

Translating Research from Basic Discovery to Improved Patient Care

N C R R F A C T S H E E T

Research Centers in Minority Institutions Program

www.ncrr.nih.gov/remi

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The Research Centers in Minority Institutions program develops and enhances the research infrastructure of minority institutions by expanding human and physical resources for conducting basic, clinical and translational research. The RCMI program provides grants to institutions that award doctoral degrees in the health professions or health-related sciences and have a 50 percent or greater enrollment of students from minority communities underrepresented in the biomedical sciences (African American, Hispanic, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander). The program currently funds grants to 18 institutions in 10 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Research supported by the RCMI program spans a broad range of areas, including health disparities, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity, reproductive health and neurological diseases. Because many of the investigators at RCMI institutions study diseases that disproportionately affect minority populations, the program serves the dual purpose of bringing more minority scientists into mainstream research and enhancing minority health.

The RCMI program supports research by:

- Providing a wide array of research resources to enhance institutional infrastructure, ranging from state-of-the-art instrumentation to outpatient clinical research facilities
- Sponsoring faculty development, enrichment and expansion activities
- Enhancing grants management and research development activities
- Improving biostatistical and informatics resources and developing new technologies
- Funding pilot projects
- Renovating laboratory and animal facilities

The RCMI program is led by NCRR's Division of Research Infrastructure and supports the following grants:

- **RCMI Centers**
- **RCMI Infrastructure for Clinical and Translational Research**
- **Clinical Research Education and Career Development Awards**
- **RCMI Translational Research Network**

RCMI Centers

These centers, awarded through the G12 grant, build capacity for basic biomedical and/or behavioral research. When applying for an RCMI grant to establish a center, applicants must identify a thematic scientific focus in research areas such as neuroscience, pharmacology, cancer, HIV/AIDS, structural biology, immunology or bioengineering that may use basic and/or translational approaches to attain the goals of the proposed center.

The major focus of the funding is on institutional resource development, such as supporting core

research facilities and staff, purchasing advanced instrumentation and minor laboratory renovations or alterations. In most instances, at least two-thirds of the requested funds are expected to be directed to multiuser resources. The RCMI Centers program is designed to allow maximum flexibility in requesting the resources required for accomplishing the program goals at the applicant institution.

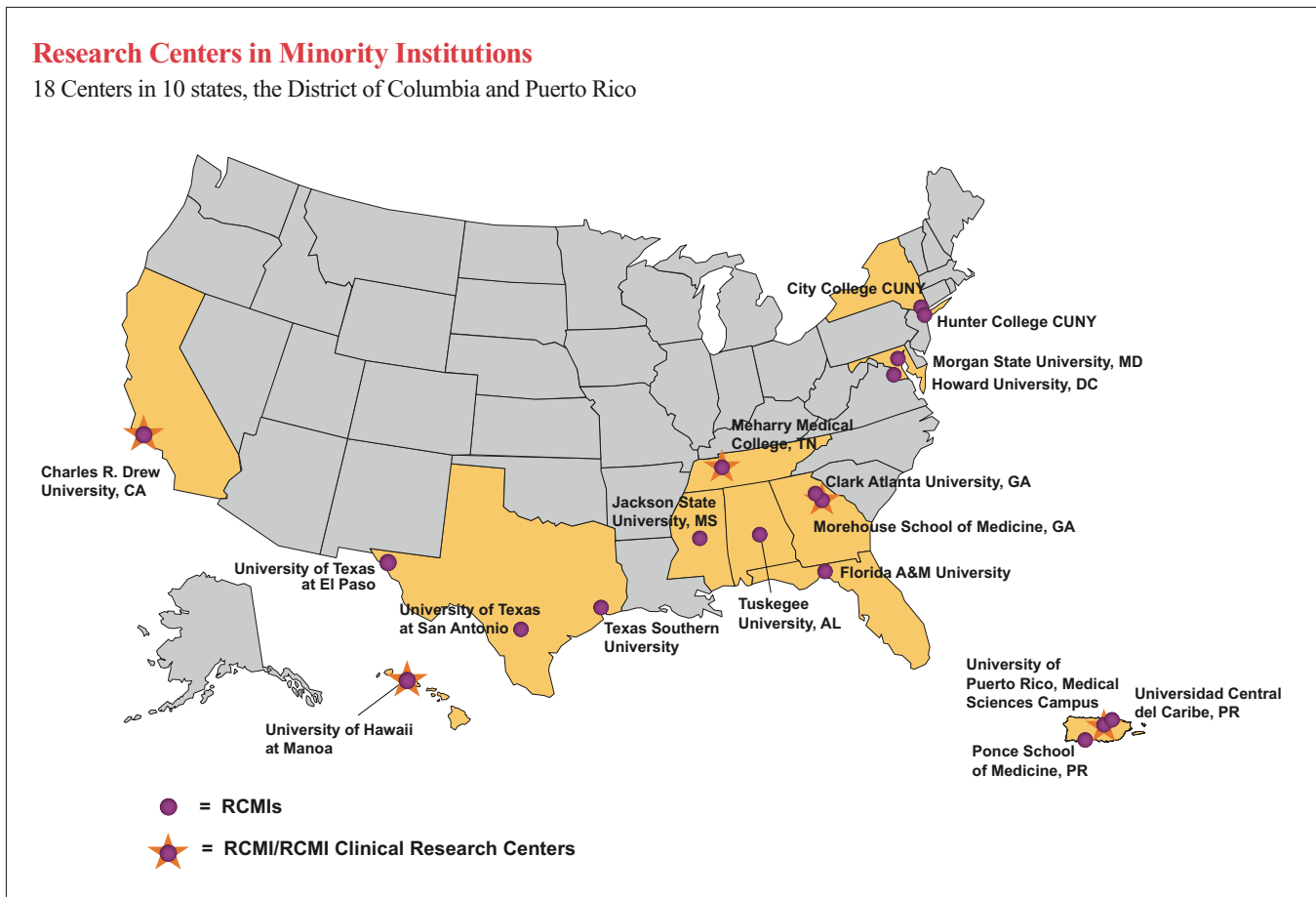
Depending on the research focus, these centers may also receive co-funding from other NIH Institutes and Centers. For example, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases provides co-funding for centers focused on HIV/AIDS. For more information, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov/rcmi.

RCMI Infrastructure for Clinical and Translational Research (RCTR)

RCTR awards support the development of infrastructure required for the conduct of clinical and translational science. This infrastructure may

include but is not limited to outpatient clinical research resources, biostatistical support, core laboratories and/or other infrastructure for patient-oriented research, including community-based research. Additionally, the RCTR awards facilitate multidisciplinary training and career development in clinical and translational science.

The RCTR awards represent a reorganization of previous RCMI programmatic activities in support of clinical and translational research, including the RCMI Clinical Research Infrastructure Initiative P20 Awards, Centers of Clinical Research Excellence U54 Awards and Comprehensive Centers on Health Disparities U54 Awards. This reorganization was developed to improve collaboration and coordination of clinical and translational research programs within and among RCMI institutions and to foster collaborations and partnerships with other institutions. As a result, research training and career development



efforts across the institutions will be enhanced and synergy with the Clinical Research Education and Career Development R25 awards and/or other institutional training programs will be improved. RCTRs are cooperative agreements (U54). For more information, visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-262.html>.

Clinical Research Education and Career Development (CRECD) Awards

These awards provide didactic training and mentored clinical research experiences to develop independent researchers who can lead clinical research studies, especially those addressing health disparities. CRECD awards help develop and implement degree programs in minority institutions that train doctoral and postdoctoral candidates in clinical research. The programs lead to a Master of Science in Clinical Research or Master of Public Health in a clinically relevant area. The CRECD program is funded by NCCR and other NIH Institutes and Centers, including the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities; the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; the National Institute on Aging; the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; the National Cancer Institute; and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. CRECDs are awarded through the R25 grant. For more information, visit www.nccr.nih.gov/crecd.

RCMI Translational Research Network (RTRN)

This is a consortium of clinical and translational investigators from the RCMI Centers, investigators from other academic health centers, community health providers, community organizations and a Data and Technology Coordinating Center. By enhancing and establishing partnerships, the RTRN encourages sharing of resources and expertise among researchers who are studying diseases that disproportionately affect minority and other medically underserved populations, such as cancer, diabetes, infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, and renal and cardiovascular diseases.

The RTRN supports research by:

- Providing infrastructure, training and resources to facilitate multisite, collaborative research that applies discoveries generated in the laboratory to clinical studies
- Developing and sharing practices in disease prevention and intervention in local communities
- Funding informatics tools for managing clinical research data, recruiting for clinical studies and sharing information with study participants
- Fostering collaboration among researchers and their local communities

RTRN activities are coordinated by Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science on behalf of the 18 RCMI-supported institutions. Jackson State

Three RCMIs Partner with the CTSA Program

The research capacity developed through the RCMI program is providing greater research opportunities. For example, three RCMIs are partnering with Clinical and Translational Science Award grantees: Morehouse School of Medicine with Emory University, Meharry Medical College with Vanderbilt University, and Hunter College with Weill Cornell Medical College. The CTSA grantees and their RCMI partners are working together as a national consortium to improve the way biomedical research is conducted across the country. The consortium, funded through NCCR's Clinical and Translational Science Awards, shares a common vision to reduce the time it takes for laboratory discoveries to become treatments for patients. It is also fulfilling the critical need to train the next generation of clinical and translational researchers. For more information, visit www.ctsaweb.org.

University serves as the Data and Technology Coordinating Center for the network. The DTCC, the first of its kind in a minority institution, operates in partnership with the Duke Clinical Research Institute. The National Center on Minority Health

and Health Disparities, another component of NIH, is also contributing funds for the network. The RTRN is funded through a cooperative agreement (U54). For more information, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov/rtrn.

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