



NETWORK UPDATE

March 2009

[Pilot Study – Effects of Vitamin D3 \[25\(OH\)D3\] on Vascular Function and Cardiovascular Risk Factors](#)

The Pilot study teams will meet for the second review with the Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) on Tuesday, March 17, 2009. Plans are in development for the DTCC to administer Electronic Data Capture (EDC) training. The software application was initially introduced to the research community at the 11th Annual RCMI Symposium held December 2008.

[Collaborative Projects](#)

Clinical Network Feasibility Awards. We are pleased to announce that the **Research Centers in Minority Institutions Translational Research Network (RTRN)**, in partnership with **Duke University Medical Center** and the **Duke Translational Medicine Institute**, was awarded a Clinical Research Network Feasibility Award (CRNFA) by the National Institute of Health (NIH). The collaborative partnership was one of six to be awarded in the February 2009 selection process. For more information, visit http://www.rtrn.net/collaboration/multisite_collaboration1.htm.

[External Advisory Committee \(EAC\)](#)

An upcoming RTRN External Advisory Committee (EAC) meeting will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009 in Los Angeles, California. EAC members should contact Susan Ordinado, University of Hawaii, at susano@hawaii.edu or call 808-692-1805 for additional information.

[Steering Committee and Subcommittees](#)

SAVE THIS DATE: The second **Steering Committee Meeting** for year two will be held ***Thursday, April 2, 2009, at 3:00pm Eastern***. The meeting will be scheduled as a webinar to allow members to view and discuss various reports and documents pertaining to network operations. All Steering Committee members and subcommittee chairs/co-chairs are asked to participate. The meeting agenda, supporting documents and webinar access information will be disseminated during the week of March 16. Additional information will be posted to the RTRN web site, located under the Steering Committee Button on the homepage.

CONGRATULATIONS! The *Ethics and Regulatory (E&R) subcommittee's* abstract submission to the Association of University Technology Managers Conference (www.AUTM.net) for presentation at their upcoming June regional Meeting, "GOING GLOBAL: INNOVATION WITHOUT BORDERS", has been accepted. E&R's presentation titled, "The RCMI Translational Research Network as a Model for Global Health: Community at the Heart of Innovative Research and Technology Transfer," will be presented at the 2008 AUTM Eastern Region Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The subcommittee's session will take place as part of the Track II program on June 15th from 1:30 to 3pm.

NIH Council Meeting has been rescheduled for September 2009 in Washington, D.C.

Working Groups

The **RTRN Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (B&CB) Working Group** is currently conducting a survey on the RCMI's Bioinformatics and Computation Biology capabilities and needs. The survey, available on the RTRN web site, can still be completed by RCMI centers which have not already participated. Compiled from the submitted surveys, The B&CB Working Group will present monthly overviews of the 18 RCMI sites capabilities and needs. Their webinars, tentatively scheduled for the last Thursday of each month, will feature two presentations. The next B&CB Working Group webinar is scheduled for:

Thursday March 26, 2009 at 1:00 pm EASTERN
Dr. Jose Conde, RCMI Program UPR Medical Sciences Campus
Dr. Ming-Ying Leung, University of Texas at El Paso

Webinar Access Information will be disseminated to the RTRN community via LISTSERV and posted to the Bioinformatics & Computational Biology Working Group page on the RTRN web site, http://www.rtrn.net/subcommittee_wg/bioinformatics_and_computational.htm.

More than 40 participants took part in the second webinar in the **RTRN DTCC BIostatistics Seminar Series** held on February 18, 2009 at 2pm CST. Dr. Jimmy Efid, University of Hawaii, presented on Sample Calculation and Power Analysis. The webinar is available for viewing at http://www.rtrn.net/education_training/webcasts1.htm.

Distinguished Lecture Series

Dr. Raphael Isokpehi, Professor of Biology (Jackson State University) and Co-lead of the RTRN Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Working Group, will make a presentation on "Prioritized Genes for Translational Research on Comorbidity of Bipolar Disorder with Substance Abuse", at the 2009 American Medical Informatics Association Summit on Translational Bioinformatics. The session entitled, S16: Text Mining and Ontology for Molecular and Clinical Discoveries, will be held on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 1:30pm. The three-day summit is scheduled for March 15-17, 2009, in San Francisco.

Morehouse School of Medicine/RCMI Program's is hosting its Technology of Science seminar series which runs from January through April 2009. The annual series highlights the RCMI core facilities and the technology and equipment. The seminar schedule will be posted to www.rtrn.net.

We are asking **EACH RCMI CENTER** to submit information on **1 - 3 speaker events** that will take place at your institution between February – July 2009. Please provide:

- Featured Speaker/Presenter
- Title/name of the event
- Date and Time
- Location
- Method of Delivery (i.e., on-site, webinar, videoconference)

- Contact person

Please complete the electronic Announcement form on the RTRN web site by accessing the link, <http://dtccweb.rtrn.net/SubmitAnnouncements/>.

DTCC Activities

- The ISTI division is working to eliminate the VPN log-in feature currently required to access the collaborative tools on the RTRN web site. Changes are being made to the RTRN Portal Log-in page to ensure our users can more easily access the tools available for collaboration and information-sharing. The user will arrive at a page that will have a single sign-on prompt (one user ID and password), eliminating the need to download the VPN application previously required for Portal access. In addition, displayed on the page will be links to direct the user to a specific work section. Thus eliminating the need to visit the RTRN Portal homepage which is equipped with numerous navigation paths and options. The new page layout will allow the user to more easily navigate to areas of interest such as e-mail, workspace folders, calendar, etc. ISTI expects the project to be completed by the first of April 2009.
- Your April Issue of the RTRN's Monthly Update will have a new look. The Communications Division is currently working on a new layout and style for the monthly Network Update. The monthly newsletter is being formatted into an electronic version that will include hyperlinks to additional information and graphics.

RCMI

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY will host its 5th Annual National Symposium on Prostate Cancer and RCMI Program Directors Meeting. The symposium will feature renowned prostate cancer researchers, some who have returned from previous symposiums to celebrate this anniversary year. Topics of interest will be geared toward the scientific community and individuals seeking to increase their awareness for prevention, early detection and treatment. The symposium will begin on March 15 with a 6 p.m. welcome reception. Visit www.ccrtd.cau.edu for the complete agenda.

RCMI Program Directors Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2009, 9:00AM – 3:00pm

Thomas W. Cole Jr. Research Center, Clark Atlanta University

Visit <http://www.rtrn.net/news/Events.htm> for the program agenda.

RTRN Web site

Work on the RTRN web site continues as we regularly update the site with the latest information and announcements from the RCMI institutions as well as provide improved functionalities for the network's members. In the coming months, we look forward to unveiling the RTRN web site equipped with state-of-art functionalities including video, audio and animation. With your help, we would like to incorporate multi-media components that highlight the research activities at your centers.

Here are a few of the updates to the RTRN web site:

- RTRN Portal Log-in page will be a single sign-on (one user ID and password) and specific links to direct the user to a specific work section. This eliminates the need to visit the RTRN Portal homepage which is equipped with numerous navigation paths and options.
- All announcements, general inquiries, multi-media service requests, etc. should be sent to communications@rtrn.net or by completing on-line forms accessible at http://www.rtrn.net/collaboration/electronic_request_forms.htm.

The forms are routinely being updated based on the input and feedback submitted by our users.

We will continue to work on the site to ensure it becomes more dynamic and resourceful. We welcome your comments and suggestions pertaining to the RTRN website, www.rtrn.net.

This Network Update has been prepared for the RTRN community to keep you abreast of network milestones and the numerous activities of the RCMI centers. We will distribute these updates on a monthly basis. **Please provide comments and/or suggestions to communications@rtrn.net.** Continue to visit www.rtrn.net for additional news and information.