

The Innovator

Baystate  Health

ADVANCING CARE.
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Clinical Trials Management System (CTMS) to Modernize Baystate Research Operations

Baystate Health has begun the implementation of the new OnCore clinical trials management system (CTMS). The CTMS is an online software system used to plan, manage, and track clinical trials in clinical research. This system will create a centralized digital source of consistent, valid, and available data to inform and advance clinical research -and ultimately advance the care of the people in our communities.

The combination of two tools creates the CTMS: OnCore and Power Trials. OnCore communicates with Power Trials and tracks patients in a study. Power Trials is a module within the Cerner system that links trial activity to the CIS electronic health record. The two systems assure that patients are identified as participating in the trial, orders are placed appropriately, and charges are filtered so that the correct charges

go to the correct payor. Most health systems around the country use a CTMS and it has become the industry standard. Among the many system

will no longer need to check every bill for every patient visit. Over the first year, patient bills for a small sample of visits will continue to be checked

will be documented and validated to be ready for implementation. Once the assembly of the workflows is complete, the execution of the

departments. Lessons learned from those pilots will be leveraged and incorporated into a broader launch.

The project sponsors are Jennifer Pacheco, MPH, CIM, CIP, Director of Healthcare Research Compliance and Chief Research Officer, Melissa Quintero, Director of Sponsored Programs Administration and Peter Friedmann, MD, MPH, DFASAM, FACP, Chief Research Officer and Endowed Chair for Clinical Research.

The CTMS will modernize our research processes, streamline our operations, reduce redundant, manual work, ensure regulatory and billing compliance, and help us manage our research portfolio. "The current manual approach limits our ability to gauge research performance at Baystate", says Friedmann. "The CTMS will help move us towards the next level of research excellence".



benefits for the research community:

- Pre-built Power Plans for research visits will make CIS documentation easier and more standardized.
- Billable events will now be documented in the CTMS, replacing the requirement to send these documents to the Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA).
- Once the system is validated, clinical research coordinators (CRCs)

to ensure the CTMS is working correctly.

- The CTMS will generate reports for the CRCs and investigators to examine study operations and subject flow closer to real-time.

The implementation of the CTMS is organized into three phases. The first phase will see the configuration and integration of the OnCore and Power Trials systems. In addition, all workflows

training plan will begin. During this phase, everyone involved in the CTMS will learn about the new processes and how to utilize the tools available to them. The third and final phase, expected to begin in the fall, will be a pilot launch of the CTMS. The pilot will include 17-18 select studies from the clinical trial office, emergency medicine, critical care, and heart & vascular



Select Recent Awards

JOANNA BEACHY, MD, An Open-label, Multicenter, Randomized, Controlled Study in Spontaneously Breathing Preterm Neonates with Respiratory Distress Syndrome to Compare Two Procedures for Porcine Surfactant Administration. Covance, Inc.

NORMAN DESCHAIINE, 2022 Connecticut River Valley Farmworkers' Health Program (CRVHP). MA League Community Hlth Cntrs.

JOELI HETTLER, MD, MA DPH Pedi Emergency Grant. MA Dept. of Public Health (DPH).

QUINN PACK, MD, Implementing Effective Smoking Cessation Pharmacotherapy for Hospitalized Smokers with Cardiopulmonary Disease. Nat. Institutes of Health (NIH).

AMIR LOTFI, MD, A Multi-center Randomized-Controlled Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Feasibility of the Delivery of Intracoronary Hyperoxemic Supersaturated Oxygen Therapy for 60 Minutes in Patients with ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) and Cardiogenic Shock A. Therox Inc.

NEENA QASBA, MD, Acceptability and Feasibility of Integration of Doulas in Perinatal Care for Black Birthing People. Health Policy Commission.

WAEEL SAYEJ, MD, A Phase 3, Multicenter, Randomized Study with 2 Different Doses of Prucalopride Administered to Male and Female Pediatric Subjects Aged 6 Months to 17 Years with Functional Constipation, Consisting of a 12-week Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Part (Part A). Takeda Development Center Americas, Inc.

MARK TIDSWELL, MD, Novel Experimental COVID Therapeutic Agents Targeting RAAS (NECTAR). Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

RUBEN VAIDYA, MD, Race, COVID-19, and Health Outcomes Among Individuals Born Preterm. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

GOTTFRIED SCHLAUG, MD, Validation of Early Prognostic Data for Recovery Outcomes after Stroke for Future, Higher Yield Trials (VERIFY). University of Cincinnati.

News from UMass CCTS

EVENTS

Public Engagement Workshop: Communicating Statistical/Numerical Information Effectively

Presented by Ezra Markowitz, PhD

Friday, April 29th, 2022, 10am-12pm, Via Zoom

Do you often work with highly technical, numerical and/or statistical information but struggle with how to communicate it effectively to non-experts? Do you find that your audiences often misunderstand or misuse numerical or statistical information in their decision-making? In this workshop, we will explore and practice concrete steps you can take as a communicator to improve your communication of numerical or statistical information with diverse audiences.

Register at <https://bit.ly/37MkcLJ>

Population Health Sciences: Opportunities to Advance Health Equity Through Implementation Science

Presented by Dr. Rachel Shelton, ScD, MPH

Monday, May 9th, 2022, 12pm-1pm, Via Zoom

Register at <https://bit.ly/3viWTI2>

Password: 717383

EDUCATION

Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research T32 Training Program

In collaboration with the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS) has established a NHLBI-funded T32 program with the aim of producing a new generation of investigators who have the enthusiasm, knowledge, and skills to make meaningful contributions to cardiovascular research across the translational spectrum. Directed by Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD (PQHS) and Kevin Donahue, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), the program is truly transdisciplinary, with investigators working together to expand knowledge beyond discipline-based concepts, theories, and methods.

For eligibility information and to apply: Contact the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences at 508-856-8999 or email to rebecca.gigliello@umassmed.edu

The Department of Healthcare Delivery & Population Sciences established at UMass Chan Medical School-Baystate

The Department of Healthcare Delivery & Population Sciences has been established at UMass Chan Medical School – Baystate under the leadership of founding chair and professor Peter Lindenauer, MD, MSc. The designation transforms the former Institute for Healthcare Delivery and Population Sciences from a division within the UMass Chan-Baystate Office of Research to the status of formal academic department.

“The Institute has been promoted into a new department to help Baystate build the research capacity and expertise necessary to optimize and evaluate its programs and services in healthcare delivery and population health,” says Chief Research Officer Dr. Peter Friedmann. Among the Department’s key goals are:

- Recruitment and retention of outstanding clinical and non-clinical faculty.

- Strengthening the local mentoring environment.

- Promoting alignment across academic departments on the UMass Chan Medical School Worcester and Springfield campuses.

- Rigorous evaluation of population health initiatives at Baystate Health.

- Helping Baystate Health realize its vision of becoming a learning health system.

- Helping Baystate Health achieve its goal of promoting greater health equity in the communities we serve.

“The department has a tripartite mission that includes research, education, and service to Baystate Health,” says Dr. Lindenauer. “The research that we do is aimed at improving the quality of care that we deliver to patients, improving the value of care, and reducing health disparities that exist on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual

orientation, socioeconomic status, and geography.”

The department will also provide educational and research opportunities for UMass Chan-Baystate students through lectures, mentorship, and capstone projects.

Dr. Lindenauer, Assistant Dean for Population Health at UMass Chan-Baystate, had directed the Institute since its earlier incarnation as the Center of Quality of Care Research. “Finally, we provide service to the organization by embedding health care delivery researchers into clinical operations to provide methodologic support around the design and evaluation of health system interventions intended to improve quality, safety, value, or patient experience,” says Dr. Lindenauer.

“We have a staff comprised of research assistants, research coordinators, project managers, and biostatisticians who are all



Peter Lindenauer, MD, MSc

involved in the work we do,” added Dr. Lindenauer. “We do this research in collaboration with partners at UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester, UMass Amherst, community-based organizations in our region and with medical schools and universities around the country.”

New study puts collaborative care team in hospital setting to take care of patients with Opioid Use Disorder

In the past decade, hospitalizations for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) nearly doubled. Patients admitted to the hospitals with an underlying OUD in general, rarely receive evidence-based treatment for OUD when hospitalized. A new study at Baystate Health will evaluate whether a collaborative care team in a hospital setting improves post-discharge care compared to usual care in patients with OUD. “The purpose of this research is to enhance care for substance use disorder,” says Natanael Velez, MSW, LCSW, clinical research assistant and care manager at Baystate Health. “It’s a population that continues to grow, so how do we treat it?”

START (Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Team; site PI Peter Friedmann) is a multi-site, randomized trial that adapts the principles of collaborative care to the hospital setting. Collaborative care

requires a team of professionals with complementary skills who work together to care for a population of patients with a common condition.



Natanael Velez, MSW, LCSW

The START consists of an addiction medicine specialist and a care manager who will use evidence-based tools to decrease barriers to medication

for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and link patients to appropriate post-discharge OUD care. “This collaboration between a care manager giving lots of



Stephen Ryzewicz, MD

information and support, and an addiction medicine specialist, we hope leads to better engagement with on-going care even after the hospital stay” says

Stephen Ryzewicz, MD, Medical Director and Addiction Medicine Consultant at Baystate Health.

A total of 414 patients will be randomized from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA, The University of New Mexico Hospital in Albuquerque, NM and Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA. “We are hoping to enroll 139 participants at our site” says Natanael Velez.

If the aim of the research is achieved, the investigators will learn whether this model of care increases OUD treatment delivery in general medical hospitals and decreases the subsequent effects of untreated OUD. “I think people are waiting for studies like ours to provide additional information and hopefully reinforce future care” says Dr. Ryzewicz. If effective, this translational model may be used to increase utilization of evidence-based practices for other substance use and behavioral health disorders.

Greetings from the New Managing Editor

Hello readers,

My name is Matthew Hamel and I am the new Digital Content Analyst for the Offices of Faculty Affairs and Research here at UMass Chan - Baystate. I joined the Baystate team in November 2021 and am excited to be handling *The Innovator* as the writer, editor, and designer of this quarterly publication.

I’ve been a resident of Western Mass my entire life. I graduated from Our Lady of the Elms College in 2010 with a BA in computer information technology. Prior to stepping into this position, I worked as a graphic artist and digital marketing manager. In that role, I learned to be thorough and pay close attention to the details. I believe those skills will help me succeed in delivering the high-quality publication you have all come to expect. When I’m not working full time, I enjoy taking my dog on hikes, golfing, woodworking, reading, and going to concerts.

I look forward to keeping you all informed about the impactful research happening throughout the Baystate Health system. I hope you enjoy this edition as much as I enjoyed putting it together. I’d also like to take the time to extend an invitation to the community of readers at Baystate Health. If anyone has any story ideas for *The Innovator*, please feel free to send me an email at matthew.hamel@baystatehealth.org. We would be happy to consider your ideas!



Cheers,
Matt

Welcome to our new research staff!

CTO:

Gerard Coly, *Clinical Trials Program Director*

Shaula Paul, *Clinical Research Assistant II*

Nataneal Velez, *Clinical Research Assistant II*

Jessica Vegerano, *Clinical Research Coordinator I*

HRPP/IRB:

Katie O’Neil, *IRB Analyst*

Sola Odesina, *HRPP Education & Compliance Specialist*

SPA:

Louann D’Angelo, *Senior Grant Manager*

Iris Valentin, *Post Award Financial Analyst*

BACF:

Kelly Corrigan, *Veterinary Technician*

OFFICE OF RESEARCH:

Matthew Hamel, *Digital Content Analyst*

Deb Leclerc, *Program Director Research Systems*

DHDPS:

Justine Budhram, *Staff Assistant*



Notable recent published papers

Narayanaswamy V, Pentecost BT, Schoen CN, Alfandari D, Schneider SS, Baker R, Arcaro KF. Neutralizing Antibodies and Cytokines in Breast Milk After Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) mRNA Vaccination. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2022 Feb 1;139(2):181-191. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000004661.

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Engelman DT, Crisafi C, Hodle T, Stiles J, Nathanson BH, Zarbock A, Grant MC. Situational Awareness of Opioid Consumption: The Missing Link to Reducing Dependence After Surgery? *Anesth Analg.* 2022 Feb 2. doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000005923. Epub ahead of print.

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Meet the Researcher



Sherry Weitzen, MD, PhD

Name: Sherry Weitzen, MD, PhD

Title/Academic Rank: Associate Professor

Department: Family Medicine

Number of years at Baystate: 6 months. I recently moved back to the area after 9 years at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

What research training do you have? MS in biostatistics, PhD in epidemiology, and 1 year fellowship at the CDC/National Center for Health Statistics.

What got you interested in research overall? Reading "And the Band Played On" by Randy Shilts, doing a summer "internship" at Baystate in 1997 while I was a master's student at UMass Amherst, and working at the National Center for Health Statistics.

What is your area of research? My current area of interest is substance use disorder. As an epidemiologist, I am interested in

patterns and trajectories recovery in order to identify risk and protective factors. Subsequently, we can design interventions to improve health. I also love to think about methods and how to improve study design and analyses. My PhD dissertation was on Propensity Score Methods.

How do you see your research improving care for patients? If we can decrease barriers to treatment for substance use disorder, we can improve health and quality of life.

What have been some of your favorite research projects to date you have organized/participated in? To date, I'm still finding my way around at Baystate and have enjoyed meeting people who are passionate about research. In the past, I have enjoyed analyzing data from large data sets including the SEER data, BRFSS, and NIS. In addition, I have been part of several studies looking at neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome including the ACTNOWS study which is a large multisite randomized control trial evaluating the effectiveness of Eat-Sleep-Console for infants prenatal exposed to opioids.

What do you like most about your job? Learning about the Franklin Country community and meeting people who are passionate about improving health care for people who live here.

What do you do to unwind outside of work? I love to run but have slowed down in recent times. Other activities I enjoy are reading, doodling, and making jewelry.

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We are interested in ensuring that Baystate employees and patients (and their families) are aware of the important research that goes on at Baystate and how it contributes to better patient care. *The Innovator* welcomes feedback and story ideas. Contact Matthew Hamel at matthew.hamel@baystatehealth.org to submit yours.