



RESEARCH

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EMOT-ECON FUNDS FIRST TWO PILOT PROJECTS



The [Emotional Well-being and Economic Burden Research Network \(EMOT-ECON\)](#) is a collaboration of UTHSC and the University of Alabama at Birmingham,

with funding from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health. EMOT-ECON is co-led by Michelle Martin, PhD, professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at UTHSC and co-director of the TN-CTSI, and Maria Pisu, PhD, professor in the Division of Preventive Medicine at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. EMOT-ECON supports research on the connection between the economic burden of disease and patient emotional well-being.

Financial toxicity or burden are terms used to describe these negative impacts caused by medical expenses. The EMOT-ECON-awarded projects both aim to provide a new understanding of the emotional impact of financial toxicity, and to develop strategies to reduce it. EMOT-ECON recently funded its first pilot projects.

The first awardee is Patricia Roberson, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her project, “Financial toxicity and the emotional well-being of breast cancer patients and their families,” examines the economic burden of health care as a primary driver of Appalachian health disparities.

The second awardee is Salene Jones, PhD, assistant professor in the Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research (HICOR) at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. Her project, “Assessing Psychological Financial Burden in Cancer,” examines several parts of financial hardship caused by cancer care costs.

Both of the newly funded EMOT-ECON pilot projects will examine the patient-level impact of cancer care costs, which has become a major complication of treatment in the United States.

Learn more about EMOT-ECON and how you can become involved by visiting <https://www.emot-econ.org/>.

LIBRARY RESEARCH TRAINING SERIES PRESENTED AT CONFERENCE

In the Fall of 2021, UTHSC and the TN-CTSI collaborated to provide a [Library Research Training Series for Clinical Researchers](#). The series was designed for students, residents, fellows, staff, faculty, and anyone who chose to learn more about how the library could support clinical researchers. The objectives and outcomes of the series were:

- To engage, educate and support clinical researchers
- To increase participants' awareness of library resources and librarian expertise
- To better understand clinical researcher needs

The UTHSC Library has 10 faculty librarians who support the four campuses in Memphis, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Nashville. The TN-CTSI provides critical education and training for clinical researchers, funding opportunities, interdisciplinary expertise, and connects with clinical researchers across the state campuses and the mid-south research community at-large. The 11 research training sessions included:

- Library Overview
- Writing Research Abstracts
- Getting Articles for you Research
- Staying Current with New Research/Information Alerts
- Enhancing your Search Skills
- Managing your research flow with EndNote
- Identifying Publishing Opportunities
- An Overview of Evidence Based Medicine Resources
- Library Support Services for Systematic Reviews
- Better Data Visualizations
- Understanding Research Impact

The program series abstract was accepted and presented at the 2022 Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA in May 2022. The abstract has also been accepted and will be presented at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association in Montgomery, AL, October 2022. Authors are Lin Wu, Hilary Jasmin, Jenessa McElfresh, Tamara Nelson, Jess Newman, Sarah Thompson and the TN-CTSI's own Derita Bran and Margaret Lynn.

RESEARCH METHODS SERIES

The TN-CTSI launched its first seminar of the Research Methods Series presented by Veronica Brown, PhD, MSPH with "Study designs: Which design best fits my research question?" There were 92 total attendees including 12 researchers from our UTHSC Center for Multicultural and Global partner, Levy Mwanawasa Medical University in Zambia, Africa.

This presentation and discussion focused on understanding the conceptual framework of a research study, defining the differences between observational and experimental study designs, and learning how to identify a study design by its description and measures of association. Check out the recording [here!](#)

CONGRATULATIONS, RESEARCHERS!



Congratulations to **Charisse Madlock-Brown, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Diagnostic and Health Sciences and co-director of the TN-CTSI Informatics Core, whose work from the Researching Covid to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER) project was

recently featured in the very prestigious journal [Nature](#) and in the [New York Times](#). Dr. Madlock-Brown's is the PI on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) RECOVER grant. The RECOVER initiative was designed to understand how people recover from a COVID infection, and why some people do not fully recover and develop long COVID or PASC (post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2). Learn more about RECOVER at <https://recovercovid.org/>.



Congratulations to **Athena Davenport, PhD** for her recent publication acceptance in the journal, *Cancers*. The manuscript is titled, "Characterization of the metabolome of breast tissues from non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic white women reveals correlations

between microbial dysbiosis and enhanced lipid metabolism pathways in triple negative breast tumors." This manuscript utilizes reports from Dr. Davenport's 2019 study "Unraveling the Role of Microbial Dysbiosis in Breast Cancer Health Disparities" that was funded by the TN-CTSI's Pilot Award. This study looked at associations between gut microbial metabolites, obesity, and breast cancer, and how these factors potentially differ in women based on their race.

FORMS-H COMING FOR JANUARY 2023 DUE DATES

[Applicants applying to NIH funding opportunities with due dates on or after January 25, 2023 must use updated application forms and instructions identified with a Competition ID of "FORMS-H."](#)

The primary change to the updated application forms is the addition of an "Other Plan(s)" attachment on the PHS 398 Research Plan and PHS 398 Career Development Supplemental forms as part of the implementation of the 2023 NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy. Applicants must attach the required Data Management and Sharing Plan in this new field in FORMS-H applications ([NOT-OD-22-189](#)).

Although NIH data sharing policies are not applicable to institutional training or fellowship applications, the "Other Plan(s)" attachment was also added to the PHS 398 Research Training Program Plan and PHS Fellowship Supplemental forms for potential future use with other plans.

Application guides for FORMS-H application packages will be posted to the [How to Apply - Application Guide](#) page no later than October 25, 2022.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Developing a Diverse Research Community

The TN-CTSI will begin hosting a training series on incorporating diversity in clinical research. The first session will focus on cultural competence vs. cultural humility in clinical research and will be presented by Tiffany Israel, MSSW Community Navigator for the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. This first session will be held on October 6th from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm CST. Stay tuned for further details!

Medicare Coverage Analysis & Budgeting

These sessions are designed to provide basic clinical research billing to Medicare and coverage analysis processes. These sessions will be held December 8th, 13th, and 15th. Stay tuned for further details!

SERVICES & RESOURCES

Need help recruiting participants for your study?

The TN-CTSI can help guide you towards your ideal participant! We offer guidance and helpful tools through our Research Innovation Center (RIC) that can help you meet your goals. All you have to do is fill out an Assistance Request form found [here](#).

Request for Assistance Testimonial

“After discussing with Ashley, I had more concrete ideas to take back to my team to try for participant re-engagement. I’ve also utilized the recruitment & retention series on the TNCTSI training page. I found it helpful as well!”
- Kristen McKenzie, CANDLE Retention Specialist

Having trouble organizing the necessary materials for your study?

Essential documents are required for research studies and must be maintained in a manner that leads to successful study management. TN-CTSI can provide guidance on the most efficient means to set-up study related documents.

We also offer additional services and resources including:

- Research Opportunities and Connections
- Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) Assistance
- Training and Educational Seminars
- For help, request for assistance through our [website](#).

Become a Member of Tennessee Clinical and Translational Science Institute (TN-CTSI)

By being engaged and becoming a member, the TN-CTSI can provide guidance toward specific resources that may be vital to the completion of a research project. As a member you will also receive information about the latest research news, training, and funding opportunities available to you through the TN-CTSI.

Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about becoming a member.

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