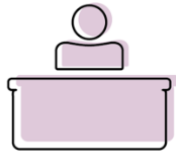# FROM THE DESKS OF THE CCTST DIRECTORS – JANUARY 2024

Dear CCTST community,

We hope that you had rejuvenating holidays, and wish you a healthy, fulfilling 2024!

We are thrilled to announce that the CCTST 4.0 UM1 grant application, which would provide CCTST funding from 2025-2032, has been submitted to NIH. This was a remarkable team effort that started almost a year ago and resulted in an outstanding application. We would like to extend a special thanks to those who took the lead in writing different grant sections, including Drs. Lynn Babcock, Andy Beck, Lori Crosby, Jim Geller, David Hartley, Dennis McGraw, Farrah Jacquez, Rob Kahn, Elizabeth Kelly, Jackie Knapke, Eneida Mendonca, Peter Margolis, Jason McMullan, Monica Mitchell, Jennifer Molano, Nick Ollberding, Rohit Ramaswamy, Carley Riley, Brittany Rosen, Pat Ryan, Michael Seid, Jane Strasser, Umberto Tachinardi, and Dan Woo. Our gratitude also goes to the business team and staff who made this submission possible, including Michael Vierling, Christy Keller, Kirsten Bartlett, and Trina McFarland.

Some of the exciting new directions proposed in CCTST 4.0 include:
- Implement a learning health system for translational science
- Address effectively roadblocks in clinical and translational science
- Integrate principles of health equity and diversity throughout science and training programs
- Create innovative methods, approaches, and resources for conducting science
- Centralize the role of community and stakeholder engagement in clinical and translational science
- Integrate dissemination and implementation science practices throughout the lifecycle of clinical and translational research
- Support workforce development through innovative programs at all levels of training
- Strengthen our national footprint

Cultivating the translational research workforce will remain a critical focus in CCTST 4.0. We are excited that together with the UM1, a K12 and two T32 applications were also submitted. **The K12 application was led by Drs. Meg Zeller and Moises Huaman**, and the goal is to develop the next generation of diverse translational team scientists and academic leaders through cross-disciplinary training in research skills necessary for designing and conducting innovative clinical and translational research that will lead to better health outcomes for all people and communities. **The postdoctoral T32 application was led by Drs. Katherine Bowers and Rhonda Szczesniak** and aims to provide multidisciplinary training, including in biostatistics, epidemiology, and clinical and biomedical research, to individuals from diverse

backgrounds to provide the knowledge, skills, and capabilities for careers as clinical and translational scientists focused on improving child health and outcomes across the lifespan. **The predoctoral T32 application was led by Drs. Nives Zimmerman and Maggie Powers-Fletcher**, and aims to train clinical and translational scientists in pathobiology and molecular medicine. The program lies at a key intersection within the translational research pipeline - the clinical laboratory, where disease diagnostics and monitoring tests are developed, validated, and implemented. The program will also train scholars in data and biorepository operations, human research, and clinical trial operations.

Please note that cycle 1 applications for the CCTST Just-In-Time Grants are due February 24, 2024. More information can be found on our [website](#).

Check out our [2023 CCTST Community Health Transformation awardees](#), along with our FY25 **[Pilot Translational Research and Innovative Core Grant Program awardees](#)**, **[Processes and Methods Step 2 awardees](#)**, and **[Acute Care Research Core awardees](#)**.

Please reach out to us if we can be of any assistance to you.

All our best,

Jessica, Jareen, Jeff, and Achala