



RESEARCH

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## PRESENTATION RECEIVES HIGHEST AWARD AT CONFERENCE



**SOUTHERN CHAPTER  
MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Alabama Florida Georgia Mississippi Puerto Rico South Carolina Tennessee Virgin Islands

Congratulations to the UTHSC Library and the TN-CTSI for receiving the highest award for their presentation “Tapping into an Underserved Group: Clinical Researchers” at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Southern Chapter/Medical Library Association. The meeting, held October 19-22 in Montgomery, Alabama, was themed “Health Information Matters: Embrace, Explore, Evolve.”

Authors and collaborators for this presentation include: Lin Wu, Hilary Jasmin, Jenessa McElfresh, Tamara Nelson, Jess Newman, and Sarah Thompson, and the TN-CTSI’s own Derita Bran, and Margaret Lynn.

The Southern Chapter is one of 12 chapters in the Medical Library Association and covers six states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee) and two territories (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). Each year, the SC/MLA annual meeting connects health sciences librarians and information professionals for a chance to share their experiences and programs on educating health information professionals, support health information research, and promote access to health information.

In the fall of 2021, the UTHSC Library and the TN-CTSI collaborated on a library research training series for clinical researchers. The series was designed for students, residents, fellows, staff, faculty, and anyone interested in learning more about how the library supports 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 expertise
- To better understand research needs

The presentation is [available on YouTube](#).

## TN-CTSI TEAM

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**Karen Johnson, MD, MPH**  
Co-Director

**Michelle Martin, PhD**  
Co-Director

**Derita Bran, MSN, RN, CCRC**  
Director of Administration

**Margaret Lynn, LMSW, RDN, CCRP, CIP**  
Director, Clinical Research Development

**Ashley Evans, MS**  
Community Engagement Specialist and Recruitment Manager

**Kendria Barnes, MSPH**  
Program Evaluation and Research Specialist

**Veronica G. Brown, PhD MSPH**  
Data Analyst

## TN-CTSI CORE RECEIVES \$100,000 PCORI AWARD



Congratulations! The TN-CTSI Community and Collaboration core has been awarded \$100,000 from the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards program, an initiative of the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). This award will support a statewide stakeholder meeting to combat food insecurity and its impact on maternal and child health. Sarah Rhoads, PhD, DNP, Michelle Martin, PhD, and Ashley Evans, MS, are leading the project, in partnership with the TN-CTSI Community Advisory Board.

“The topic of food insecurity was actually first identified by our Community Advisory Board as a common issue impacting many Tennesseans,” says Evans. “We are excited for the opportunity to work together with people from different backgrounds to brainstorm, connect, and identify various approaches to eradicating this issue.”

The project leads and TN-CTSI Community Advisory Board plan to invite stakeholders to collaboratively examine and gather different perspectives regarding food insecurity’s impact on maternal and child health. Following the meeting, a plan will be developed to decrease food insecurity in mothers and their children to improve their health.

“We understand that everyone has unique experiences, and we want to make sure those experiences are represented and heard. The TN-CTSI is committed to improving health outcomes for all Tennesseans” says Evans.

The Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award Program supports projects that encourage active, meaningful involvement of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders as integral members of the patient-centered outcomes research/comparative clinical effectiveness research enterprise. More information about the award can be found on [their website](#).

## COURSE USERS BEAT NATIONAL AVERAGE PASS RATE

The TN-CTSI Certification Exam Preparation course was developed to help clinical research staff pass the SOCRA (Society of Clinical Research Associates) or ACRP (Association of Clinical Research Professionals) certification exam. Conducted by Zoom, the 18 one-hour sessions and study guide are [now available on-line](#).

To date, course participants have an 87.5% pass rate on the SOCRA exam, well above the national average of 69.4% (SOCRA national data from 2016-2020).

Reactions from attendees:

“I have been using the study guide very closely lately and it has been a tremendous help! Thank you for providing us with such a fantastic resource!”

“I am very satisfied and would definitely recommend the course to my peers.”

For more information, email [mlynn@uthsc.edu](mailto:mlynn@uthsc.edu) or [dbran@uthsc.edu](mailto:dbran@uthsc.edu).

## RESEARCH METHODS SERIES

The TN-CTSI continued its Research Methods Series presented by Veronica Brown, PhD, MSPH. Focused on epidemiological and biostatistical research methods, presentations are intended to assist and support clinical researchers in study design and interpretation of findings. The series also provides an opportunity for clinical investigators to discuss data analysis techniques and data integrity. Topics include:

- Study Designs: Which Design Best Fits My Research Question?
- What Am I Estimating During a Study—Measure of Association or Causation?
- Comparing Means or Proportions: How Should I Analyze My Data?

Recordings of these presentations are [available online](#).

## POPULATION HEALTH & TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Population Health & Translational Research Conference supports intradisciplinary T3 and T4 translational research to improve population health and health equity. It includes topics such as:

- Main Results of the Management of Diabetes in Everyday Life (MODEL) Study (Jim Bailey, MD, MPH)
- Health Equity, Poverty, and Rural Resilience by East Tennessee State University (Michael Meit, MA, MPH)
- Older Adults' Use of Telemedicine during COVID-19 (Sarah Rhoads, PhD, DNP, WHNP-BC, RNC-OB, APRN, FAAN)
- The Initial Impact of the TennCare Medication Therapy Management Pilot Program (Justin Gatwood, PhD, MPH)
- Primary Results of the Diuretic Comparison Project (DCP) (William Cushman, MD)

The conference is sponsored by the TN-CTSI, the Tennessee Population Health Consortium, the College of Nursing, and the College of Medicine.

## REDCAP TRAINING

Presented by Parya Zareie, MS, this training covers how to develop a research database, how to export for seamless data downloads to Excel and common statistical packages (SPSS, SAS, Stata, R), and how to use advanced features such as branching logic, file upload, calculated fields, and e-consenting. Recordings of the presentations are [available online](#).

## COLLABORATING WITH A STATISTICIAN SERIES

This series showcases the services offered by the Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) Unit, along with how to manage and send data, data security and privacy and much more.

Topics include:

- Biostats, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) Clinic (Tristan Hayes, MSc)
- Research Integrity and Preventing Research Misconduct (Karen Johnson, MD, MPH)
- How Can BERD Faculty Contribute to a Grant Application/Manuscript (Fridtjof Thomas, PhD)
- How to Collaborate with a Biostatistician (Saunak Sen, PhD)

Recording and presentations are [now online](#).

## NEW EVENTS & PROGRAMS

### Clinical Research Billing and Compliance

This 3-part series covered basic clinical research billing to Medicare and coverage analysis processes. The sessions were:

Part One: Does a Study Need a Coverage Analysis and is the Study Qualifying?

Part Two: How to Begin Building a Coverage Analysis and Tools to Use to Get There

Part Three: Using your Coverage Analysis for Billing and Budgets

Recordings and powerpoints are [available online](#).

For more information about Medicare coverage and clinical trials, checkout [this resource from U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#).

### Developing a Diverse Research Community

Continuing in 2023, the Developing a Diverse Research Community series will include sessions on cultural competence, social determinants of health and the relationship to clinical research, health disparities in research and electronic health records, diversifying the scientific workforce, and community-engaged research.

Cultural Competence vs. Cultural Humility, presented by Vanderbilt's Tiffany Israel, MSSW.

Social Determinants of Health and the Relationship to Clinical Research, presented by Nico West MD, PhD, Alexander Feliz, MD, and Arash Sheban-Nejad, PhD.

Recordings are [now available online](#).

## 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 that can help you meet your goals. Simply fill out an [Assistance Request form](#).

### Request for Assistance Testimonial

“Coming into the job with no research experience, Derita Bran and Margaret Lynn with TN-CTSI have facilitated a seamless transition into the world of research. They have translated the research terminology into understandable concepts. The trainings explicitly covered large topics important to research such HSP+GCP and FDA regulations and also have helped us get oriented with UTHSC’s policies and navigating the IRB. Having only worked at UTHSC for a little over a month, we both feel much more comfortable in our positions after these thorough, twice weekly trainings as part of the CTSI onboarding process.”

- Thomas Kerby and Ansley Parker  
UTHSC Clinical Trials Unit

### 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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## CONTACT US

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