

# UNYTE Newsletter

## Director's Corner Gary Noronha, MD



UNYTE is a consortium of 19 biomedical research institutions from across New York State. UNYTE fosters transdisciplinary and trans-institutional research collaborations and engages community and regional partners to demonstrate and disseminate methods and approaches to advance translational research.

Welcome to our third issue of the UNYTE Newsletter. Our goal in these Newsletters is to highlight a few of the many successful partnerships and opportunities for future collaborations between our members. I'm particularly proud of some of the partnerships highlighted in this issue because we played a role in providing some seed funding for some of these teams to begin early pilot or planning projects.

The University of Rochester Clinical and Translational Science Institute has provided UNYTE with funds to help seed UNYTE collaborations. Our UNYTE Pipeline-to-Pilot program was created to help teams take the first steps to apply for larger scale awards. A total of six UNYTE member institutions submitted projects to the first two cycles of this program. Reviewers from 3 member institutions have provided content specific insight to help select four total proposals for funding. Stronger applications generally included strong evidence of bi-institutional support. At least one successful proposal included matching funds from home institution. We think these funded teams have great potential to compete for external grants that will continue to bring UNYTE institutions together to work collaboratively.

In terms of bringing UNYTE members together we're also very excited to announce the addition of the Canandaigua Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) and Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic to the UNYTE team. They have particular expertise in population health and health information technology as it relates to managing primary care populations and veteran's health issues. Their clinicians and researchers are going to be a welcome addition to the resources our existing UNYTE members can tap into.

In addition to the smaller scale UNYTE Pipeline to Pilot programs there are much larger scale collaborations in process between University at Buffalo, Roswell Park and University of Rochester as part of the Empire Discovery Initiative described on page 3. We continue to host scientific sessions as described on page 4 including an upcoming one for the fall focused on Complex Care and Children.

We enjoy sharing information about UNYTE collaborations. If you'd like us to feature a collaboration at your institution, please let us know.

### Member Institutions

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences &  
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences – Pharmaceutical Research Institute (PRI)  
Albany Medical College - Bassett Healthcare Network - Binghamton University, SUNY  
Cornell University, Division of Nutritional Sciences - Guthrie Health System  
Masonic Medical Research Laboratory - New York Chiropractic College  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - Rochester Institute of Technology - Roswell Park Cancer Institute - Syracuse University - Trudeau Institute - University at Albany, SUNY  
University at Buffalo, SUNY - University of Rochester - Upstate Medical University, SUNY - The Canandaigua Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) and Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic — Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH

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### Contact Us



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## **Cycle One UNYTE Pipeline Pilot Awardees**

Transplacental Transfer of Vitamin D3 and 25(OH)D3 in Human Pregnancy  
Kimberly O'Brien (Cornell University) & Eva Pressman (UR)

Advanced Digital Stethoscope - Pilot Study of Acoustic Diagnostics for Left Ventricular Assist Devices

David Borkholder (Rochester Institute of Technology) & Karl Schwarz (UR)

The UNYTE Pipeline-to-Pilot Award of up to \$10,000 is intended to stimulate research partnerships between UNYTE member institutions and the University of Rochester (UR) to compete for future external translational biomedical research funding.

## **Cycle Two Pipeline-to-Pilot Awardees**

Measuring postpartum contraceptive uptake and interconception periods in the electronic medical record

Renee Mestad (SUNY Upstate Medical) & Brooke Levandowski (UR)

Developing a virtual reality approach to study and rehabilitate vision after stroke  
Gabriel Diaz (RIT) & Krystal Huxlin (UR)

## Potential Funding Opportunities for Collaborative Research

(Titles are clickable)

[Ovarian Cancer Research Collaborative Research Development Grant](#)

[Research Coordination Networks \(RCN\)](#)

[Research Coordination Networks in Undergraduate Biology Education](#)

[Collaborative Research Projects to Enhance Applicability of Mammalian Models for Translational Research](#)

[Implementation and Evaluation of New Health Information Technology \(IT\) Strategies for Collecting and Using Patient-Reported Outcome \(PRO\) Measures](#)

[Collaborative Network to Advance Deprescribing Research for Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions](#)

[Stand Up To Cancer T-Cell Lymphoma Dream Team Translational Research Grant](#)

## The Canandaigua VAMC & Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic join UNYTE.

“The Canandaigua Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) and Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic are pleased to join UNYTE in a collaborative effort to enhance translational research and improve patient care.” says Thomas A. Rocco Jr, MD, FACP, FACC, Research Program Coordinator and Research Integrity Officer for the Canandaigua VA Medical Center/ROPC and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

The Canandaigua VA Medical Center, part of VA Health Care Upstate New York, is located in Canandaigua, New York. The Medical Center has been designated as a VA Center of Excellence for research and education of mental health issues. The national VA Suicide/Crisis Hotline call center is also located on the Canandaigua campus. The Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic is affiliated with the Canandaigua VA Medical Center. The outpatient clinic offers primary care, specialty care, mental health care, a day treatment center, alcohol and drug abuse rehabilitation, routine lab work, immunizations, and wellness and disease management programs.

“The Canandaigua VAMC is a welcome addition to our UNYTE family with access to a wealth of expertise in population health, care delivery, health IT and a population of particular interest to many researchers. We look forward to years of collaborative work with the VAMC team,” says UNYTE Director, Gary Noronha, MD.

## New \$47 Million Partnership Will Advance Drug Discovery in Upstate

The University of Rochester, University at Buffalo, and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center have joined together to form a powerful new \$47 million drug discovery partnership. The Empire Discovery Initiative (EDI), an independent, non-profit entity, aims to convert the institutions’ scientific breakthroughs into viable drugs and strengthen the region as a hub for life sciences research and development. Researchers will also receive assistance in designing new drugs for drug targets they have identified through their work.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced that the new partnership will receive \$35.4 million in funding over five years from Empire State Development, in addition to \$12 million worth of in-kind support from the partner institutions.

Learn more [here](#).

Save the Date  
UR Complex Care Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

The Future is Today:  
Transforming the Care of Childhood Onset  
Chronic Health Conditions

Monday, October 29, 2018, 8am-4:30pm

University of Rochester School of Medical & Dentistry



**Gary Noronha, MD**  
UNYTE Director, Assistant  
Professor of Clinical Medicine

UNYTE Scientific Session Poster Awardees

More than 75 researchers and community members came together on March 16th for the UNYTE Scientific Session: Promoting Diverse Representation in Translational Research.



Dr. Meghan Fox (l. in photo), Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Psychiatry's Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide and the Rochester Prevention Research Center: National Center for Deaf Health Research at the University of Rochester Medical Center, won the Trainee Poster Award for her poster *“Suicidal behaviors, stressors, and help seeking factors among deaf and hard-of-hearing college students: A secondary analysis of the National College Health Assessment.”* Co-authors for this poster

were Tyler G. James, M.S., CHES & Steven Barnett, MD.

Dr. Tamala David (r. in photo) Assistant Professor in the School of Education, Health, & Human Services at the College at Brockport, State University of New York, and Education and Training Lead for the Rochester Prevention Research Center, at the National Center for Deaf Health Research, University of Rochester, won the Faculty Poster Award for her poster *“Delivering Safe, Quality Care to Deaf Oder Adults is More than American Sign Language.”*

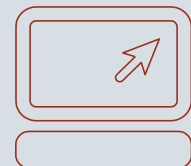
(Also Pictured: Gary Noronha, MD, UNYTE Director)



**Karen Vitale, MEd**  
Program Manager



**Shelby Johnson**  
Administrative Assistant



Is your institution collaborating with a UNYTE partner on research? Tell us about it!

[Click Here](#)