NIH Awards from the National Center for Research Resources

Principal investigator: Philip Greenland, preventive medicine and NUCATS director, Feinberg School of Medicine

- **Project:** Multidisciplinary Clinical and Translational Science (MCTS) Program (UL1)
- **Start Date:** September 30, 2009
- **Total Award Amount (two awards):** $2,479,245

**How the results of this project will benefit society:**

The mission of the NUCATS Institute is to accelerate the translation of research discoveries to improve human health. As an integral link in Northwestern University’s clinical and translational research enterprise, including schools, partners and medical affiliates, NUCATS accelerates translational innovation by providing research teams with consultative resources and expertise. The Institute is valued as a complete partner and is strategically positioned to remove the roadblocks that slow interdisciplinary clinical and translational research. This approach promotes a dynamic research environment focused on discoveries and solutions to improve human health. Each project funded under the ARRA supplement supports the development of cross-disciplinary scientific teams focused on accelerating biomedical research.

**The problem the project is trying to solve:**

Translational research has been limited by knowledge and communications gaps between the front lines of the clinic and the research lab. The major principle driving the NUCATS’ program of teaching, research development, and infrastructure is that an integrated and focused research organization can propel the translation of research findings into improved patient care and population health more rapidly and effectively than the decentralized approaches to clinical and translational research that exist in most academic institutions. The four programs funded under the ARRA supplement address key challenges in translational research:

1. **Engineering in Medicine Program Between McCormick School of Engineering and the Feinberg School of Medicine**—two programs addresses education and training in clinical and translational research for engineering post-doctoral trainees and creates a new mini-sabbatical fellowship for engineering faculty to collaborate in a clinical or translational research lab at FSM.

2. **Centralized Clinical Studies Informatics Infrastructure**—Developed with the University Office of Research, NMH Office of Research Compliance, and NMFF, the web-based workflow system, eNOTIS, will provide the ability to share clinical trials information, integrate with the IRB and centralize process across the University to advance the pace at which clinical and translational research is conducted.

3. **Biomedical Intelligence Core.** Building on partnership between NUCATS and Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management, the goal of this collaboration is to better understand the potential application of and addressable market for biomedical research projects.

4. **Science of Team Science Learning Module.** Northwestern leads this emerging discipline examining the process by which transdisciplinary research teams organize themselves. Researchers from Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine, Kellogg School of Management and the School of Education and Social Policy are involved in this project, which will produce online learning modules, intended to draw new students into the field.

**How the project will work:**

Faculty across Northwestern are leading and collaborating on the individual projects. This is truly a proof-point for traction the NUCATS Institute is making in catalyzing health research collaborations across Northwestern and its medical affiliates. The Institute is a member of the Clinical and Translational Science Award consortium, which is led by NCRR. More information on NUCATS can be found at: http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu.

The award is funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment act of 2009, NIH award numbers 3UL1RR025741-02S1, S2, S3, S4

At Northwestern — research thrives!

Interdisciplinary teams work to solve society’s problems and facilitate commercialization of innovation.

www.research.northwestern.edu