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PERSPECTIVES FROM THE TRACS DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of NC TraCS,

Thank you for taking the time to look over the work of the NC TraCS Institute—home of clinical and translational science at UNC-Chapel Hill. With our partners, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and North Carolina State University, our mission is to *accelerate high-impact research to improve human health*. Our center is a hub of activity for all things clinical and translational research—from new projects providing breakthroughs in translational science, to the variety of services and training we offer daily to investigators and aspiring researchers at UNC and our partners.

Now in our third year of this grant cycle, we are excited to see projects that began at the start of the cycle bearing fruit. On page 8, learn about our "Innovation to Impact (i2i)" awards. These projects ask important, pragmatic questions—we hope to be able to predict who will suffer complications from cancer-related care, to make timely interventions and avert poor outcomes. We also expect to better understand the complex interplay between social factors and health outcomes in order to give the right care to the right person at the right time.

NC TraCS is proud to sponsor innovative research and train the next generation of research professionals! Our pilot program (pages 9 and 12) supports innovative directions by creative scientists. The return on investment of these projects has been gratifying, with most projects spurring additional funding and scientific breakthroughs. Get to know our K12 Scholars (pages 19-20) to see the many faces of tomorrow's leaders in research—and read up on our multitude of efforts to provide training and services to professionals at all levels.

Now more than ever, research centers such as ours are called upon to demonstrate their value to human health. This report is both a testament to the many tangible ways in which NC TraCS benefits our community—and a promise to maintain a focus on the outcomes that matter to our patients.

To another year of great translational science,

Nick Shaheen, MD, MPH | PI & Director

DRIVING NORTH CAROLINA'S HEALTH FORWARD THROUGH INNOVATION

NC TraCS is a grant-funded institute founded as a service to the research community—a catalytic partner that educates, funds, connects, and supports researchers at UNC-Chapel Hill and across the U.S.

We are part of the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) consortium created by the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) with a common mission to accelerate discoveries into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public.

Together with our partners, we help advance the science of translation at UNC and beyond. We combine the research strengths, resources, and opportunities of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus and our partners: North Carolina State University in Raleigh and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (N.C. A&T) in Greensboro.



Advancing Research & Translation: Data-Driven Insights DATA: APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2025

DRIVING RESEARCH FORWARD



2,685 + research requests supported 1,042
researchers across 14 UNC Schools and over
20 + external institutions



46% of PIs return for additional support, reflecting long-term research partnerships

EMPOWERING RESEARCHERS WITH DATA

ADVANCING CLINICAL

research support

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE



Nearly **300** data requests supported from the Carolina Data Warehouse for Health (CDW-H) with our EHR Data Service

Our Clinical and Translational Research

Center (CTRC) supported 6,887 participant

investigators, providing 15,000 + hours of

Supported **611** + scientific publications , expanding the impact of our work



Offered over **200** training events with more than **6,000** participants

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF TRANSLATIONAL SCIENTISTS

13 early-career scholars trained in our K12 Junior Faculty Development Program, preparing them to lead innovations in therapeutics, clinical interventions, and behavioral health

FUELING RESEARCH

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	7

Our Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) Pilot Program is accelerating breakthroughs, funding 9 projects across 11 UNC departments, 4 schools, and 2 institutions to drive real-world health solutions

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

visits across 255 studies led by 99



- Formed a **300**-member community and patient network informing all aspects of research at UNC, with our partners, and across North Carolina
- Facilitated 38 meetings with 312 community/patient partners to integrate patient and community voices into research
- Trained 348 researchers across 37 institutions in our Engagement in Research Training Series

EXPANDING ACCESS TO RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES: RESEARCH FOR ME

- 48,000 + people expressed interest in joining research studies that began recruiting between April 2023 to March 2025
 - 8,300 + are registered on our study listing and clinical research education site, *Research* for Me—an increase of nearly 1,800 from the previous two years
 - Representation from 95 of North Carolina's 100 counties, highlighting broad statewide engagement 5

RAISING THE PROFILE OF TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE AT UNC AND OUR PARTNERS

CAROLINA Engagemen

CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAM (CTS-RP)

The CTS-RP supports innovative research addressing barriers in the translational research pipeline. Its three goals are to:

- 1. Enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of translational research
- 2. Expand CTS by integrating translational science with translational research
- 3. Address high-priority questions for rapid implementation within UNC Health and beyond



These projects are distinctly innovative, tackling critical scientific and operational challenges. Each project must address a translational research (TR) question in a specific disease or condition, paired with a new method or process that resolves a relevant translational science (TS) barrier. The developed TS method should not only solve the TR question, but also be broadly applicable across various diseases and conditions. These projects contribute to NCATS' initiative of accelerating the development of treatments for all people.

The next round of projects will start in fall 2025.

NC TraCS Clinical & Translational Science (CTS) Research Program

To learn more about the Innovation to Impact (i2i) awards, visit <u>tracs.unc.</u> <u>edu/services/cts-research-program</u>

ONGOING 121 AWARDS



Project 1: Transforming Cancer Care with Personalized Risk Prediction

Jennifer Elston Lafata, PhD, and Jacob Stein, MD, MPH, lead a project to transform cancer treatment through predictive modeling. Their team developed the Oncology Risk-Stratified Intervention System (OR-SIS) to personalize patient care by predicting risk of hospitalization in cancer patients using health records and clinical insights. Supported by a Clinical Advisory Panel, the system integrates feedback to refine its approach. The team created two models: a baseline risk model and a dynamic model adjusting to current factors and therapy. They secured buy-in from oncology leadership and are integrating OR-SIS into Epic. The team explores factors such as insurance status and rural residency, aiming to reduce health disparities. Their work offers insights for enhancing care across healthcare systems and chronic diseases.

See: Charting a new path to help cancer patients



Project 2: Enhancing Health Research with Better Data on Social Determinants of Health

Barbara Entwisle, PhD, and Emily Pfaff, PhD, lead a project to improve the measurement and use of social determinants of health (SDoH) in biomedical research. The team compares patient-reported Electronic Health Record (EHR) data, census tract-level data, and American Community Survey data to identify inaccuracies and explore SDoH impacts on diabetes outcomes. They created a linked dataset and are developing a toolkit to address inaccuracies in SDoH measures. Collaborating with primary care practices, they conduct interviews and focus groups to understand views on SDoH screening. Results will inform improvements in SDoH data collection, aiming to reduce patient questionnaire burden while maintaining essential information for care delivery.

See: Fine-tuning the social side of health research



Jennifer Lafata, PhD



Jacob Stein, MD, MPH



Barbara Entwisle, PhD



Emily Pfaff, PhD

FUNDING YOUR SCIENCE: CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL (CTS) PILOT PROGRAM

The CTS Pilot Program supports the field of translational science with one-year \$50,000 pilot grants to assist investigators in collecting data to support larger investigations—so that advances can be applied to research on any target or disease.

In Grant Year 2, we funded 4 projects:

Our CTS Pilot Program is accepting applications through **July 8, 2025**. Learn more at <u>tracs.unc.edu/services/</u> <u>pilot-program/cts</u>.

Read CTS Pilot Program stories at tracs.unc.edu/component/tags/tag/cts-pilot.





Aysenil Belger, PHD Alper Bozkurt, PhD, MSc

Integrated Digital Health platform to assess and respond to mental health crises in children and adolescents

Psychiatry, UNC School of Medicine Electrical & Computer Engineering, NC State University

Tessa Andermann, MD, MPH



Zhishan Guo, PhD



Ning Sui, PhD



Kevin Friede, MD

Developing an Efficient Translational Pipeline for Biospecimen Collection

Infectious Diseases — Department of Medicine, UNC School of Medicine

Illuminating the Prognostic Potential: Predicting the Drug Effects on Cancer Tumors with Deep Neural Network

Computer Science, NC State University Molecular & Structural Biochemistry, NC State University

Developing Methods for Gene Expression Analysis of Antiplatelet Drug Exposure

Cardiology — Department of Medicine, UNC School of Medicine



PARTNERS IN TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Innovating Collaborations with our Partners, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and North Carolina State University

In our ongoing commitment to fostering innovation and progress, we proudly share highlights of our translational science collaborations with N.C. A&T and NC State. These partnerships drive groundbreaking research, advance educational opportunities, and create impactful solutions to real challenges across our state.

Supporting innovative brain research: In Vitro Modeling and the NERVE Center Initiative

The brain is a complicated organ. Our heads contain a dense network of neurons and glial cells that link and weave around each other, interspersed with blood vessels and glands—all encased within the hard shell of

the human skull. As a result, it can be difficult for researchers to get a good look at everything going on in the brain. But Yeoheung Yun, PhD, a professor of bioengineering at **North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University**, is making brain research a little easier.

Yun studies *in vitro* brain modeling, creating microcosms of the brain's complex inner workings in the lab to help researchers better understand diseases like Alzheimer's. And in 2024, he received an Enhancing Biomedical Engineering, Imaging, and Technology Acceleration (eBEITA) grant from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) a division of NIH. This grant, designed for Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), will establish the NERVE (Neurovascular Engineering Research and adVanced Education) center, where Yun will be able to further his team's research on



Yeoheung Yun, PhD



PARTNERS IN TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE cont.

technologies like organoids and nanoparticles. In addition, the NERVE center will establish the first standalone bioengineering PhD program at an HBCU.

David Carroll, the Director of Research Funding and Development at NC TraCS, provided Yun with strategic guidance and expertise that elevated the quality and competitiveness of the grant proposal—the latest collaboration in a long-standing relationship between Yun and Carroll. The NERVE Center

"I have worked with Dr. Yun since 2014, shortly after I joined TraCS and he was a junior faculty member," Carroll said. "We worked extensively on his SCORE 3 (SC3) application to study biodegradable magnesium stents, his first successful NIH grant, the renewal of the SC3, and several other successful applications since. My role is to ensure that his excellent and exciting research is presented in as clear and compelling a manner as possible, and we work well together to achieve this." The NERVE Center exemplifies translational science by developing broadly applicable tools and technologies—such as vascularized organoids and machine learning pipelines—to overcome known translational bottlenecks in brain research. Its focus on building sustainable infrastructure reflects a commitment to strengthening the translational workforce and accelerating innovation systemwide. While targeting Alzheimer's and other brain diseases, the Center's outputs are designed for broad utility, positioning it as a catalyst for future translational breakthroughs.

"David's expertise in grant editing and proposal organization has been invaluable in strengthening submissions for various funding agencies, including NIH, NSF, and DoD," Yun said. "His ability to provide clear, insightful feedback under tight deadlines is truly exceptional, making him an indispensable resource for successful grant applications."



PARTNERS IN TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE cont.

CTS Pilot Program supports cross-disciplinary science at partner institutions

Chronic stress has been linked to a variety of health conditions, from heart disease to mental health concerns such as depression. To help people deal with these challenges, health researchers need to understand how stress affects the body but stress itself is a complex biological response that can be difficult to study holistically, involving everything from an increasing heart rate to the release of different hormones to psychological anxiety.

A pilot project grant from NC TraCS is working to help researchers make sense of stress. Alper Bozkurt, PhD, MSc, an electrical engineer at **North Carolina State University**, and Aysenil Belger, PhD, a biological psychologist at the UNC School of Medicine, are developing a stress-tracking device that can be worn on a person's wrist. The device will be able to measure a range of stress-related factors such as heart rate, electrodermal activity (a method of tracking part of a person's autonomic nervous system), and even ambient temperature and humidity—moving us one step closer to timely delivery of targeted clinical and behavioral treatments.

Such a device could help clinicians understand how stress affects their patients throughout the day, and what might be triggering that stress. It could also help researchers study and treat mental health in people dealing with the aftermath of humanitarian or natural disasters. Eventually, the goal is to have the device charged entirely by the heat and motion of the human body, allowing it to be used with limited interruptions.

This stress-tracking device aims to provide a broadly applicable tool that addresses the significant challenge of conducting stress research in humans by integrating real-time monitoring of multiple physiological factors. It is novel in its approach, tackling the barrier of collecting real-world data in remote, resourcelimited areas, thereby improving the efficiency of both research and clinical interventions.

NC STATE UNIVERSITY



SUPPORTING THE RESEARCH JOURNEY FROM INCEPTION TO INNOVATION

At NC TraCS, we support innovative research from the initial idea to its impact. The following stories illustrate how we've helped projects grow and succeed. From first concept to translational science, we celebrate the journey of discovery and the significant contributions our institute has made in advancing research at UNC and throughout North Carolina.



LEVERAGING DATA TO SUPPORT WESTERN NC AFTER HURRICANE HELENE

In recent years, virtual medicine has been on the rise across the country—a trend accelerated after the COVID-19 pandemic began. Virtual care technology, like video visits with a doctor, can be very convenient for patients, and many clinicians are excited about using virtual medicine in their practice. But, like any new development, virtual care also brings new questions and concerns, as clinicians and researchers need to ensure that the rise of virtual healthcare isn't leaving any patients behind.

ViVE, the Center for Virtual Care Value and Excellence at UNC, is taking on this challenge with a translational science approach. The center was founded with an RC2 grant from NCATS, which is only available to universities with a CTSA hub such as NC TraCS. The ViVE team, led by UNC School of Nursing researcher Saif Khairat, PhD, MPH, focuses on understanding who's using virtual care, how they're using it, and The framework and findings from ViVE are highly generalizable, offering robust solutions for a wide array of research questions that drive critical decision-making. ViVE's work aims to enhance healthcare access and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of care through systemslevel approaches. Central to this effort is the development of a standard framework for valuecentered (VC) research, which strengthens the ability to create, implement, and evaluate evidencebased solutions. This framework empowers researchers to tackle common challenges in the VC research process, including infrastructure deficiencies, digital readiness, and cultural barriers, thereby facilitating more effective and widespread application of research outcomes.

Read more at: <u>www.unc.edu/discover/nursings-vive-center-</u> <u>deployed-data-for-disaster-response</u>

the roadblocks they may encounter—the data needed to understand how well the virtual medicine ecosystem is functioning. In addition, the team is helping other researchers design and evaluate research on virtual medicine.

Last year, ViVE was able to use some of its data on factors like internet and vehicle access to inform disaster response efforts after Hurricane Helene devastated western North Carolina. Similarly, the center's Digital Health Index project is working to help researchers, providers, and officials across the country understand the factors that affect access to virtual healthcare.



PARTNERING TO SCREEN NEWBORNS FOR RARE GENETIC DISEASES

What if we could catch life-threatening genetic diseases in newborns before they even show symptoms? The Early Check study is making this possible. Newborn screening is a vital public health service that plays a crucial role in safeguarding the long-term health and survival of children by enabling early detection, diagnosis, and intervention for various conditions.

Early Check is a research study that offers voluntary testing for medical conditions not included in the North Carolina standard newborn NC TraCS supported this project with multiple services including Recruitment & Retention, the Research Coordination & Management Unit (RCMU), Regulatory, Informatics & Data Science (IDSci), Patient and Community Engagement in Research (PaCER), Assessment, Design, & Analysis for Population validiTy (ADAPT), and the Research Ethics and Team Science resources.

screening panel. It is a collaboration between three North Carolina CTSA hubs (UNC, Duke, and Wake Forest), RTI International, and the NC Division of Public Health. The goal of the project is to identify children with rare genetic diseases before symptoms appear and study the benefits of early treatments. Throughout the study, Early Check has tested nearly 14,000 newborns and identified three babies with spinal muscular atrophy or SMA, a serious neuromuscular disease that may cause early death if not treated. One of these children became the first at UNC to receive a breakthrough gene therapy treatment for SMA.

The Early Check newborn screening project has effectively addressed one of the significant barriers in translational science: recruitment of participants for large-scale, multisite research. By testing various no- or low-touch recruitment strategies, the research team has innovated the process of engaging participants. They have implemented electronic formats for educational materials and streamlined the informed consent process through an e-consent portal. This approach has proven successful, with 34% of users on the Early Check e-consent portal agreeing to participate in the study. These efforts not only enhance recruitment efficiency but also demonstrate the potential for scalable solutions in translational research. By evaluating scalable strategies for early rare disease detection and participant engagement, the project generates insights that can inform future translational efforts beyond newborn screening.



RINGING IN INNOVATION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

Imagine a world where cutting-edge technology meets women's health, revolutionizing treatments and empowering women globally this is the vision driving Rahima Benhabbour, PhD, and her groundbreaking research. Benhabbour is a biomedical engineer at UNC whose work focuses on developing advanced, patient-centered solutions for improving women's health. Her lab has explored various innovations including ultra-long-acting injectable formulations for HIV prevention, thin-film technologies for treating chronic vulvar pain, and biodegradable implants capable of releasing multiple drugs simultaneously.

One of her most notable achievements is the development of the first 3D-printed intravaginal ring, which could transform how women receive treatments for infertility, HIV, menopause, and more. She hopes to create systems that will empower women around the world, giving them NC TraCS has been pivotal in advancing Benhabbour's innovative research on 3D-printed intravaginal rings as a customizable drug-delivery platform. Through comprehensive services, including Career Development, Pilot Funding, and Regulatory assistance, NC TraCS enabled the early stages of this groundbreaking work. Pilot funding was crucial for initial research and development, while regulatory support helped navigate the uncharted territory of FDA approval for 3D-printed intravaginal rings. As a TraCS KL2 scholar, Benhabbour received crucial training and development, which she describes as a springboard for her career. These combined efforts underscore our commitment to fostering pioneering scientific endeavors.

View the video featuring Benhabbour at: tracs.unc.edu/about

more control over their reproductive health. To commercialize the intravaginal ring, Benhabbour founded the start-up company AnelleO with the motto: "Where 3D printing meets women's health."

Benhabbour's development of a 3D-printed intravaginal ring exemplifies translational science by introducing innovative drug delivery methods to address unmet needs in women's health across a vast number of health conditions. It advances a customizable, patient-centered platform that could transform how women's health is delivered across multiple care settings.



FDA APPROVAL: MULTI-FACETED EXPERTISE ENABLES LANDMARK STUDY OF NEW FOOD ALLERGY DRUG

What if children with severe food allergies could finally eat without fear? The OUtMATCH trial has made this possible. OUtMATCH, a multi-center clinical trial funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, tested a monoclonal antibody, omalizumab, for reducing allergic reactions in multi-food allergic children. Previously, oral immunotherapy was the only approved treatment for food allergies.

In February 2024, the FDA approved omalizumab for the reduction of allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. This approval offers a new treatment option that allows multi-food allergic children to consume an increased amount of peanut, tree nuts, egg, milk, and wheat without At UNC-Chapel Hill, this trial was led by Edwin Kim, MD, and conducted at the NC TraCS Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC). The CTRC provided essential space, skilled staff, and logistical support to facilitate treatment visits and ensure smooth protocol implementation throughout the study. NC TraCS Informatics and Data Science also supported OUtMATCH by using the Carolina Data Warehouse for Health (a central data repository containing clinical, research, and administrative data sourced from the UNC Health System) for identifying potential patients for recruitment into the trial.

an allergic reaction, thus reducing potentially life-threatening reactions to accidental exposures. *National Geographic* included this research in their **Seven Medical Breakthroughs that Changed Medicine in 2024**.

This work reflects translational science by exploring a single therapeutic approach with the potential to treat multiple food allergies, moving beyond the traditional model of allergen-specific treatments. Additionally, if the drug proves effective without requiring desensitization therapy—a major barrier of traditional Oral Immunotherapy—it could help establish a more efficient, patient-centered treatment model, exemplifying an innovation in the translational process itself.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOLARS

Gene Orringer Junior Faculty Career Development Program (TraCS K12)

The NC TraCS K12 Program trains and develops earlystage investigators to conduct translational science. The scholars conduct TS projects and receive training to develop leadership and mentoring skills in the principles of TS with input and support from their mentors, the program co-PIs, and affiliated faculty and staff. Meet the scholars from Grant Year 2 (pages 20-21).

Read profiles about some of our scholars at <u>tracs.unc.edu/</u> <u>component/tags/tag/tracs-scholar-</u> <u>profiles</u>.

K12 Co-Pls



Michelle Hernandez, MD Professor of Pediatrics UNC School of Medicine



Jon Juliano, MD, MSPH, DTM&H Professor of Medicine UNC School of Medicine **K** Scholars

106

Scholars since 2008

\$28.7M

in funding support

90%

have attained subsequent funding

CURRENT K12 SCHOLARS



Bianca Allison, MD



Samuel Baxter, PhD



Kelly Caravella, PhD



Matthew Egberg, MD



Owen Fenton, PhD

Developing a Novel Adolescent-Centered Contraceptive Counseling Training Program for Pediatric Providers to Maximize Reproductive Autonomy

Pediatrics UNC School of Medicine

Identifying Gaps and Agreement in Nutrition Security Measurement Among Diverse Men with Hypertension

Health Policy & Management Gillings School of Global Public Health

Expediting Enrollment into Autism Specific Intervention for Black Toddlers: A Telehealth-based Family Navigation Approach

Psychiatry UNC School of Medicine

Molecular Phenotyping of the Pediatric Inflammatory Diseases

Pediatrics, Gastroenterology UNC School of Medicine

Pre-Clinical Evaluation of mRNA Lipid Nanoparticle Therapies

Pharmacoengineering and Molecular Pharmaceutics UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy

CURRENT K12 SCHOLARS cont.



Klara Klein, MD, PhD



Andrew Satterlee, PhD



Stephen Schworer, MD, PhD



Andreea Waltmann, PhD

Translating Effective Therapies to Practice: Enhancing Community Practice Participation in Clinical Trials

Endocrinology UNC School of Medicine

Advancing the Organotypic Brain Slice Culture Platform toward Functional Precision Diagnosis of Brain Tumors

UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy

Defining the Microenvironment of Asthmatic Airways Using an Airway Explant System

Allergy/Immunology UNC School of Medicine

Integration of Controlled Human Infection Models and Emergent Single-cell Technologies for Accelerated Precision Vaccinology of Difficult Pathogens

Infectious Disease UNC School of Medicine

NC Tracs Services & Programs

To promote our mission of accelerating high-impact research to improve human health, NC TraCS organizes our collective activities into six categories.



EXPLORING THE RESEARCH: REACHING AUDIENCES WITHIN ACADEMIA AND BEYOND

These metrics reflect both academic influence and broader reach—showing how research shapes scholarly work, public health policy, clinical guidelines, and conversations in the media and online.

	Featured in	
611	2,449	6
scientific publications	news stories and blogs	patents awarded
Cited	Mentioned in	Referenced in
2,677	24,435	6
times in academic journals	posts on by 19,706 unique users across 152 countries	policy documents

Top 10 Most-popular subject areas published by NC TraCS-supported researchers

407	200			
	Health Sciences			
	44	41	20 Information	14 یا یا
			Computing	
	Biological		matical 7	5 Education
Biomedical and Clinical Sciences	Sciences	Psychology	Society	Chemical Sciences 4

Data April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025 | by subject area (numbers indicate count of publications citing our Institute during this period)

EXPLORING THE RESEARCH cont.

High Impact Publications (April 2024 to March 2025)

"Favorable antiviral effect of metformin on SARS-CoV-2 viral load in a randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial of COVID-19" — *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 2024. John Buse (UNC-affiliated co-author).

Read at <u>academic.oup.com/cid/article/79/2/354/7660393</u>.

This manuscript presents the finding of a clinical trial examining the antiviral effects of metformin, a widely used diabetes medication, on SARS-CoV-2 viral load. The clinical trial, which was supported by the NC TraCS Clinical & Translational Research Center (CTRC), found that metformin significantly reduced viral load in individuals with COVID-19 compared to a placebo, suggesting a potential therapeutic benefit. These findings support further investigation into repurposing metformin as a treatment for COVID-19. Altmetric Attention Score Reflects how much attention a research publication has received across sources like news media, policy documents, and social media platforms.



In the top 5% of all research products scored by Altmetrics. Attention Score is in the top 1% compared to products of the same age.

"Once-weekly semaglutide in adults with alcohol use disorder" — JAMA Psychiatry, 2025. Christian Hendershot, Michael Bremmer, Michael Paladino, Georgios Kostantinis, Thomas Gilmore, Neil Sullivan, Amanda Tow, Robyn Jordan, Klara Klein (UNC-affiliated co-authors).

Read at jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2829811.

This publication reports the findings of an investigation into the effects of once-weekly semaglutide in adults with alcohol use disorder. Researchers found that semaglutide significantly reduced alcohol consumption compared to a control group, suggesting its potential as a pharmacological treatment for alcohol use disorder. These findings highlight the need for further research on GLP-1 receptor agonists in addiction treatment.



In the top 5% of all research products scored by Altmetrics. Attention Score is in the top 1% compared to products of the same age.

EXPLORING THE RESEARCH cont.

"Endometrial thickness as diagnostic triage for endometrial cancer among Black individuals" — *JAMA Oncology*, 2024. Erin Carey and Til Stürmer (UNCaffiliated co-authors).

Read at jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaoncology/fullarticle/2820528.

This publication, supported by NC TraCS services including Informatics and Data Science (IDSci), evaluates the potential of using endometrial thickness as a diagnostic triage tool for endometrial cancer in Black individuals. The research highlights how measuring endometrial thickness could improve early detection and diagnosis of endometrial cancer, particularly in populations with historically lower screening rates. These findings suggest that endometrial thickness could serve as a cost-effective and accessible screening approach.



In the top 5% of all research products scored by Altmetrics. Attention Score is in the top 1% compared to products of the same age.

View our April 2023 to March 2025-supported publications in PubMed

View altmetrics report for publications since 2008

JOIN US IN MAKING AN IMPACT

Thank you for taking the time to read our Impact Report. We are incredibly proud of what we've achieved together in the last year and are excited about the opportunities ahead.

Explore the multitude of opportunities to collaborate with us across our diverse array of services, resources, and programs. Whether you're seeking support for research projects, access to specialized training, or pathways to develop and commercialize a product, NC TraCS is here to facilitate collaboration and foster innovation.

Our team provides solutions and fosters partnerships that drive translational science forward. Let's work together to achieve your research goals and make meaningful contributions to advancing healthcare and improving patient outcomes.

Explore opportunities with us

Learn more about our services, resources, and programs: tracs.unc.edu/services

Stay connected and learn more about our institute by attending our events: <u>tracs.unc.edu/calendar</u>

Contact us



WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER THAN WE ARE APART.

NC TraCS is deeply grateful for the support of our partner academic institutions UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. A&T, and NC State—and for the support of the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), our funding agency.

This support will be essential for us to continue to thrive in our complex medical research environment.

CTSA Clinical & Translational [®] Science Awards

NC TraCS is funded by the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health, grant **UM1TR004406**.

Additional funding for NC TraCS comes from UNC Health, the State of North Carolina, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, UNC School of Medicine, and the UNC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Economic Development.