MOUNTAIN WEST CTR-IN
Clinical Translational Research Infrastructure Network

ANNUAL MEETING
Advancing Health Equity: From Local to Global

JW MARRIOTT LAS VEGAS
November 17-18, 2022 | Las Vegas, NV

FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENERAL MEDICAL SCIENCES, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH: #U54GM104944
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I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of the participants, particularly our Mountain West research leadership, staff, investigators, collaborators, and colleagues to the 2022 Mountain West Clinical & Translational Research Infrastructure Network Program’s Annual Meeting, hosted by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas – School of Public Health at the JW Marriott Resort & Spa.

The theme of our Annual Meeting this year is *Advancing Health Equity: From Local to Global*. We hope that the discussions and connections that we have at this year’s meeting will support and continue our unified pursuit of reducing and eliminating health disparities in our diverse communities, as we continue to further foster and enhance the clinical & translational research infrastructure in the Mountain West Region.

We are honored to have such an exceptional lineup of diverse speakers and pilot grantees, who have joined us to share their presentations on clinical & translational research being conducted at our partner universities in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

We hope that you enjoy your experience as you further develop collaborations to continue your research to improve the health of our communities.

Thank you and welcome again.

**Francisco S. Sy, MD, DrPH**  
Principal Investigator  
Mountain West CTR-IN Program  
Professor & Chair  
Department of Environmental & Occupational Health  
School of Public Health  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
NOTE: Please follow the dark blue arrows for the shortcut to the Conference Center from the Palms Tower.
[1st FLOOR]

JW MARRIOTT LAS VEGAS RESORT & SPA
[Conference / Events Center]

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VALENCIA
GROUP PHOTO
DINNER
PRE-MEETING ACTIVITIES
Wednesday, November 16, 2022

10:00 am – 5:00 pm  Advanced Grant Writing Workshop
CATALUNA ROOM

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm  External Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting (Hybrid)
ANDALUCIA ROOM

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm  Executive Committee Meeting
ANDALUCIA ROOM
7:00 – 8:00 am  Breakfast  FOYER *Buffet Available

8:00 – 8:30 am  

Welcome Remarks
Francisco S. Sy, MD, DrPH
Principal Investigator, MW CTR-IN
Professor, UNLV School of Public Health

Opening Remarks
David Hatchett, PhD
Interim Vice President for Research
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

PLENARY SESSION I
GRAND BALLROOM C

Moderator: Francisco S. Sy, MD, DrPH
Professor, UNLV School of Public Health

8:30 – 9:30 am  

Keynote Address
CDC’s CORE Health Equity Science and Intervention Strategy
Leandris Liburd, PhD, MPH, MA
Director, Office of Minority Health and Health Equity
Associate Director for Minority Health and Health Equity
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

9:30 – 10:15 am  

Clinical & Translational Research in IDeA States: Recent Accomplishments and New Opportunities
Michele McGuirl, PhD (Virtual)
Branch Chief, Research Advancement Programs
Division of Research Capacity Building
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
National Institutes of Health

10:15 – 10:30 am  

Break  FOYER *Snacks & Refreshments Available

PLENARY SESSION II
GRAND BALLROOM C

Moderator: Larissa Myaskovsky, PhD, FAST
Professional Development Core Director
Professor, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

10:30 – 11:00 am  

Mountain West Clinical & Translational Research Infrastructure Network: Program Overview, Accomplishments and Future Plans
Francisco S. Sy, MD, DrPH
Principal Investigator
Mountain West CTR-IN Program
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

11:00 – 11:30 am  

Community Engagement Research Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities: The Power of Partnership
Xinzhi Zhang, MD, PhD, FACE, FRSM (Virtual)
Chief, Health Inequities and Global Health Branch
Center for Translation Research & Implementation Science
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
National Institutes of Health

11:30 am – 12:00 pm  

Marching towards Health Equity: Where are We – Still Talking or Walking?
Janice Bowie, PhD, MPH
Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

12:00 – 1:00 pm  

Lunch  FOYER *Buffet Available
Moderator: Curtis Noonan, PhD  
Clinical Pilots Projects Program (CP3) Core Director  
Professor  
University of Montana

1:00 – 2:15 pm  
**Thriving Alaska Native Veterans: Translational Research for Health Promotion and Harm Reduction among Military Service Members**  
James Morton, Jr., PhD, NCC  
Assistant Research Professor, Center for Alaska Native Health Research (CANHR)  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

**Testing the Preliminary Efficacy of a Mindfulness-Based Smartphone App Intervention for Nurses traumatized from the COVID-19 Pandemic**  
Andrew Thomas Reyes, PhD, RN  
Associate Professor, School of Nursing  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**Describing Brain Activity of African-American Older Adults with Alzheimer’s Disease: Pilot Study**  
Ezra Holston, PhD, RN  
Associate Professor, Orvis School of Nursing  
University of Nevada, Reno

**Esomeprazole otoprotection against cisplatin-induced hearing loss in cancer patients**  
Gabriel Bargen, PhD, CCC-A/SLP  
Associate Professor, Pediatric Audiology  
Director, Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences PhD Program  
Idaho State University  
Dong “Danny” Xu, PhD  
Associate Professor, Pharmacy  
Director, Pharmaceutical Science Graduate Programs  
Idaho State University

Moderator: Robert S. Seville, PhD  
Clinical Pilots Projects Program (CP3) Associate Core Director  
Concierge Network Chair  
Professor  
University of Wyoming

2:15 – 3:15 pm  
**Enhanced Control for a Lower Limb Prosthesis using High-Density Surface Electromyography**  
Corey Pew, PhD, MS  
Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering  
Montana State University

**Traditional food security (TFS) and health: Validating a novel TFS assessment tool, and examining the relationship between TFS and diet quality among Alaska Native people**  
Ruby Fried, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Division of Population Health Sciences  
University of Alaska Anchorage

**Mental Illness and Health Information Technology Use in the United States**  
Jagdish Khubchandani, MBBS, PhD  
Professor of Public Health  
New Mexico State University

**Myosin cross-bridge activation of contraction in human myocardium**  
Daniel Fitzsimons, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Animal, Veterinary & Food Sciences  
University of Idaho
3:15 – 3:30 pm  **Break**  
FOYER *Snacks & Refreshments Available*

3:30 – 4:30 pm  **Community Engagement & Outreach (CEO) Core and Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) Meeting**  
MEETING ROOM A

Moderators:  
**Tony Ward, PhD**  
Director, CEO Core  
Professor  
University of Montana

**Jeffery C. Peterson, PhD**  
Associate Director, CEO Core  
Research Professor  
University of Montana

4:30 – 5:30 pm  **Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Research, & Design (BERD) Core Meeting**  
MEETING ROOM B

Moderators:  
**Chad Cross, PhD, MFT, PSTAT (R), C-MDI**  
Co-Director, BERD Core  
Associate Professor-in-Residence  
School of Public Health,  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**Juli Petereit, PhD**  
Co-Director, BERD Core  
Director, Nevada Bioinformatics Center  
University of Nevada, Reno

4:30 – 5:30 pm  **Concierge Network Meeting**  
MEETING ROOM D

Moderator:  
**Robert S. Seville, PhD**  
Clinical Pilots Projects Program (CP3) Associate Core Director  
Concierge Network Chair  
Professor  
University of Wyoming
5:30 – 6:30 pm  
**Professional Development (PD) Core Meeting**

**MEETING ROOM E**

**Moderator(s):** Larissa Myaskovsky, PhD, FAST  
Director, Professional Development Core  
Director, Ambassador Translational Research In Progress (ATRIP) Program  
Professor  
University of New Mexico - Health Sciences Center

Akshay Sood, MD, MPH  
Associate Director, PD Core – Mentoring Unit  
Director, Faculty Mentor Development Program (FMDP)  
Professor  
University of New Mexico - Health Sciences Center

Ruben Dagda, PhD  
Associate Director, PD Core  
Director, Grant Writing Workshop (GWW) Program  
Director, Advance To Funding (ATF) Program  
Associate Professor  
University of Nevada, Reno

Weiyu Mao, PhD, MSW, MPhil  
Associate Director, PD Core – Education Unit  
Co-Chair, Curriculum Advisory Group (CAG)  
Associate Professor  
University of Nevada, Reno

Brach Poston, PhD  
Associate Director, PD Core – Education Unit  
Co-Chair, Curriculum Advisory Group (CAG)  
Associate Professor  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

5:30 – 6:30 pm  
**Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting (Hybrid)**

**MEETING ROOM D**

**Moderator:** David Hatchett, PhD  
Interim Vice President for Research  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

6:30 – 7:00 pm  
**GROUP PHOTO**

7:00 – 9:00 pm  
**Welcome Reception & Networking Dinner**

**VALENCIA ROOM**  
**2ND FLOOR**

**Faculty Mentor Awards**
DAY TWO - AGENDA
Friday, November 18, 2022

7:00 – 8:00 am  Breakfast  FOYER  *Buffet Available

PLENARY SESSION III
GRAND BALLROOM C
8:00 – 9:00 am  Moderator: Francisco S. Sy, MD, DrPH
Professor, UNLV School of Public Health

Keynote Address
How Science Can Promote Health Equity (Virtual)
Eliseo Perez-Stable, MD
Director, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD),
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

9:00 – 9:45 am  Translating Structural Violence into Health Equity
Jesus Ramirez-Valles, PhD, MPH
Chief & Professor, Division of Prevention Science, Walter Gray Professor on HIV/AIDS
Science of the AIDS Research Institute, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies,
UCSF Prevention Research Center
University of California San Francisco

9:45 – 10:00 am  Break  FOYER  *Snacks & Refreshments Available

PILOT GRANTEE PRESENTATIONS
3
GRAND BALLROOM C
10:00 – 11:00 am  Moderator: Curtis Noonan, PhD
Clinical Pilots Projects Program (CP3) Core Director
Professor, University of Montana

Human herpesviruses in augmenting COVID-19 symptoms
Timsy Uppal, PhD, MS
Assistant Research Professor
Department of Microbiology & Immunology
University of Nevada, Reno
Subhash C. Verma, PhD
Associate Professor
Director
Cell & Molecular Biology Graduate Program
University of Nevada, Reno

Epigenetic biomarker for prenatal fipronil exposure and health outcomes in newborns
Yoon Hee Cho, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Center
for Environmental Health Sciences
University of Montana

An air quality-focused personnel intervention to improve health among nursing home residents
Luke Montrose, PhD
Assistant Professor
Boise State University/Colorado State University

Novel Methods of assessing household wood smoke exposure in the rural Mountain West
Shuguang Leng, MBBS, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, & Preventive Medicine and Cancer Center,
Cancer Control & Population Science
University of New Mexico - Health Sciences Center
Moderator: Robert S. Seville, PhD
Clinical Pilots Projects Program (CP3) Associate Core Director
Concierge Network Chair
Professor
University of Wyoming

11:15 am–12:15 pm

Biomechanical Analysis of Knee Motion to Prevent and Treat Progression of Knee Osteoarthritis
Tyler N. Brown, PhD, CSCS
Associate Professor and Co-Director, Department of Kinesiology
Center for Orthopedic & Biomechanics Research
Boise State University

Native American Caregiver-Child Shared Book Reading Interactions: A Descriptive Study and Integrative Review
Mark Guiberson, PhD, CCC-SLP
Director & Professor, Communication Disorders - Child Language
University of Wyoming

Novel Identification of the Mechanosensitive Piezo 1 Channel in Pregnant Human Myometrium: Regulation of Quiescence
Iain L. O. Buxton, PharmD
Regents Professor and Foundation Professor, School of Medicine
University of Nevada, Reno

Leveraging Stretch-Activated Channels in the Uterus to Develop Novel Therapeutic Approaches to Halt Pre-term Labor
Scott D. Barnett, PhD
Assistant Professor, School of Medicine
University of Nevada, Reno

12:15 – 1:15 pm
Lunch  FOYER  *Snacks & Refreshments Available

1:15 – 2:15 pm
Clinical Pilot Projects Program (CP3) Core Meeting

Moderator (s): Curtis Noonan, PhD
Clinical Pilots Projects Program (CP3) Core Director
Professor
University of Montana

Robert S. Seville, PhD
Clinical Pilots Projects Program (CP3) Associate Core Director
Concierge Network Chair
Professor
University of Wyoming
PILOT GRANTEE PRESENTATIONS

Moderator: Robert S. Seville, PhD
Clinical Pilots Projects Program (CP3) Associate Core Director
Concierge Network Chair
Professor
University of Wyoming

2:15 – 3:30 pm

Genetic impact of COVID-19 infection and severity on Alzheimer’s disease
Jingchun Chen, MD, PhD
Associate Research Professor
Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Preliminary examination of guardian cap head impact data using instrumented mouthguards
Nicholas G. Murray, PhD, MA
Assistant Professor
School of Public Health
University of Nevada, Reno

Implementing the MOBILE Intervention in College Students with Elevated Blood Pressure
Dieu-My T. Tran, PhD, RN, CNE
Associate Professor
School of Nursing
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Effects of Matrix Metalloproteinase 9 Inhibition on Uterine Contraction and Birth Timing
Craig Ulrich, PhD
Research Assistant Professor
School of Medicine
University of Nevada, Reno
Heather Burkin, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacology
School of Medicine
University of Nevada, Reno

3:30 – 3:45 pm

Break FOYER • Snacks & Refreshments Available
3:45 – 5:00 pm

Development, Acceptability and Short-Term Outcomes of a Parent Module for Brief, Bullying Bystander Intervention for Middle School Students in Rural, Low-Income Communities
Aida Midgett, EdD, MA
Chair & Professor
Department of Counselor Education
Boise State University

Preventing Colorectal Anastomosis Failure with Finite Element Method (FEM) Validated with Ex-VIVO Model
Brian Ward, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Surgery
Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Mohamed Trabia, PhD
Associate Dean for Research
Graduate Studies & Computing
School of Engineering
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Circulating Plasma Angiotensin Peptides as Biomarkers of Rheumatoid Arthritis
Ali Aghazadeh-Habashi, PhD
Assistant Professor
Pharmacy
Idaho State University

Maximizing mobility in Parkinson's Disease: Effects of an Individualized training program on fall risk
Evan V. Papa, PT, DPT, PhD
Associate Professor
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
Idaho State University / Tufts University

Utilization of Geographic Information Systems to Assess Patient Access to Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES)
Renee Robinson, PharmD, MPH, MSPharm, MBA
Associate Professor
Pharmacy
Idaho State University

5:00 pm WRAP-UP & ADJOURN

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR ANNUAL MEETING!
We would like to thank the participation & support of:

- NIH / NIGMS
- Keynote Speakers
- Plenary Speakers
- Pilot Grantees
- Faculty of the MW CTR-IN Partner Institutions
- IAC & EAC Members
- Executive Committee Members
- PD, BERD, CP3, CEO, and T&E Cores
- Concierge Network
- Administrative Core Staff

We look forward to continuing our research collaborations with the following partner institutions:

- University of Alaska, Anchorage
- University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- Boise State University
- Idaho State University
- University of Idaho
- Montana State University
- University of Montana
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of Nevada, Reno
- University of New Mexico – Health Sciences Center
- New Mexico State University
- University of Wyoming