Dear Colleagues:

One of the objectives of the Comprehensive Transplant Center (CTC) at NU is to highlight some of the collaborative initiatives that are ongoing between the various disciplines that constitute the CTC, as these converge on the field of transplantation. We plan to use the CTC Newsletter as one of the channels of communication that will help us achieve this goal, initially by focusing on the various cores and collaborations that support the academic mission of the CTC. For our inaugural newsletter, we have selected the Transplant Outcomes Research Collaborative (NUTORC). As you will see, NUTORC supports a number of investigators embedded in various academic disciplines, Divisions, Departments and Schools at NU. Over the next several issues of the Newsletter, we will feature the other Cores and Collaborations of the CTC, as well as providing updates on new initiatives, educational developments, and opportunities for collaborators. The Newsletter complements the CTC website and is not meant to replace it. We hope that you find the content of the Newsletter informative, possibly even prompting you to initiate additional collaborative efforts.

Thank you for your interest in and your support of the CTC.

Michael Abecassis, MD, MBA
Founding Director, Comprehensive Transplant Center

Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH
NUTORC – Northwestern University Transplant Outcomes Research Collaborative

The Northwestern University Transplant Outcomes Research Collaborative (NUTORC) is an inter-school, multi-departmental, and trans-disciplinary initiative. It brings together investigators with diverse backgrounds, experience, and expertise to build upon the existing clinical strengths of the transplant program at Northwestern to focus on outcomes and health services research in organ transplantation.

Presently NUTORC engages over 40 investigators and research staff across Northwestern University in partnerships involving Feinberg’s Comprehensive Transplant Center, Institute for Healthcare Studies (IHS), Department of Medical Social Sciences (MSS), Enterprise Data Warehouse, McCormick’s Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences, the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Chicago Transplant Ethics Consortium, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Children’s Memorial Hospital, and the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

To this end, NUTORC investigators have built workgroups around the following six areas: patient safety, quality of life, informed consent and disparity, access and allocation, risk prediction and economics, and health informatics. Each workgroup combines clinicians who pose clinically relevant research questions, experienced health services and outcomes researchers who help frame these questions, and experts in various fields, who apply state-of-the-art research methodologies to answer them. Together, they develop a research plan and execute it.

With guidance and mentorship from founders Michael Abecassis, MD, MBA (Founding Director of CTC, Chief of the Division of Organ Transplantation), Jane Holl, MD, MPH (Director of the Institute for Healthcare Studies), and David Cella, PhD (Chair of Department of Medical Social Sciences) and under the directorship of Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH, NUTORC has enjoyed remarkable academic productivity. Since its inception just two years ago, NUTORC has secured over $4 million of NIH funding and more than $3 million of intramural and industry funding, published 23 peer-reviewed manuscripts, and presented 30 oral presentations and 52 poster presentations at national meetings. As a major participant in the CTC’s T32 training grant, NUTORC has had three postdoctoral fellows actively engaged in cutting-edge transplant research under joint mentorship by Transplant faculty and faculty from IHS, Engineering, and MSS.

NUTORC exists at the intersection of seemingly disparate disciplines, where investigators with diverse backgrounds aim to create a new era of innovative, high-impact outcomes research in order to answer essential questions in transplantation. For more information or to pursue a collaborative effort, interested faculty should contact Dr. Ladner at dladner@nmh.org or 312-695-1954.

NUTORC meets weekly on Mondays at 9:00 am in Arkes 19-083. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this meeting or have any questions about any of the services offered by the CTC, please contact us at CTC@northwestern.edu.