



*We expand, promote, facilitate multidisciplinary activities in HIV/AIDS research!*

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**SPOTLIGHT**

**Q&A with the HU CFAR Biostatistics & Bioinformatics (B&B) Core**



**AM I ELIGIBLE TO USE THE B&B CORE?**

- a) Is your project related to HIV?
- b) Are you affiliated with Harvard University or any Harvard associated medical institution?

If you have answered YES to both these questions, then CONGRATULATIONS! you are eligible for some **FREE** services. The types of services we can provide to you for FREE depends on whether you are an early career investigator (ECI) or not. You would be considered an ECI if you have not yet been the PI for an NIH R01 or equivalent grant and if this is your project (even if the data and idea came from your mentor).

**WHAT SUPPORT DOES THE B&B CORE PROVIDE?**

**Biostatistics:** We provide FREE help to ANY Harvard-associated investigator who is preparing an HIV grant proposal to be submitted either to the CFAR (in response to a RFP) or to NIH. Core support for HIV grants post funding is also FREE for ECIs. Non-ECIs can obtain up to 4 hours per year of FREE Core support post funding. If a non-ECI expects to need more Core support post funding, then the non-ECI should include some funding for the B&B Core via a line item in the grant's budget.

We also provide FREE help in design (and some help in analysis) of new HIV studies not associated with a grant submission. These services are FREE for ECIs; non-ECIs can obtain up to 4 hours per year for FREE. See the website for details on the scope of design and analysis help.

**Bioinformatics:** For ECIs, we provide FREE review of experimental design, including advice regarding appropriate sample size and sequencing depth, FREE grant preparation support and 10 FREE hours of data analysis.

**WHAT ADDITIONAL ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR INVESTIGATORS THINKING ABOUT CONTACTING THE B&B CORE?**

**Biostatistics:** Contact us early -- when you're at the stage of designing your study. This is the opposite of what most people new to working with statisticians do: they come asking for a sample size and/or an analysis plan when everything else about the study is decided.

We think that our most valuable contributions occur much earlier in the design stage, by: helping investigators hone in on the question that they are trying to answer, refining the aims of the study, and then advising on the trade-offs of alternative designs. Often, we find that when investigators come asking for a sample size and/or an analysis plan, it is necessary to step back to think through these basic issues first, before anything can be calculated. This is the reason why we have such long lead times listed in the website (although we try to help people even when they arrive at the last minute if we can}. We find that people who have worked with us in the past tend to come much earlier in the grant preparation cycle.

**Bioinformatics:** Given the substantial costs associated with sequencing and bioinformatics analyses, getting advice from the Bioinformatics Core at an early stage in experimental design

is critical. For example, we can provide advice regarding appropriate sample size and sequencing depth and ensure that variables of interest are not confounded with experimental aims or sample library preparation batches. We can also ensure that the proposed technologies, for example single-cell RNA-Seq vs. bulk RNA-Seq, are the most appropriate for the experimental questions of interest, and that the proposed sequencing and analysis pipelines and software tools are state of the art.

## WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT FOR CORE SERVICES?

Although you can contact any of us for assistance, most people contact the person at an institution close to them if they are not sure whom to contact.

### **Biostatistics:**

[gelman@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:gelman@dfci.harvard.edu) (BIDMC, BWH, DFCI, CHB, HMS, other Harvard faculties or affiliated institutions); [rparker4@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:rparker4@mgh.harvard.edu) (MGH, BWH, Fenway); [smeaton@sdac.harvard.edu](mailto:smeaton@sdac.harvard.edu) (BWH, CHB, HSPH); [musie\\_ghebremichael@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:musie_ghebremichael@dfci.harvard.edu) (Ragon only)

### **Bioinformatics:**

[bioinformatics@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:bioinformatics@hsph.harvard.edu) (bioinformatics -- all institutions)

## OPPORTUNITIES / EVENTS



### **25th ANNUAL CFAR NATIONAL MEETING: Scientific Symposium featuring Drs. A. Fauci and R. Walensky / November 1 - 5, 2021**

This meeting is free, and community members and HIV/AIDS researchers are welcome to attend the Community Symposium, Early Stage Investigator Poster Session, and the Scientific Symposium.

### **APPLY for the HU CFAR RFPs 2022 DEVELOPMENTAL AWARDS by Nov 17 (4 pm ET)**

The Harvard University Center for AIDS Research is pleased to announce a Request for proposals in HIV/AIDS research for Early Career Investigators. Awards beginning on or after February 1, 2022.



PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH IN ALL HIV-RELATED DISCIPLINES ARE INVITED!



### **HU CFAR GRAND ROUNDS : Webinar Series**

The **virtual HU CFAR Grand Rounds webinar series** is an opportunity for Harvard-affiliated HIV researchers and their collaborators to present high impact, cutting-edge research to the HU CFAR community. If you're interested in presenting at a future webinar, suggest a topic, or learn more about it, please contact Mark Ingaciola at [mark\\_ingaciola@harvard.edu](mailto:mark_ingaciola@harvard.edu).

### **HIV WORKING GROUP 2021 - 2022 / Department of Biostatistics**

**Join the Friday, November 5 (1-1:50 pm ET) presentation** (Password: 722888)

Bryan E. Shepherd, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

**Join the Friday, November 19 (1-1:50 pm ET) presentation** (Password: 722888)

Nilanjana Laha, Ph.D.

Research Fellow, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

### **FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The UAB Center for Addiction and Pain Prevention and Intervention (CAPPI) is seeking applications for a 2 to 3-year fellowship under the supervision of Dr. Ellen Eaton who specializes in infectious complications of addiction.

## HU CFAR SERIES

### **FIRST WEDNESDAYS: Research in Development | November 3 (4-5 pm ET)**

**Task Shifted Treatment for Smoking Cessation and Engagement in HIV/TB Care in**

## HIV RESEARCH IN PROGRESS | November 5 (8-9 am ET)

*The placenta and HIV-exposed children: preliminary data and future directions* with Lisa Bebell, MD

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## HIV ONLINE PROVIDER EDUCATION (HOPE) Physicians Conference | November 2 (8-9 am ET)

*Sexually Transmitted Infections: 2021 Treatment Guidelines* with Kevin Ard, MD

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## HU CFAR GRAND ROUNDS WEBINAR | November 10, 2021 (2pm ET/11am PT)

*Optimizing PrEP Adherence: What do we know, and what do we need to know?*

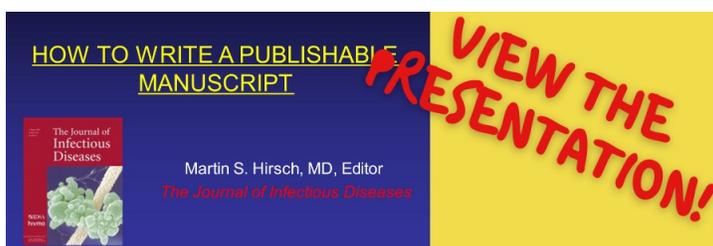
Keynote Speaker/panelist: **Monica Gandhi**, MD, MPH (UCSF)

Presenters/panelists: **Peter Chai**, MD (BWH) & **Christina Psaros**, PhD (MGH)

Moderators: **Kenneth Mayer**, MD (Fenway) & **Conall O'Cleirigh**, PhD (MGH)

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**HOW TO WRITE A PUBLISHABLE MANUSCRIPT** presented by **Dr. Martin S. Hirsch**



## **PUBLICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS**

**Limited HIV-1 Subtype C nef 3'PPT Variation in Combination Antiretroviral Therapy Naïve and Experienced People Living with HIV in Botswana**  
(HU CFAR Developmental Awardee; **Kaelo K. Seatla et al.**)



**Young and invisible: a qualitative study of service engagement by people who inject drugs in India**  
(HU CFAR Developmental Awardee; **Lakshmi Ganapathi et al.** @Lakshmi\_RKG)

**HIV increases sleep-based brain age despite antiretroviral therapy**  
(HU CFAR Developmental Awardee; **Haoqi Sun et al.**)

**Modeling the temporal dynamics of cervicovaginal microbiota identifies targets that may promote reproductive health**  
(HU CFAR Developmental Awardee; **Seth M. Bloom et al.** @SethMBloomMDPhD)

**"You are not alone": a qualitative study to explore barriers to ART initiation and implications for a proposed community-based youth treatment club among young adults newly diagnosed with HIV in South Africa**  
(HU CFAR Developmental Awardee; **Maria F. Nardell et al.**)

**Pressing Questions and Challenges in the HIV-1 and SARS-CoV-2 Syndemic**  
(**Monty Montano**)

## **CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **CFAR Funding Opportunities**

**The CFAR Network of Integrated Clinical Systems (CNICS) RFA is now OPEN for applications!** Deadline for Application: **December 1, 2021**

**Pilot funding for HIV-Aging research**  
Deadline for concept proposals is **December 3, 2021**

**Apply for the HU CFAR RFPs 2022 Developmental Awards by Nov 17 (4 pm ET)**  
PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH IN ALL HIV-RELATED DISCIPLINES ARE INVITED!

## **NIH Funding Opportunities**

The **Emerging Global Leader Award** (K43) have been reissued. The Emerging Global Leader Award is a global health research career development award for LMIC early career researchers based at LMIC institutions. Please share these funding opportunities with your networks:

- **Emerging Global Leader Award (K43 Independent Clinical Trial Required) - PAR-21-251** (AIDS Application Due Date(s): December 9)
- **Emerging Global Leader Award (K43 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed) - PAR-21-252** (AIDS Application Due Date(s): December 9)

The **Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC)** program supports individual postdoctoral career transition awards and institutionally-focused research education cooperative agreements:

- **MOSAIC Program Funding Opportunities Promote Diversity**

### **Be AWARE of New Initiative To Study HIV Prevention in Women**

Are you capable of positively impacting the HIV epidemic among women living in the United States? Do you have novel ideas about how to use digital technology to reach women, gather insights through epidemiologic methods, and harness data science approaches to better understand HIV prevention, transmission, and early care-cascade points focused on women? If so, apply for research project funding through the:

- **American Women: Assessing Risk Epidemiologically (AWARE) (R01, Clinical Trial Optional).** (AIDS Application Due Date(s): December 9)

### **Funding Opportunity To Detect and Report HIV-1 Drug Resistance Mutations**

If you have the expertise to develop or optimize next-generation methodologies to detect HIV-1 drug resistance (DR) mutations and rapidly disseminate the information, consider applying for a grant through the:

- **Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): HIV DR Assays and Actionable Data Dissemination Strategies.**

**[VIEW MORE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES HERE!](#)**

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To learn more about core services available to the Harvard HIV research community and for information about the HU CFAR, please visit <https://cfar.globalhealth.harvard.edu/>

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**Harvard University Center for AIDS Research**