consortium to develop a conceptual framework that is informing its prevention research agenda, to develop study-specific conceptual models to guide planned etiologic research and prevention work, and to apply principles of Life Course Theory and concepts of life course epidemiology to their research. Work of the PLUS Research Consortium provides a foundation for other transdisciplinary teams to develop conceptual frameworks and models to guide research, particularly from a perspective that integrates social ecological and biological influences on health and adopts a life course perspective. Dr. Brady is broadly interested in the application of theories, conceptual frameworks, and conceptual models to health research and health promotion, regardless of the health topic.

## **Claudia Cohn, MD, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of  
Laboratory Medicine and Pathology,  
Medical School;  
M-Health Associate Head of Clinical  
Laboratory



Claudia Cohn MD, PhD, earned her degree in Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with a focus on protozoal diseases. She later earned her MD from Louisiana State University and completed a residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology from Weill-Cornell, New York Presbyterian Hospital. After completing a fellowship in Transfusion Medicine from University of California, San Francisco she came to University of Minnesota to begin work as the Medical Director of the Blood Bank Laboratory. Dr. Cohn has focused her research efforts on clinical trials of new blood components and using information technology to improve patient blood management at M-Health and other Fairview hospitals. This latter work has led to a 15% reduction in red blood cell use and a 25% reduction in platelet transfusions. Due to her work in patient blood management she now leads the test utilization effort at M-Health, and became Associate Head of Clinical Laboratories. Nationally she is involved with work for the AABB (formerly American Association of Blood Banks) and chair the Clinical Transfusion Medicine Committee. She was recently invited to join the Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability, which advises the US Secretary of Health and Human Services.

## **Simone French, PhD**

Professor, Division of Epidemiology and Community Health; Former Director, Minnesota Obesity Prevention Center (OPC), School of Public Health



Dr. Simone French's professional experience, strengths and interests focus on the envisioning, funding, development, and implementation of large-scale community-based health behavior research centers, programs and consortiums. She served as the Director of the University of Minnesota Obesity Prevention Center (OPC) from 2012-2015, and was one of its founding Associate Directors from 2004-2011. In this role, Dr. French was responsible for strategic planning, operations and administration, and development. In her role as Director, she had the opportunity to support and engage faculty from a wide range of academic units in collaborative research to foster new interdisciplinary research teams who would become better poised to take advantage of the funding opportunities in the obesity prevention arena at the federal, state and university levels. Most recently, she served as Chair of the Steering Committee (2014-2018) for the NIH/NHLBI/NICHHD-funded consortium Childhood Obesity Prevention and Treatment Research (COPTR; 2010-2018) and as Co-PI for one of the four independent field centers. The consortium was a unique opportunity to collaborate with a national team of community-based pediatric obesity intervention researchers, NIH staff and researchers who served on the consortium's Data Safety and Monitoring Board. Collectively, the collaboration improved the already high-quality research design, protocols, interventions and analysis and collectively contributed to the scientific knowledge in the area far above what is possible in a single-site research study. Dr. French has a strong interest in health disparities and health equity and is committed to work that includes research, training and education, and community outreach and engagement.

## **Steven Fu, MD, MSCE**

Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Medical School and Director, Center for Care Delivery and Outcomes Research, Minneapolis VA Health Care System



Dr. Fu completed undergraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned his MD degree in 1996 at Jefferson Medical College, and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia in 1999. He subsequently pursued a General Internal Medicine Fellowship and obtained a Master's of Science Degree in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. In 2001, he moved to Minneapolis where he is currently the Director of the Center for Care Delivery and Outcomes Research (CCDOR), a VA Health Services Research Center of Innovation. Dr. Fu is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical School and a member of the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center. Dr. Fu is an internationally recognized expert in tobacco cessation and health disparities and is the past Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Health Disparities Network of the Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco. He is a leader in the treatment of tobacco dependence among diverse racial/ethnic minority groups, and among our nation's military Veterans. His research is focused on identifying and implementing best practices for improving the delivery and utilization of tobacco dependence treatments among diverse and vulnerable populations.

## **R. Stephanie Huang, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of  
Experimental and Clinical  
Pharmacology (ECP), College of  
Pharmacy



As Associate Director for the Institute of Personalized Medicine, Pharmacogenomics U of M Alliance (PUMA-IPM) and a faculty member at the Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology at University of Minnesota, Dr. Huang spent most of her time conducting translational pharmacogenomics research with particular interest in the pharmacogenomics of anti-cancer agents. By systematically evaluating human genome and its relationships to drug response and toxicity, their goal is to develop clinically useful models that predict risks for adverse drug reactions and non-response prior to administration of chemotherapy. Dr. Huang is a board certified clinical pharmacologist with extensive training in genetics, molecular and cell biology, clinical trials and high throughput data analysis. She assembles and leads a multi-disciplinary team that consists of computational biologist, geneticist, pharmacist, physician, molecular biologist and biostatistician to tackle a series of serious problems in cancer research.



**Sayeed Ikramuddin, MD, MHA**

Chair and Professor, Department of  
Surgery, Medical School



As a clinical surgeon, Sayeed Ikramuddin MD, MHA, is interested in understanding the outcomes of bariatric surgery on improvement of comorbid illness, specifically type 2 diabetes and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. Recently, he has become interested in explaining the observation that bariatric surgery might reduce the incidence and/or recurrence of certain obesity-related cancers, in particular, breast cancer. Their department has a 3-tiered approach to addressing these questions including clinical trials for the aforementioned diseases, mining large data sets including the OptumLabs data warehouse, and finally characterization of the metabolic effects at a cellular/immune level to more clearly understand the underpinnings of disease mechanism.

**Ajay Israni, MD, MS**

Professor of Medicine, Medical School; Interim President, Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute; Director, Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory, Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute



Dr. Israni is a Nephrologist at Hennepin Healthcare and also Professor of Medicine and an Adjunct Faculty of Epidemiology and Community Health at the University of Minnesota. Israni also serves as the interim President of the Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute, and is the Director, Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory at the Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute. He also serves as a University of Minnesota's CTSI's hub leader, representing Hennepin Healthcare. He has extensive experience in the care of kidney disease, particularly kidney transplant patients and has received several federally-funded research grants. He is also the Deputy Director of the federally funded Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients and an R01 funded investigator. Currently his team is funded by an R01 from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and another from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.



## **Kristen Jacklin, PhD**

Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Biobehavioral Health; Associate Director, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, Medical School – Duluth



Kristen Jacklin PhD, joined the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus in 2017 as a founding investigator and Associate Director of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team (MKMDT). MKMDT is a team science initiative focused on diabetes and dementia health equity research with American Indian and rural populations. She co-directs the activities of the MDT with the executive director. Jacklin is responsible for oversight of senior and junior research staff, collaborative grant development, and outreach to Duluth medical school faculty and international partnership development. She is the founder and convener of the International Indigenous Dementia Research Network and created and maintain an interdisciplinary collaborative web resource: Indigenous Cognition and Aging Awareness Research Exchange [www.I-CAARE.com](http://www.I-CAARE.com). Dr. Jacklin leads community-based research studies in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ontario in collaboration with community partners specific to dementia in Indigenous populations using qualitative and quantitative methodologies. She is also involved as Co-PI on Indigenous diabetes research. Her studies are designed to gain deep understanding of cultural and contextual factors that are relevant to clinical interactions with historically marginalized or socially excluded populations and seek to design and refine interventions to improve cultural safety and ultimately health outcomes.

## Ling Li, PhD

Professor and Associate Department Head, Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology (ECP); VFW Endowed Chair in Pharmacotherapy for the Elderly, Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology (ECP); Professor, Department of Pharmacology, College of Pharmacology; Professor, Graduate Program, Department of Neuroscience



Ling Li PhD, is a Professor and the VFW Endowed Chair in Pharmacotherapy for the Elderly in the Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology, College of Pharmacy. She also holds joint faculty appointments in the Neuroscience and Pharmacology Graduate Programs in the Medical School. Her research interests focus on the connections between Alzheimer's disease and cardiovascular disease, which have been supported by NIH and private foundations. Dr. Li has led multiple research programs on the pathogenesis and pharmacotherapy of Alzheimer's disease and atherosclerosis using human tissue specimens, clinical records, as well as genetically modified animal models. Ongoing NIH-funded research projects in her laboratory aims to understand the role of cholesterol, isoprenoids, and protein prenylation in regulating synaptic and cognitive function in aging and Alzheimer's disease, and the therapeutic potential of high-density lipoproteins (HDL) and associated apolipoproteins/mimetic peptides for enhancing cerebrovascular function and cognition in aging and Alzheimer's disease. Administratively, Li serves as the Associate Department Head, working in the leadership team to address research, teaching, space, budget and fiscal issues, to develop strategic plans, and to recruit and mentor new faculty members. As an educator, she serves as course director/instructor in professional and graduate courses as well as mentoring predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows.

## **Paul Mermelstein, PhD**

Professor and Associate Department  
Head, Department of Neuroscience,  
Medical School



Paul Mermelstein's PhD, neuroscience-based research examines sex differences in drug addiction using rodent models of substance abuse. Historically, his laboratory has been interested in understanding estrogen signaling within the female brain. They have focused on elucidating novel signaling pathways by which estrogen receptors are post-translationally modified to target their distribution from the nucleus to the neuronal surface, whereby they initiate intracellular signaling through the activation of metabotropic glutamate receptors. Recently Mermelstein's team has focused on this mechanism of action as impacting female motivational systems, and thus its influence on drugs of abuse. As a member of the executive committee of the Medical Discovery on Addiction, he is part of the group responsible for fostering an environment where basic, translational, and clinical work on addiction can complement one another to promote new discoveries and possibly new avenues for the treatment of drug addiction.

## **James Miner, MD**

Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine; Chief of Emergency Medicine, Hennepin Healthcare



James Miner MD, has been conducting clinical research for more than 20 years and has served as the Principal Investigator of over 50 interventional clinical trials and observational studies, and is the site principal investigator for several collaborative studies (including 3 multicenter trials) with the Departments of Radiology, Medicine, and Surgery. His research centers on the acute ED monitoring and management of critically ill and injured patients, including over 20 studies on procedural sedation. Independently and collaboratively, he has conducted studies funded internally, by industry, the DOD, NIJ and the NIH. As the PI on several research efforts, Miner has laid the groundwork for collaborative emergency care and critical care research by developing clinical research models that can access and assess a diverse sample of critically ill ED patients and accurately and precisely determine the safety and efficacy of an applied intervention. In addition, he has successfully administered the projects (e.g. staffing, research protections, budget), collaborated with other researchers, and produced several peer-reviewed publications from each project.

**Karen Monsen, PhD, RN, FAAN,  
FAMIA**

Professor, School of Nursing; Affiliate Faculty, Institute for Health Informatics (IHI); Faculty, Center for Spirituality and Healing (CSH)



Dr. Monsen directs the Omaha System Partnership practice-based research network within the Center for Nursing Informatics in the School of Nursing. Her numerous studies bridge T3-T4 gap using a large practice-based dataset from community care organizations. Co-investigators and mentored principle investigators include community members, clinical experts, students, and national and international researchers. The Omaha System Partnership was invited by Dean Connie White Delaney in 2010, and has grown to include scientific teams at numerous universities including the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, and Istanbul University. Monsen is a methodological expert who guides study development and mentors research teams. In addition, she manages the Partnership's data collaborative, ensuring that the contributed de-identified data are curated correctly for reuse in research.

## **Daniel Mueller, MD**

Professor of Medicine, Division of Rheumatic and Autoimmune Diseases; Division Director, Division of Rheumatic and Autoimmune Diseases, Medical School



Dr. Mueller's career path has been first and foremost scientific investigation. During the early years of his research career, this work was completely focused on NIH-funded investigator-initiated studies on the fundamental nature of immunological self-tolerance. Nevertheless, this work was and continues to be highly collaborative, as evidenced by his participation in a longstanding NIH P01 grant in the Center for Immunology. Over the last 10 years, Mueller's research has been increasingly focused on the role of self-tolerance mechanisms in protection against autoimmune diseases. At first this autoimmunity research took advantage of model systems that had been developed in mice. However, the work has now translated to humans, and he now directs a multi-institutional research team that investigates the role of B cells in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) using novel 'autoantigen tetramer' probes his team created. This past year, Mueller along with collaborators, published a series of 4 papers detailing novel aspects of autoreactive B cell differentiation and autoantibody biochemistry in RA. He anticipates that this human RA research will ultimately lead to the use of autoantigen tetramers as biomarkers during therapeutic trials, as well as reveal new targets for the therapeutic manipulation of pathogenic B cells.

## **Patrick Nachman, MD**

Professor of Medicine, Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension; Division Director, Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension, Medical School



Dr. Nachman's research interests are driven by a desire to improve therapy and outcomes in patients with kidney disease in general, and glomerular diseases and vasculitis in particular. He pursued this goal through the complementary approaches of promoting access to novel therapies, improving the implementation of translational and clinical research in nephrology, and promoting post-graduate education which integrates the translation of basic research into clinical practice. As Deputy Director of the University of North Carolina Kidney Center, he fostered a robust translational and clinical research program in glomerular disease and vasculitis, maintained a strong community education and awareness program and launched a community-based research program. As Chair of the American Society of Nephrology Post Graduate Education Committee Nachman emphasized the translation of basic research to clinical practice. He has co-chaired the Kidney Health Initiative workgroup on surrogate endpoints for clinical trials in IgA Nephropathy. He is also Protocol Chair for the upcoming Immune Tolerance Network multicenter clinical trial in membranous nephropathy. He has also been a site PI for three large NIH-funded national multicenter consortia for clinical and translational research in nephrology: the Nephrotic Syndrome Study Network (NEPTUNE), the Cure Glomerulonephropathy (CureGN), as well as the Vasculitis Clinical Research Consortium (VCRC).



**Angela Panoskaltsis-Mortari, PhD**

Vice Chair for Research and  
Professor, Department of Pediatrics;  
Professor, Department of Medicine;  
Director, University of Minnesota 3D  
Bioprinting Facility; Director, Cytokine  
Reference Laboratory, Medical School



Originally trained as an Immunologist with post-doctoral training in Pathology, and board-certified in Medical Lab Immunology, Dr. Panoskaltsis-Mortari has >25 years of experience in animal models of stem cell transplant, pre-clinical evaluation of treatment strategies for lung injury, is one of the pioneers and thought leaders in the field of lung bioengineering, and has patented and commercialized technology. Pre-translational efforts of her research are being realized by establishing the UMN 3D Bioprinting Facility and projects in her lab now include the use of bioprinting and customized hydrogels for tracheal and esophageal reconstruction, as well as development of 3D vascularized cancer models for drug screening and evaluation of cell therapies. The laboratory environment is diverse and inclusive for race and gender identity, with interdisciplinary efforts combining biomedical, mechanical and computer engineers with materials scientists, physiologists, stem cell biologists, and surgeons. She has mentored many high school students, undergrads, med students, graduate students, residents, fellows, post-docs and early-career faculty members, several of whom have been URM. Panoskaltsis-Mortari is a graduate faculty member of the IBP, BME, and Stem Cell Biology programs, a training faculty member on the Pulmonary Science, Stem Cell Biology, Hematology, and MSTP T32 training grants. As Director of the Cytokine Reference Lab (CLIA-licensed), she has been involved with patient testing and clinical trials work since 1995. In 2018, I became the co-Director of the UMN CTSI TL1 program for support of the translational research training of pre- and post-docs.



## **Charles Ryan, MD**

Professor of Medicine and Director,  
Division of Hematology, Oncology and  
Transplantation, Medical School  
Associate Director for Clinical  
Research of the Masonic Cancer  
Center



Charles Ryan MD, is the Director of the Division of Hematology Oncology and Transplantation and Associate Director for Clinical Research of the Masonic Cancer Center. In that capacity he directly oversees the academic and clinical activities of approximately 50 faculty across an array of disciplines from bone marrow transplantation to benign hematology to solid tumors such as breast, lung, colon and prostate cancers. The vision for growth is to meld the highest quality clinical care with forward-looking bench and clinical research and translate the findings of their laboratory researchers into treatments for patients in their clinics. The business model for Academic medical centers faces significant challenges in seeking to accomplish the tripartite mission of research, clinical care and training. As a Division Director, Dr. Ryan finds himself straddling these three factors on a daily basis and has come to understand the significant need to align missions, incentives and metrics of success in order to preserve the unique value of deeply focused, thoughtful and scientifically rigorous clinical research. Ryan's career goal at the University of Minnesota is to enable the success of faculty who engage in patient oriented and translational research in an academic medical center and its affiliates. His work involves the development of new therapies for multiple cancers and hematologic disorders. He and his team seek to develop and maintain an intellectually rigorous approach to clinical practice that elevates the center to the premier source of thoughtful and research oriented care and clinical training.

**Aasma Shaukat, MD, MPH, FACP,  
FASGE, AGAF, FACG**

Professor of Medicine, Medical  
School;  
GI Section Chief, Minneapolis VA  
Medical Center



Dr. Shaukat's area of clinical research focuses on colon cancer screening and long term outcomes. She has published her results on the long-term follow-up of the participants of the Minnesota fecal occult blood trials in NEJM and is now evaluating the age and gender specific benefits of colon cancer screening. Shaukat also studies molecular markers of rapid colon cancer growth, as well as quality indicators for colonoscopy such as adenoma detection rates and withdrawal times. She is studying the role of fecal microbiota transplant in recurrent C.difficile infection. Her other areas of research include chemoprevention for colon cancer, biomarkers of risk of colon cancer and evidence synthesis through systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

## **Brian Sick, MD**

Associate Professor of Medicine,  
Division of General Internal Medicine;  
Division Director, Division of General  
Internal Medicine, Medical School



Brian Sick MD, currently holds a number of leadership roles within the organization. First, he is the new Division Director for the General Internal Medicine division in the Department of Medicine. The division is large with nearly 70 faculty serving patients across the continuum of care from outpatient to inpatient. His division has faculty involved in a wide array of educational, research and leadership roles. Second, he is the Interprofessional Academic Deputy for the University's Office of Health Services Education. Sick has oversight of the interprofessional education curriculum for 17 professional programs involving over 2000 students per year. Finally, he is the Medical Director of the nationally-known Phillips Neighborhood Clinic which is a student-run free clinic in south Minneapolis serving about 1000 patients per year and involving nearly 400 students and 100 preceptors per year.

**Renee Sieving, PhD, RN, FAAN,  
FSAHM**

Professor and Director, Center for Adolescent Nursing; Director, Healthy Youth Development - Prevention Research Center (HYD-PRC), School of Nursing



Dr. Sieving has a long history of participating in and leading interprofessional and interdisciplinary research teams in clinical and translational science. She currently directs the University of Minnesota Healthy Youth Development - Prevention Research Center (UMN PRC), a CDC-funded center that aims to develop and disseminate actionable knowledge and practices that promote health, healthy development, and health equity among all youth, through collaborations with public health agencies, health care systems, K-12 schools & related organizations. UMN PRC collaborates with a national network of 26 CDC-funded Prevention Research Centers. Sieving's research focuses on application of a positive youth development paradigm to the design, implementation and evaluation of clinic- and community-based interventions to prevent multiple health risk behaviors during adolescence. In the past decade, she has been Principal Investigator on four substantial CDC- and NIH-funded programs of applied, community-engaged research. Sieving also directs the University of Minnesota Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) training program, a HRSA/MCHB-funded interdisciplinary post-graduate fellowship program in adolescent health that prepares health professionals for leadership roles in academic and public health sectors. UMN LEAH collaborates with national network of 7 MCHB-funded LEAH programs.

**David Stenehjem, PharmD, BCOP**

Associate Professor and Associate  
Department Head, Department of  
Pharmacy Practice and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of  
Pharmacy - Duluth



Dr. Stenehjem's outcomes-based research agenda is centered on assessing the role and value of oncology therapeutics and precision oncology in improving outcomes for cancer patients. His research strategy uses real world data collected from major cancer centers across the nation to assess clinical and economic outcomes of cancer patients treated with specific therapeutic agents. This approach allows for the molecular stratification of patients while assessing meaningful outcomes to demonstrate the value of precision oncology and specific cancer treatments. Additionally, translational research is supported by assessing the implications of novel biomarkers with treatment response. Institutionally these outcomes studies are of value by comparing local outcomes to national reports for quality assessment and benchmarking. This research capitalizes on key partnerships with the health outcomes groups of major pharmaceutical companies and interprofessional collaborations with colleagues in medicine, nursing, public health, biostatistics, and bioinformatics with representations across the participating institutions in these studies. Lastly, as Associate Department Head Stenehjem's primary focus is enhancing research productivity and grant acquisition within his interdisciplinary department.

## **Stephanie Terezakis, MD**

Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology; Vice Chair of Research, Medical School



Stephanie Terezakis MD, recently started in her position at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Radiation Oncology as Vice Chair of Research and is excited to build collaborations across the institution to foster research initiatives that improve the lives of cancer patients. Terezakis' areas of expertise include pediatric cancers and hematologic malignancies, soft tissue and bone tumors. Within these areas, she has had an interest in incorporating unique and innovative imaging to better define tumor extent and to predict long-term sequelae of treatment. Using a multidisciplinary, team science approach, she hopes to further translational clinical trial development with an emphasis on the synergy between systemic therapies and novel radiation techniques.

**Diane Treat-Jacobson, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Professor and Associate Dean for Research, School of Nursing



Diane Treat-Jacobson, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota and the Cora Meidl Siehl Chair in Nursing Research for Improved Care. Dr. Treat-Jacobson's program of research is focused on promoting awareness, timely identification, and improved treatment for the eight million Americans suffering from peripheral artery disease (PAD). She is recognized as a national and international expert in the development and implementation of exercise interventions for patients with claudication from PAD. Her scholarship has consisted of both traditional randomized clinical trials and implementation of supervised exercise therapy in the clinical setting. She has received external funding from the American Heart Association, the NIH, and the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. Dr. Treat-Jacobson has national leadership experience both within nursing and as a part of multidisciplinary organizations. She is past president of the Society for Vascular Nursing, past member of the Board of Trustees of the Society for Vascular Medicine and currently serves on the Leadership Committee of the Peripheral Vascular Disease Council of the American Heart Association. She has served on numerous scientific statement and care guideline writing committees related to care of patients with PAD, which has provided her with the opportunity to advocate for improvement in care for these patients, weaving her research expertise into advocacy and education activities.



## **Christine Wendt, MD**

Professor of Medicine and Section Head of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine Division, Medical School; Section Chief, Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, Minneapolis VA Health Care System



Christine Wendt MD, is a Professor of Medicine and Section Chief of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep at the Minneapolis VAMC. She has a long-standing interest in clinical and translational research in COPD. She has participated on five large NIH COPD trials, including the NIH COPD Clinical Research Network; three are ongoing. Dr. Wendt's research has focused on biomarkers of disease using high-throughput mass spectrometry, specifically focusing on chronic obstructive lung disease. She is currently identifying biomarkers and causal pathways in COPD associated with HIV and COPD relationship to lung cancer initiation using a multi-omic approach including genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, computational and systems biology. These translational projects combine multiple investigators across these various disciplines. Through this work her team has discovered that COPD stroma adjacent to tumors carries oncogenic signals that are not present in control COPD lung. Recently she has focused on the role of both the metabolome and microbiota in COPD to identify biomarkers of disease and understand the role of bacteria in disease pathogenesis and progression. For this, she is the PI of a FAMRI award for a randomized clinical trial pilot to understand the role of the oral microbiome in COPD. As such, Dr. Wendt has an interest in the incorporation of metagenomics in uncovering mechanisms of disease in COPD.



**Sarah Westberg, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS**

Professor, Pharmaceutical Care & Health Systems; Co-Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, College of Pharmacy



Sarah Westberg PharmD, FCCP, BCPS, has been involved in leadership roles at the College of Pharmacy for the last 10 years, including serving as the director of her College's PGY1 pharmacy practice residency, which is the largest multi-site PGY1 pharmacy practice residency in the country. She is currently serving as Co-Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. In this role, she leads the relationship development and maintenance with external practice sites for the department's collegiate clinical faculty. In addition, Westberg's team works to support clinical faculty through mentoring, feedback, and resources to ensure clinical faculty success. Westberg's scholarly activities have evolved to match her changing responsibilities and roles over her career. She has participated in the scholarship of teaching and learning, including interprofessional education activities and residency training. More recently, her scholarly work has focused on the impact of pharmacist-provided CMM services on health outcomes and pharmacotherapy topics related to women's health. Westberg has been invited to share her women's health expertise at multiple educational venues at the state, regional, and national level.





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