



Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program Virtual Grantees Conference
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 – Friday March 18, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Conference Organizing Committee, the RCMI Principal Investigators, Faculty and Staff, and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Program Officers and Project Scientists, we welcome you to the 2022 RCMI Program Virtual Grantees Conference.

The Conference theme is Inclusive Excellence, and the scientific sessions and oral and poster presentations will showcase the best science across the RCMI Consortium. Following opening remarks by NIMHD Director, Dr. Eliseo Perez-Stable, Dr. Joshua C. Denny and Dr. Kenneth R. Gersing will highlight research collaboration and funding opportunities with the NIH All of Us Program and the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C), respectively. The Opening Session will also provide an update on NIMHD evaluation of the RCMI Program, as well as an update on the progress of the RCMI Coordinating Center in defining common metrics and data collection standards for evidence-based evaluation of the RCMI U54 Centers.

Concurrent workshops will feature the following RCMI research awards and collaborations: (1) RCMI data science awardees and training on the All of Us (AoU) Hub Researcher Workbench, conducted by the Vanderbilt University AoU Research Hub team; (2) RCMI COVID-19 awardees and community engagement; (3) practice-based research network (PBRN) awardees and collaboration opportunity; (4) research infrastructure core resources; (5) RCMI Investigator Development Workshop will focus on preparing the all-important Specific Aims page and provide useful insights into the NIH application submission and peer-review processes, including information about the Early Career Reviewer Program; (6) RCMI Research Administrators' Workshop will introduce how RCMI U54 Centers can showcase their scientific discoveries and community health impact with the new RCMI Consortium website, as well as share solutions on efficient data collection for progress reports, evaluation, and other research-related deliverables.

The RCMI Conference Organizing Committee consists of all RCMI Centers Principal Investigators who have worked collaboratively under the leadership of the RCMI Coordinating Center Contact and Multi-Principal Investigators, and in close coordination with NIMHD Program Officials and Project Scientists.

We are pleased to announce that the Conference Proceedings and peer-reviewed manuscripts will be published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

We thank the RCMI Principal Investigators, their respective core directors, the project team at the RCMI Coordinating Center, and Morehouse School of Medicine staff. We are grateful to the RCMI U54 Centers Principal Investigators and Abstract Review Committee for an expedited review process that ensured the presentation of the best science from across the RCMI Consortium.

RCMI Coordinating Center is supported by grant number U24MD015970 from the [National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities](#), National Institutes of Health.





Finally, we thank you, our attendees, for your commitment, dedication, and contribution to the success of this program, and to the RCMI theme of Inclusive Excellence.

Yours Sincerely, and on behalf of the RCMI Conference Organizing Committee:

Elizabeth Ofili, MD, MPH, Conference Chair and Contact PI, RCMI Coordinating Center
Emma Fernández-Repollet, PhD, Chair, Steering Committee, RCMI Consortium
Richard Yanagihara, MD, MPH, Multi-PI, RCMI Coordinating Center
Paul B. Tchounwou, ScD, Multi-PI, RCMI Coordinating Center
Daniel F. Sarpong, PhD, Multi-PI, RCMI Coordinating Center
Richard J. Noel, Jr., PhD, Chair, Abstract Review Committee, RCMI Conference

RCMI CONSORTIUM GOAL STATEMENT

The RCMI Coordinating Center will work closely with key personnel at all RCMI Specialized Centers and with NIMHD staff to help the centers collectively achieve their objectives to: (1) enhance institutional research capacity within the areas of basic biomedical, behavioral, and/or clinical research; (2) enable all levels of investigators to become more successful in obtaining competitive extramural support, especially from NIH, particularly on diseases that disproportionately impact minority and other health disparity populations; (3) foster environments conducive to career enhancement with a special emphasis on development of early career investigators; (4) enhance the quality of all scientific inquiry and promote research on minority health and health disparities; and (5) establish sustainable relationships with community-based organizations that partner with RCMI Centers.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE ANNUAL GRANTEE'S CONFERENCE

The RCMI Program Grantees Conference will bring together RCMI U54 PI/PDs and other senior scientists from each site, research project leaders, pilot project awardees, key community partners, and NIH staff to exchange information and discuss opportunities for collaboration and strategies for solving shared challenges in: (1) project administration and coordination among sites; (2) research resources to support scientific projects; (3) early-stage investigator development and mentoring; and (4) community engagement.

Wednesday March 16, 2022

OPENING SESSION

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM **Welcome and Introduction**

Elizabeth Ofili, MD, MPH, Morehouse School of Medicine

1:05 PM – 1:15 PM **Opening Remarks**

Eliseo Perez-Stable, MD, MPH, NIMHD Director

1:15 PM – 1:45 PM **RCMI Collaboration and Partnership Opportunities with NIH Programs**

Overarching Goal: Engage RCMI investigators in research collaboration and funding opportunities with the All of Us Program and the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C).

All of Us Program

Joshua C. Denny, MD, MS, CEO, *All of Us* Research Program

National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) Dataset

Kenneth R. Gersing, MD, Director of Informatics, NCATS

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and will ultimately improve routine health care services for populations that experience health disparities.

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM PBRN Awardees Presentations

3:15 PM – 5:30 PM TBN Speakers for Collaboration/Training Workshop

Investigator Development Workshop

Overarching Goal: Enrich the professional development and career advancement of post-doctoral fellows, early-stage investigators and mid-career investigators at RCMI grantee institutions. The workshop will focus on preparing the all-important Specific Aims page and provide useful insights into the NIH application submission and peer-review processes, including information about the Early Career Reviewer Program.

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM Grant Writing: Specific Aims Page

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM NIH Grants Review 101

Administrators Workshop

Overarching Goal: Engage consortium-wide RCMI U54 Center Administrators to share best practices and lessons learned and to brainstorm solutions to efficient data collection for progress reports, evaluation, and other research-related deliverables.

Specific Aims:

1. Provide critical feedback to optimize visibility and functionality of the RCMI Consortium public-facing website.
2. Increase the dissemination of RCMI U54 Centers scientific advances to the research community, policy makers and stakeholders.
3. Promote the recruitment of underrepresented research participants to RCMI-funded studies.
4. Learn how RCMI-CC technology, such as Profiles, can enhance milestone-driven data collection and metrics for U54 Centers evaluation.

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM RCMI-CC Website Demonstration and Working with RCMI Profiles

3:15 PM – 5:30 PM TBN Speakers for Collaboration/Training Workshop

Research Infrastructure Workshop

Overarching Goal: Facilitate communication about research resources at RCMI U54 Centers in order to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of core facilities, and promote innovative practices for collaborative and interdisciplinary research.

Specific Aims:

1. Highlight new technology applications to health disparities research
2. Share lessons learned and best practices in Research Infrastructure Core operations and management.
3. Brainstorm solutions to challenges and impediments to Research Infrastructure Core operations and management

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM TBN Topics and Speakers

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM **Abstracts/Moderated Poster Session (YouTube)**





Thursday March 17, 2022

- 1:00 PM – 1:10 PM **Welcome and Meeting Overview**
Elizabeth Ofili, MD, MPH, Morehouse School of Medicine
- 1:10 PM – 1:25 PM **Recap from Opening Session and Workshops**
Emma Fernández-Repollet, PhD, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus
- 1:25 PM – 2:50 PM **Scientific Session I – Moderator: TBN, NIMHD**
Co-Moderator: Richard Yanagihara, MD, MPH, University of Hawaii at Manoa
(20 minutes per center including Q&A)
Emma Fernández-Repollet, PhD, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus
Vincent C. Bond, PhD, Morehouse School of Medicine
Valerie Otero-Marah, PhD, Morgan State University
Eric F. Wagner, PhD, Florida International University
- 2:50 PM – 3:00 PM **Break**
- 3:00 PM – 5:05 PM **Scientific Session II – Moderator: TBN, NIMHD**
Co-Moderator: Richard Yanagihara, MD, MPH, University of Hawaii at Manoa
(20 minutes per center including Q&A)
Samuel E. Adunyah, PhD, Meharry Medical College
Julie A. Baldwin, PhD, Northern Arizona University
Jay V. Vadgama, PhD, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Sciences
Deepak Kumar, PhD, North Carolina Central University
David D. Lo, MD, PhD, University of California, Riverside
Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- 5:05 PM – 5:20 PM **Discussion**
- 5:20 PM – 5:30 PM **Break**

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5:30 PM – 7:00 PM **Abstracts/Moderated Poster Session (YouTube)**

Friday March 18, 2022

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM **RCMI PI/PDs Meet with NIMHD Director**

2:00 PM – 3:40 PM **Scientific Session III** – Moderator: TBN, NIMHD

Co-Moderator: Richard Yanagihara, MD, MPH, University of Hawaii at Manoa

(20 minutes per center including Q&A)

William M. Southerland, PhD, Howard University

Jose A. Torres-Ruiz, PhD, Ponce Health Sciences University

Clayton C. Yates, PhD, Tuskegee University

Gene D'Amour, PhD, Xavier University of Louisiana

Karam F.A. Soliman, PhD, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University

3:40 PM – 3:50 PM **Break**

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM **Scientific Session IV** – Moderator: TBN, NIMHD

Co-Moderator: Richard Yanagihara, MD, MPH, University of Hawaii at Manoa

(20 minutes per center including Q&A)

Robert A. Kirken, PhD, University of Texas at El Paso

Shafiq A. Khan, PhD, Clark Atlanta University

Guadalupe X. Ayala, PhD, San Diego State University

Omonike A. Olaleye, PhD, MPH, Texas Southern University

Ezemenari M. Obasi, PhD, University of Houston

Paul B. Tchounwou, ScD, Jackson State University

4:50 PM – 5:20 PM **Discussion and Wrap-up**

5:20 PM – 5:30 PM **Break**

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM **Abstracts/Moderated Poster Session (YouTube)**

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