Announcements

Congratulations, Dr. Laura Reid Marks!

Dr. Marks received the Rising Star Award at the 2024 National Multicultural Conference and Summit (NMSC).

Drs. Karen MacDonell (FSU College of Medicine, left), Bo Wang (UMass Chan Medical School), and Nittaya Phanuphak (Institute of HIV Research and Innovation: IHRI) are co-leading multiple NIH-funded projects focused on HIV prevention in vulnerable groups of young adults in Bangkok, Thailand. Drs. MacDonell and Wang toured clinical partner sites in Bangkok, Thailand earlier this year as part of NIH-funded projects on HIV prevention. Investigators seek to implement tech-based intervention tools that partner sites can offer to young adult patients to manage their health and reduce the risk of HIV.

The FLEX Peer Support Program was officially launched under the Adolescent and Young Adult Health Justice program. Kristina Feliciano leads and coordinates the services offered by the FLEX Peer Support Program under the supervision of Sara Green, MSW.

Kristina Feliciano also began her first social work internship during the Spring 2024 semester and is on her way to graduating in December 2024 with her master’s in social work. Keep up the great work!

Poster presentation titled, “YACHT: Young Adult Centered HealthForce Training to Increase HIV Testing among Young Sexual Minority Men in Florida” and authored by Andrea Cheshure, Rebecca Giguere, Jonathan Morgan, and Sylvie Naar, won Top Work In Progress abstract. At the 2024 Florida HIV Community, Providers, and Researchers (CPR) Conference!
New Awards

Iván C. Balán, PhD, and colleagues received a new R34 award. Dr. Balán and his team aim to develop and pilot an online, gamified, training program utilizing Motivational Interviewing, specifically for HIV counseling support staff with the goal to improve health communication in HIV care interactions.

Presentations

College of Medicine 20th Annual Research Fair
Kayla Hicks and Grace Sanders presented on Scale It Up (SIU) Florida projects at the FSU College of Medicine 20th Annual Research Fair. Great teamwork!

UF+FSU Translational Research Symposium
Among several FSU faculty and staff, CTBScience team members attended the University of Florida + Florida State University Translational Research Symposium in Gainesville, FL. Dr. Meardith Pooler-Burgess and Sara Green, MSW, shared on research and CTBS Manager, Brenda Echeverri attended in efforts to enhance Center visibility through strategic representation.

A poster presentation on recruitment and retention efforts of young adults for HIV research by Sara Green, MSW, at the UF+FSU translational research symposium in March 2024.

Meadirth Pooler-Burgess, DrPH, gave a poster presentation titled “Transforming Health Equity Research in Integrated Primary Care: Antiracism as a Disruptive Innovation” at the UF+FSU translational research symposium in March 2024.

K Scholar Project Management Workshop
Sara Green, MSW (left), and Brenda Echeverri (right), co-led a virtual Project Management Workshop for K Scholars. Key elements of project management, including tools and examples, were shared with attendees.
FSU 24th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

Students, Gisella David and Isabel Dionne presented a poster discussing the effect of sleep on cognition among aging adults. Their work was supervised by Dr. Julia Sheffler.

2024 Florida HIV Community, Providers, and Researchers (CPR) Conference

The Scale It Up – Florida team participated at the CPR conference and had multiple poster presentations.

Presenting on the “Scale It Up Connect Repository: Engaging Adolescents and Emerging Adults in Florida in a Youth Learning Health Community”, Sara Green, MSW, and Grace Sanders.

Kayla Hicks and Sara Green presented a poster titled “Challenges and successes in recruiting and retaining emerging adults with HIV in Florida: Insights from the SHARE Program.” The poster was presented at the 2024 FL HIV CPR Conference. Co-authors included Pickett, S.M., Rogers, L., Feliciano, K., Solis, S.A., Morgan, J., MacDonell, K., & Naar, S.

Jonathan Morgan presented the poster titled, “YACHT: Young Adult Centered HealthForce Training to Increase HIV Testing among Young Sexual Minority Men in Florida.” The poster was authored by Andrea Cheshure, Rebecca Giguere, Jonathan Morgan, and Sylvie Naar. Poster presentation won Top Work In Progress Award!
Conference Attendance

CTBS Science team members attended the 2024 Society of Behavioral Medicine meeting in March (pictured left, Naomi Frederic and Dr. Julia Sheffler).

Rebecca Giguere attended the 3rd National “Ending the HIV Epidemic” Partnership for Research Meeting and participated in a post-meeting EHE project discussion centered around opportunities with the HIV Implementation Science Coordination Initiative, updates from EHE research projects, and effective dissemination of research findings.

Events & Activities

Right before the winter break, CTBS team members from different labs and programs got together for the CTBS annual holiday potluck.

Dr. Julia Sheffler and research program coordinator, Naomi Frederic, visited the Gadsden Senior Center to share information about how to use diet to improve biological risks for dementia. Dr. Sheffler and Naomi shared information about a research project starting up soon and how to get involved.

Welcome to CTBScience!

Katie Hibbard and Zachary Gallus joined Dr. Karen MacDonell’s research program, Adolescent and Young Adult Health Justice Program.

Jordan Patrick joined the Scale It Up (SIU) Florida initiative as a researcher and will be on the YACHT project as a mystery shopper. In addition, Milo St. Ives also joined the SIU Florida team this semester.

The Integrative Science for Healthy Aging research program has new team members that joined this semester, including Andrea Bautista, Helen Smith, Drew Knapp, and Noelis Perez, and Cole Patoine.

Dr. Nicole Ennis welcomed a new student to her research program, Alyssa Gabrielle Flores.
Publications


Thank you – CTBS Faculty, staff, students, and affiliated partners and colleagues - for contributing to the CTBSScience Newsletter by providing information, pictures, and citations. For questions about the content, please contact CTBSScience program manager, Brenda Echeverri at brenda.echeverri@med.fsu.edu.