

2021 ICTS Summer Mentoring and Research Training (SMART) Awardees

The Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (ICTS) is pleased to announce the NIH NIDDK T-35 SMART program award recipients.



Ariceli Alfaro

Mentor: John Billimek, PhD

"Diabetes management within Spanish-speaking communities"

Over the summer, we will conduct a cross-sectional study using a validated diabetes health literacy measure, SKILLD (Spoken Knowledge in Low Literacy in Diabetes) to assess diabetes knowledge and its effect on their DM management for the marginalized Spanish-speaking community at the UCI FQHC. By determining the nature and magnitude of this issue, we can design a brief provider intervention to address the gaps in diabetes management and medical care.



Yousif Arif

Mentor: Elani Streja, PhD, MPH

"Association of serum endocannabinoid levels with markers of high density lipoprotein (HDL) function in both healthy and end stage renal disease patients"

Our project's aim is to determine whether serum endocannabinoid (Anandamide, 2-AG, etc.) levels correlate with markers of HDL function and whether these variables are associated with mortality in end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients undergoing maintenance hemodialysis (MHD). This may help validate the role the ECB system plays in end stage renal disease and may provide new avenues to explore for potential therapeutics.

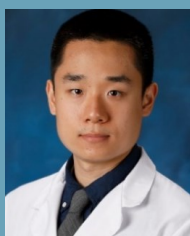


Melissa Chang

Mentor: Ken Lin, MD, PhD

"The effect of anterior chamber washout during glaucoma drainage device surgery on the postoperative hypertensive phase: a retrospective study"

This study will analyze the association for the increase in hypertensive phase for patients with neovascular glaucoma who receive the Ahmed device. Studying the effect of an additional anterior chamber washout prior to device implementation may improve the surgical management of intraocular pressure.

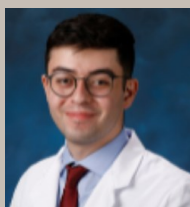


Dean Chung

Mentor: Hirohito Ichii, MD, PhD

"International Comparison of Deceased Donor Acceptance Criteria for Renal Transplant"

We hypothesize that a more flexible approach on deceased donor kidney (DDK) acceptance by US transplant centers, modeled from transplant programs in other countries, will result in a significant projected gain in allograft survival years. I will identify and analyze acceptance patterns of DDKs in Korea and Japan, and renewed allograft survival years of DDKs in the United States will be extrapolated by implementing these patterns.



Sina Hosseinian

Mentor: Sebastian Schubl, MD

"COVID-19 vaccination response in healthcare workers with diabetes, hypertension, or obesity"

This project utilizes infrastructure already established through the currently ongoing COVID-19 serology study. This study aims to examine serology results in healthcare workers who are afflicted with diabetes, hypertension, or obesity and compare their serology with subjects who do not have these diseases.

Mentor: Ritesh Parajuli, MD



Seungshin Lee

"The Impact of Brown Adipose Tissue (BAT) in Breast Cancer Prognosis"

This study investigates the impact of brown adipose tissue (BAT) in breast cancer prognosis. There is ongoing controversy in the current literature regarding the association between BAT and breast cancer and if a relationship exists, whether this has a positive or negative impact on cancer prognosis and survival. Unlike prior studies, this review will examine a uniquely ethnically diverse population served by our institution.

Mentor: Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, PhD, MPH

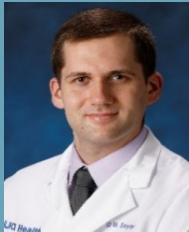


Matthew Nguyen

"Defining Optimal Transitions of Care in Advanced Kidney Disease: Conservative Management vs. Dialysis Approaches"

We hypothesize 1) patients in the dialysis pathway will have a faster decline in health-related quality of life (HRQoL) ascertained by Short Form 36 surveys (primary outcome) over time versus those in conservative management pathway, and 2) patients in the dialysis pathway will have faster decline in physical performance defined by the Short Physical Performance Battery, physical activity defined by the Human Activities Profile, symptoms defined by the Dialysis Symptom Index, and nutritional status defined by the Malnutrition Inflammation Score.

Mentor: Angela Fleishchman, MD, PhD



Eli Soyfer

"Assessing Clonal Hematopoiesis in Myeloproliferative Neoplasm Families"

Our overarching goal is to identify people at high risk of developing hematologic malignancy, such as unaffected members of MPN families who harbor clonal hematopoiesis, and to target these people for observational and preventative studies; for this, we are developing a protocol to identify somatic clones in the blood of MPN families, including affected and unaffected family members.