

# ATRN Newsletter

## Appalachian Translational Research Network

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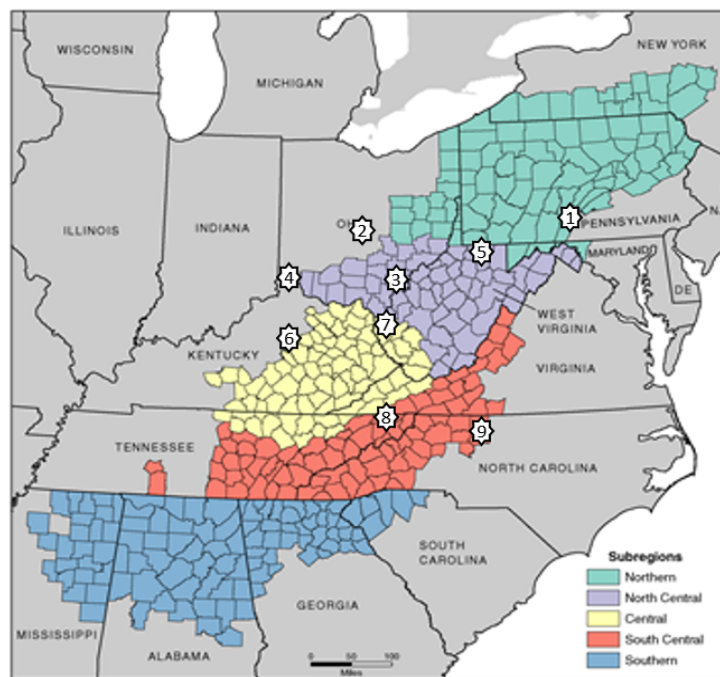
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### Overview of the ATRN: Our Partners



- 1) **Penn State University**  
Hershey, PA
- 2) **The Ohio State University**  
Columbus, Ohio
- 3) **Ohio University**  
Athens, OH
- 4) **University of Cincinnati**  
Cincinnati, OH
- 5) **West Virginia Clinical & Translational Science Institute (WVCTSI)**  
Morgantown, WV
- 6) **University of Kentucky**  
Lexington, KY
- 7) **Marshall University**  
Huntington, WV
- 8) **East Tennessee State University**  
Johnson City, TN
- 9) **Wake Forest University**  
Winston-Salem, NC

The Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN) is comprised of nine institutions with a mission to catalyze translational research among partnering institutions serving Appalachian communities to synergistically improve the health of these communities.

This collaborative network is designed to strengthen research and training efforts throughout Appalachia by building upon the strengths of partnering institutions who serve the residents of the region. The ATRN provides educational collaboration across institutional partners and opportunities for research collaboration across Appalachia, and hosts an Annual ATRN Health Summit.



# UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI CARES STUDY IN APPALACHIAN OHIO IS RENEWED

The University of Cincinnati (UC) Communities Actively Researching Exposure Study (CARES) was recently re-funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) for a 5 year follow-up study. From 2008-2013, UC partnered with the Ohio communities of Marietta, Cambridge, and East Liverpool in the Appalachian region to address a community-driven question: Does air pollution affect our children's health? Children ages 7-9 completed testing which demonstrated that increased exposure to manganese could result in deficits in mental development and motor function.



Pictured: Dr. Erin Haynes

This follow-up study will ask the just over 500 children and their families who originally participated to return as teenagers for further evaluation. The testing includes an evaluation of neurodevelopment, including gait and postural balance, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to observe any impact on the brain.

CARES is led by Erin Haynes, DrPH, associate professor in the Department of Environmental Health, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Dr. Haynes is currently chair of the ATRN and also serves as a co-director of the UC Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training (CCTST) Community Engagement and Research core. In addition, she leads the CCTST Translational Workforce Development core, which includes the MS and Graduate Certificate programs in clinical and translational research. This study is co-led by Dr. Kim Cecil from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) in collaboration with key investigators: Dr. Kim Dietrich (UC), Dr. Heidi Sucharew (CCHMC), and Dr. Amit Bhattacharya (UC). The study is conducted in partnership with Marietta College, Kent State University East Liverpool Campus, and the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WELCOMES NIH DIRECTOR DR. FRANCIS S. COLLINS



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND  
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE



From left to right: Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director; Dr. Rebecca Jackson, Director of OSU CCTS, Professor, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism; Dr. William Martin, Dean of the College of Public Health; and Dr. Peter Mohler, Associate Dean for Research, OSU College of Medicine

The Ohio State University (OSU) welcomed Dr. Francis Collins, the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He participated in an award ceremony for several grants totaling more than \$1 million to assist with opioid research in the area.

Awarded projects included:

- A \$96,762 implementation grant to develop the Franklin County Opioid Crisis Activities Levels Map, a system to track and map daily opiate overdoses from 22 emergency medical services. This project is designed to help connect community members with resources to combat overdoses.
- A \$45,541 grant to fund the development of a community and social network campaign to reduce opioid-related stigma and overdose.

For more information, please visit the following link:

<https://ccts.osu.edu/news/2018/3/ohio-state-announces-grant-funding-opioid-research>

# UPDATES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



Dr. Gia Mudd-Martin, CCTS Community Engagement and Research (CER) Director, participates in several national NCATS groups, providing opportunities to disseminate best practices for engaging communities in Community Engaged Research and fostering team science across CTSA hubs. She is a member of the NCATS Special Interest Group (SIG): Partners for the Advancement of Community

Engaged Research (PACER). On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Dr. Mudd-Martin was invited by the PACER group to present on the work of the Appalachian Translational Research Network as an example of best practices for engaging communities in CER and fostering team science.

**SAVE THE DATE:  
September 20 and 21, 2018**

**ATRN Summit  
Student Center  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Kentucky**

The 2018 ATRN Summit will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in the newly remodeled Student Center at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY. Please look for more details in our August 2018 newsletter.



## Upcoming Events

### Tools of the Trade: Engaging Stakeholders in Research

Biomedical Research Tower, Room 115

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

9 AM to 3:00 PM

or via Live Stream

The OSU Center for Clinical and Translational Science presents "Tools of the Trade: Engaging Stakeholders in Research" from 9:00am – 3:00pm on April 24, 2018, in the Biomedical Research Tower or via live stream. The morning interactive workshop, "Co-Designing with Communities," will introduce participants to the value of bringing stakeholders in at the beginning stages of research and engaging their stakeholders throughout the entire research process. The afternoon will include presentations from community stakeholders and researchers describing their experiences and best strategies for productive stakeholder involvement.

Register online <https://cts.osu.edu/content/tools-trade-engaging-stakeholders-research>

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### Would you like to submit content for the ATRN Newsletter?

Please email the representatives below at each partnering institution:

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