NUTORC
Comprehensive Transplant Center
Feinberg School of Medicine
Northwestern University
676 N. St. Clair St., Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60611

http://nutorc.org/site/

Northwestern University
Transplant Outcomes Research Collaborative

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NUTORC Workgroups
Patient Safety
Group Leaders: Donna Woods, EdM, PhD and Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH
Areas of interest include identification of patient safety risks, assessment of the effectiveness of regulatory guidelines, organizational workflow optimization and safety, development of safety metrics for performance measurement, and clinician communication.

Quality of Life
Group Leaders: Zeeshan Butt, PhD and Estella Alonso, MD
Areas of interest include health-related quality of life assessment for kidney donors and recipients, health-related quality of life assessment for liver donors and recipients, functional outcomes in pediatric liver transplant recipients, outcomes in patients in the second decade following pediatric liver transplantation, studies of pediatric liver transplantation (SPLIT) research consortia, and neurocognitive function and health-related quality of life assessments in patients in the pediatric acute liver failure research consortium.

Informed Consent and Disparities
Group Leaders: Elisa Gordon, PhD, MPH and Juan Carlos Caicedo, MD
Areas of interest include conducting both intervention and descriptive research on informed consent, health disparities, and communication; ensuring ethically sound clinical practice; improving donor and recipient decision making; and developing innovative interventions to improve communication, self-care management, and health care delivery.

Health Literacy and Medication Adherence
Group Leader: Michael Wolf, PhD, MPH
Areas of interest include assessment of health literacy and its impact on non-adherence, assessment of medication adherence and its impact on clinical outcomes, assessment of the effects of frequent medication changes, and interventions to improve medication adherence and health status.

Access and Allocation
Group Leaders: Sanjay Mehrotra, PhD and John Friedewald, MD
Areas of interest include geographic inequity of allocation, organ shortage, and access to solid organ transplantation.

Risk Predicting and Economics
Group Leaders: Anton Skaro, MD, PhD and Gordon Hazen, PhD
Areas of interest include patient outcomes in organ donation and transplantation; healthcare costs and reimbursement issues resulting from donation and transplantation from the payer, patient, and societal perspectives; improving donor and recipient decision making; and cost-effective long-term health outcomes.

Aging
Group Leader: Lee Lindquist, MD, MPH, MBA
Areas of interest include health literacy, transitional care/medication understanding for the senior population, assisting older adults in ability to understand complex medication regimens and improve patient knowledge, adherence, and health outcomes.

NUTORC Cores
Health Informatics
Group Leader: Bing Ho, MD, MPH
Areas of interest include identifying collaborating transplant centers to include in multi-center data integration, integrating multi-source data to monitor medication compliance and long-term kidney graft survival, utilizing large datasets in analyzing transplant-related policy and economics, and creating a comprehensive transplant datamart in the Northwestern University Enterprise Data Warehouse.

Biostatistics
NUTORC Biostatisticians: Joseph Kang, PhD, Raymond Kang, MD, Lei Liu, PhD
The mission of the Biostatistics Core is to provide state-of-the-art statistical training and analytic support services to investigators interested in basic, pre-clinical, clinical and epidemiological transplant studies. This core provides statistical support for all focus groups for manuscripts and grant preparation. Services include: study design & implementation, statistical methodological research, randomization, sample size and power calculations, statistical analysis, and statistical consulting.

Administrative
Director: Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH
Program Assistant: Andrew Hawthorne
This Core provides logistical support for the NUTORC focus groups and the Education Core. This core coordinates and submits federal and non-federal grant submissions along with the Office for Sponsored Research (OSR), prepares manuscripts and abstracts for local and national conferences and supports and maintains interdepartmental and trans-disciplinary collaborations. The administrative team is involved in promoting/branding NUTORC, budget preparation, and internal progress reporting. This core complies with, and updates all study protocols with the Northwestern University Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Education
Leader: Daniela Ladner, MD, MPH
This Core organizes the involvement of students in the various Focus Groups. The goal of this core group is to provide the tools, experiences, expertise, and infrastructure to teach and expand on a high level of skill and knowledge in health outcomes research. The educational programs provide rigorous training by multidisciplinary senior, mid-level, and junior mentors. This core runs a year-round internship with regular educational lectures for students covering a large scope of transplant and health services and outcomes research topics. Specific programs involve: T-32/F-32 Postdoctoral Fellowships, Pre-doctoral Fellowships, Student Internships, and Clinical Observations.

Getting Started
To discuss submitting grant applications using the staff of NUTORC of the Comprehensive Transplant Center, please contact:

Hayden Polancich, Administrative Director of the CTC
CTC@northwestern.edu