Thank you to all the clinical staff that assists with research. Your cooperation is vital to our mission of improving care for acutely ill patients through scientific study. We are always available. Please call with any questions or potential candidates for a research study.

Page: (Presby In-house) 7777 Or Long-range 412-958-0957

IBIS
Enhanced Detection of Pathogens in Burn Wounds Using a Novel Multi-primer PCR/Mass Spectrometric Assay

This study is a sample collection of discarded tissue in patients with significant burns. These patients undergo one or more wound debridements (removal of dead skin/tissue) and wound cultures (sampling the tissue for bacteria) before reconstruction. The studies on this tissue will be focused on molecular analyses for infection and bacterial sensitivities, and investigating ways to optimize burn wound healing.

Through a collaboration between MACRO and the Department of Plastic Surgery, 175 subjects have been enrolled, and 264 samples have been collected.

Justin Barry and Kim Farrell have been essential in referring potential patients to the MACRO Research Associates (RA) who then consent these subjects. MACRO RA participation began at Mercy in February 2014; they have prepped 118 sample tubes for collection by surgeons.

Justin and Kim are both Senior Physician Assistants for GI Surgery in the Mercy Trauma Department. Dr. Sandeep Kathju is the Principal Investigator.

“SUPER Research Associates”

Super Research Associates (RA) are recent graduates of the University of Pittsburgh and former undergrad RAs. They offer support to MACRO Coordinators on special research projects and provide another level of oversight and training to the current undergrad RAs.

Michal Hammond graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with an Emergency Medicine degree. Her work experiences as a paramedic greatly enhance her interest and skill in research, particularly in prehospital studies. Michal is presently working on a quality assurance chart review of analgesia administered to pediatric trauma patients in the prehospital setting while in the process of applying to medical schools for the fall of 2015.

Danyelle Fraser graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a B.S. in Psychology and has worked with the Department of Critical Care Medicine for the past 2 years as an RA. She trains many undergraduate RAs on the protocols for MACRO studies. After spending this next year thoroughly immersed in research with MACRO, Danyelle plans to attend Physician Assistant School.

(Left to right: Michal Hammond & Danyelle Fraser)
Dr. Bryan McVerry joins MACRO Executive Committee

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Bryan J. McVerry, Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Associate Director of the UPMC Medical Intensive Care Unit to MACRO! Dr. McVerry’s clinical interest and expertise focus on ARDS, early implementation of physical rehabilitation in the ICU, and endocrine dysregulation in critical illness. Dr. McVerry will represent the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine on the MACRO Executive Committee, joining his colleagues from the Departments of Emergency Medicine, Surgery, and Critical Care Medicine. Dr. John Reilly, Chair of Medicine, has also joined the MACRO Steering Committee, which is comprised of the Chairs of MACRO’s parent Departments.

WELCOME OUR NEW PROJECT MANAGER, Ashley Ryman

Ashley graduated from Bloomsburg University with a BS in Secondary Education and a BA in English. She began her research career at the Geisinger Center for Health Research Outcomes Research Institute in early 2011. Throughout her nearly four year tenure at Geisinger, Ashley assisted in the design, execution, and management of several epidemiological and outcomes-based studies. Her most notable study was a multi-site NIH behavioral economics RCT focused on patient and physician incentives and adherence to cholesterol lowering medications.

During her free time, Ashley enjoys reading classical literature, completing crossword puzzles, and playing with her two cats, Salem and Achilles.

MEET OUR NEWEST CLINICAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR, Andrew Jockers

Andrew has his undergraduate degree in Physics from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA and then attended Duquesne University here in Pittsburgh where he earned a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Medical Studies and a Masters in Health Management Systems.

Andrew is bringing several years of bench laboratory research as well as considerable clinical experience through internships with the Oral Maxillofacial Surgery team at Allegheny General Hospital as well as several different internship appointments in the University of Pittsburgh Dental School where he also worked on an NIH funded research project.

Andrew is extremely excited to join the MACRO team and looks forward to contributing to the amazing work being done at Pitt/UPMC.
SPOTLIGHT on MACRO Research Associates

We would like to recognize Victoria Bianco, Janara Koehler, Margaret Russell, and Joshua Strawins for their hard work and outstanding performance over the past several months.

Victoria Bianco

Victoria is currently a junior at the University of Pittsburgh. She aspires to go to medical school and become a physician, potentially in the field of neurology, radiology, or orthopedics. Besides all of the school work that aspiration entails, she spends her time doing philanthropy work with her sorority and coaching gymnastics whenever possible.

Janara Koehler

Janara is currently a senior at Pitt, with a biology major and chemistry and theatre arts minors. She will be applying to Post Bach programs to receive her Master’s in Public Health or Biological Sciences before going on to medical school. She loves to sing and play the piano.

Margaret Russell

Margaret is currently applying to medical schools this cycle and hopes to pursue obstetrics and gynecology. Her interests include cooking and watching the American Ninja Warrior.

Josh Strawins

Josh enjoys playing golf in his off time and following sports especially those in the Pittsburgh area. After college, he intends to pursue a career in the medical field.
Upcoming Study

Study of Tranexamic Acid during Air Medical Prehospital Transport (STAAMP) Trial

PI – Jason L. Sperry, Co-PI- Frank X. Guyette

STAAMP is a multi-center, prospective, randomized, blinded, controlled interventional trial over 3 years focusing on patients with concern for bleeding who are transported via air medical transport to definitive care.

This study will be conducted over 3 years. The University of Pittsburgh will serve as the Coordinating Center. Participating sites include:

University of Pittsburgh
University of Arizona
University of Texas, San Antonio
University of Utah

MACRO would particularly like to thank Pat Seddon, RN, Unit Director of PUH dialysis center, for her dedication to this trial, and making EUPHRATES execution possible at UPMC.

EUPHRATES
Got Sepsis?

The EUPHRATES trial is the world’s first theragnostics trial conducted in the area of sepsis. Theragnostics, a combination of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, is a relatively new way of approaching patient care for sepsis. The power of theragnostics is the ability to direct a treatment that is appropriate and personalized for a specific patient. In the EUPHRATES trial, the EAA™ will be used to determine the level of endotoxin in the bloodstream of a patient with septic shock, and if EAA™ is elevated (≥ 0.6 EAA™ units) the patient is eligible to be randomized to Toraymyxin blood hemofiltration plus standard of care or, standard of care alone.

As of November 2014, 308 subjects have been enrolled nationwide in EUPHRATES among 50 clinical sites in the United States and Canada. Following the 1st interim analysis, the overall target enrollment increased from 360 to 650 subjects for this trial. The University of Pittsburgh has enrolled 27 subjects and anticipates continued enrollment.

MACRO would particularly like to thank Pat Seddon, RN, Unit Director of PUH dialysis center, for her dedication to this trial, and making EUPHRATES execution possible at UPMC.

Happy Holidays from MACRO

Pictured above: Members of MACRO take a break to pose with Santa. The group volunteered to collect donations for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank during the Peoples Holiday Gas Market at downtown Market Square.
Active Recruiting Studies

Presby/Montefiore ICUs & Floors

- ELAD - Extracorporeal liver assist device for alcohol induced liver decompensation.
  PI - Ali Al-Khafaji
- EUPHRATES - Endotoxin filtration using dialysis circuit for septic patients.
  PI - David Huang
- GRAIL - A study for prevention of cytomegalovirus (CMV) in patients who have an established respiratory failure, including ALI, associated with either severe sepsis or trauma.
  PI - Scott Gunn
- HOPEFUL HEART - A study to determine whether genetic and biomarker samples that are assessed at the time of hospitalization for heart failure can help to explain the risk of developing (or not developing) depression. This study will also examine the connection between genetics and the effectiveness of treatment for symptoms of depression in these patients.
  PI - Indrani Halder
- ProDiuS - A study to evaluate if taking diuretics in a standardized fashion could improve health outcomes in patients with cardiorenal failure or cardiorenal syndrome.
  PI - Kelly Liang
- ProGReSS AKI ConsequenceS - A study looking at the long-term effects of sepsis with a focus on acute kidney injury and cardiovascular outcomes.
  PI - John Kellum & Sachin Yende

Presby Emergency Department

- ATACH II - Aggressive vs. standard Blood Pressure Reduction in Hypertensive Intracerebral Hemorrhage.
  PI - Bradley Molyneaux
- EPR-CAT - Feasibility of Emergency Preservation and Resuscitation for Cardiac Arrest from Trauma.
  PI - Raquel Forsythe
- MATHEMATICAL MODELING - Data and biomarkers in the blood from subjects who have suffered severe trauma. The study hopes to find a connection between changes in biomarkers and how subjects recover from their injuries.
  PI - Jason Sperry
- PAMPer - A study to see if giving a plasma transfusion early in the course of treatment would help lower mortality of severely injured patients that lose a lot of blood (hypovolemic shock).
  PI - Jason Sperry
- POINT - The study goal is to determine the safety and effectiveness of the combination of low-dose aspirin and clopidogrel (Plavix®) in reducing the risk of stroke, heart attacks and other complications in patients who have just had a TIA or minor ischemic stroke.
  PI - Vivek Reddy
- ProACT - Study goal is to determine if implementation of a procalcitonin antibiotic algorithm can help clinicians safely decrease antibiotic use in ED lower respiratory tract infection.
  PI - Aaron Brown (ED), Franziska Jovin (Hospital)
- SHINE - A two-arm, multicenter, randomized, prospective clinical trial designed to test the safety and efficacy of tight glucose management (glu 80-130mg/dL) via continuous infusion of insulin versus control therapy (glu <180mg/dL) via subcutaneous insulin injections in patients that present with hyperglycemia after an acute ischemic stroke.
  PI - Lori Shutter
- STONE - The primary objective of this randomized multi-center study is to determine the effect of tamsulosin on the proportion of patients passing a kidney stone as determined by patient report.
  PI - Allan Wolfson

Mercy Emergency Department

- IBIS - Enhanced Detection of Pathogens in Burn Wounds Using a Novel Multi-primer PCR/Mass Spectrometric Assay. Collection of discarded debrided tissue for analysis only.
  PI - Sandeep Kathju
- SHINE - A two-arm, multicenter, randomized, prospective clinical trial designed to test the safety and efficacy of tight glucose management (glu 80-130mg/dL) via continuous infusion of insulin versus control therapy (glu <180mg/dL) via subcutaneous insulin injections in patients that present with hyperglycemia after an acute ischemic stroke.
  PI - Lori Shutter

Shadyside Emergency Department

- POINT - The study goal is to determine the safety and effectiveness of the combination of low-dose aspirin and clopidogrel (Plavix®) in reducing the risk of stroke, heart attacks and other complications in patients who have just had a TIA or minor ischemic stroke.
  PI - Vivek Reddy