ProACT Expands to UPMC Mercy

On June 11, 2015, MACRO Research Assistants (RA) started to screen and enroll in ProACT (Procalcitonin Antibiotic Consensus Trial). Since opening, there have been nine enrollments. Drs. Heather Prunty & Brian Suffoletto are spearheading ProACT at Mercy. Megan Buhay will assist as the lead RA with MACRO coordinator, Denise Scholl.

ProACT is a multi-center, NIH-funded, randomized trial that targets emergency department patients with clinically diagnosed lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) and test the effects of implementation of a procalcitonin antibiotic guideline for LRTI. The University of Pittsburgh serves as both the Coordinating Center (PI – David Huang) and a site.

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

STAAMP is a multi-center, DOD-funded, 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.

The University of Pittsburgh will serve as both the Coordinating Center and a site. Additional sites include the University of Arizona, University of Texas, San Antonio, and University of Utah.

MACRO opened STAAMP to enrollment on June 11, 2015 and successfully enrolled their first subject on June 13th. Total enrollment to date is eight. Dr. Jason Sperry and Dr. Frank Guyette are the Principal Investigators and Pete Adams is the study coordinator.

More information on the trial is available at www.staampstudy.com.
ACRP 2015 Global Conference & Exhibition

Peter Adams and Stacy Stull presented their poster *The MACRO Research Assistant Program: A Winning Solution for Acute Care Research and Undergraduate Students* at the ACRP 2015 Global Conference & Exhibition in Salt Lake City, UT.

Their work focused on the history, development, and results of the MACRO Research Assistant Program, which employs University of Pittsburgh undergrads as an essential component of our research operations. In 2015, the program was revamped into a formal internship, following advice from the University School of Medicine.

MACRO research assistants screen the UPMC Presbyterian and Mercy Emergency Departments for eligible patients, facilitate enrollment in select studies, interact with multiple acute care providers to ensure protocol execution, and execute many other important tasks. Simultaneously, our research assistants obtain valuable experiential and didactic education; 31 MACRO Research Assistants have gone to medical and other healthcare graduate schools over the last 6 years.

The below graph shows where our research assistants have gone post-graduation.

MAD MEX BENEFIT DINNER

On June 9th, MACRO held a benefit dinner for Pitt undergraduate Research Assistants (RA) at Mad Mex in Shadyside.

Approximately 38 people attended the benefit where Mad Mex donated the space, food and service! All proceeds will go towards our hard-working, largely pre-med, Pitt undergrads who work and learn with MACRO.

Thank you to all that attended and/or contributed to our recent Mad Mex fundraiser!

Click the link below to view pictures of the dinner

http://www.ccmpitt.com/photos/mad_mex/
Research Assistant Spotlight

Li Yan Fan is a native Pittsburgher who triple majored in biology, psychology and philosophy at Pitt and taught flute to local elementary school kids, all while she worked as a Research Assistant for MACRO.

Li Yan graduated from the University of Pittsburgh this past April and will be attending Case Western Reserve’s School of Medicine as part of their Medical Scientist Training Program, class of 2023. After her first two years of Medical School, she will complete her PhD in either Immunology or Physiology, with a focus on cardiovascular research.

Li Yan is looking forward to beginning her first lab in 2 weeks, an electrophysiology lab which will investigate cardiac arrhythmias.

Yinka Olutoye graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in April 2015 where he majored in Bioengineering and minored in Chemistry.

While at Pitt, Yinka worked as a Research Assistant for MACRO for 2 years. He spent his summers on weeklong mission trips to Antigua, Guatemala where he worked with a pediatric surgery team who performed surgeries on patients who could not afford or did not have access to adequate healthcare. During his last summer at Pitt, he traveled to Nicaragua with Engineering World Health to fix medical devices in rural hospitals.

Yinka is currently in the MD/MPH program at the University of Texas School of Medicine in San Antonio. In the future, he hopes to use his bioengineering background to recognize and innovate medical devices that can be used in developing countries.

Danyelle Fraser graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a B.S. in Psychology and worked with the Department of Critical Care Medicine for 2 years as a MACRO Research Assistant.

Following graduation, Danyelle worked with MACRO as a “Super RA”. She took charge of overseeing day-to-day operations of the undergraduate RAs. Danyelle also spearheaded data collection on PAMPer, a DOD funded study that is currently the top enroller nationwide at the University of Pittsburgh.

Danyelle will be attending Johns Hopkins University this fall!

Margaret Russell graduated Summa Cum Laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pittsburgh in April 2015 with a BS in Biological Sciences, a BA in History and Philosophy of Science, minors in Chemistry and Spanish, and a certificate in Conceptual Foundations of Medicine.

She was a MACRO research assistant for two years and will begin medical school at Pitt this fall.

Margaret’s primary interests include obstetrics and pediatrics.
MACRO Research Newsletter  
August 2015

Actively Recruiting Studies

Presby/Montefiore ICUs

- AM-PHARMA – A study to investigate the safety, tolerability and efficacy and effect on quality of life of human recombinant alkaline phosphatase in the treatment of patients with sepsis-associated acute kidney injury.
  PI – Raghavan Murugan
- 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
- 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
- SILVER-AMI – Risk Stratification in Older Persons with Acute Myocardial Infarction
  PI – Daniel Forman
- START – Assess the safety and efficacy of Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells (hMSCs) in critically ill patients with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)
  PI – Michael Donahoe & Bryan McVerry

Presby/Montefiore Floors

- SILVER-AMI – Risk Stratification in Older Persons with Acute Myocardial Infarction
  PI – Daniel Forman

Presby Emergency Department

- ATACH II – Aggressive vs. standard Blood Pressure Reduction in Hypertensive Intracerebral Hemorrhage.
  PI – Bradley Molyneaux
- EPIC-MST-188 – The purpose of this research study is to learn if MST-188 can decrease the amount of time patients with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) experience a Vaso-Occlusive Crisis (VOC).
  PI – Laura Deacastro, Co-I – Margaret Hsieh
- EPR-CAT – Feasibility of Emergency Preservation and Resuscitation for Cardiac Arrest from Trauma.
  PI – Raquel Forsythe
- MATH MOD – Mathematical modeling of the acute inflammatory response following injury.
  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, Co-PI – Frank Guyette
- POINT – 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 – The study objective is to target emergency department (ED) patients with clinically diagnosed lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) and test the effects of implementation of a procalcitonin antibiotic guideline for LRTI.
  PI – Aaron Brown
- SHINE – A 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
- STAAMP – A study to determine if prehospital infusion of tranexamic acid in patients at risk for bleeding will reduce the incidence of 30 day mortality.
  PI – Jason Sperry, Co-PI – Frank Guyette
- STONE – A study 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

- ProACT – The study objective is to target emergency department (ED) patients with clinically diagnosed lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) and test the effects of implementation of a procalcitonin antibiotic guideline for LRTI.
  PI – Heather Prunty, Co-I – Brian Suffoletto
- SHINE – A 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 – A study to determine the effect of tamsulosin on the proportion of patients passing a kidney stone as determined by patient report.
  PI – Allan Wolfson

Shadyside

- POINT – 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
- SILVER-AMI – Risk Stratification in Older Persons with Acute Myocardial Infarction
  PI – Daniel Forman