

ATRN Newsletter



ATRN and UKY Host the 12th Annual ATRN Summit

this issue

- 2022 ATRN Health Summit 1
- Ohio University 2
- West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute (WVCTSI) 3
- The Ohio State University 4
- 2022 ATRN Health Summit (cont.) 5
- Wake Forest University 6
- The Ohio State University 7
- Spring 2023 UPCOMING EVENTS 8
- Spring 2023 UPCOMING EVENTS 9
- Spring 2023 UPCOMING EVENTS 10
- ATRN Newsletter -Subscribe today! 11



ATRN Leadership Committee Pictured (Left to Right): Melissa Thomas, PhD, MSPH, MSA, MCHES®, C-CHW, Ohio University, ATRN Past Chairperson; Brianna Sheppard, PhD, West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute, ATRN Chairperson; Kathy Hsieh, PhD, MPH, RD, Integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia, ATRN Secretary; Kelly Brunst, PhD, Cincinnati University, Past Chairperson; Rajan Lamichhane, PhD, Marshall University, ATRN Treasurer; Pamela Salsberry, PhD, RN, FAAN, The Ohio State University; and Gia Mudd-Martin, PhD, MPH, RN, FAHA, University of Kentucky. ATRN Leadership members (not pictured): Ashley Hall, MS, ATRN Newsletter Editor; Eugene Lengerich, V.M.D., M.S., and Joseph A. Skelton, MD, MS, FAAP, FTOS. Photo by Richard Sanchez, University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science

Mallory Profeta, UK CCTS

The 12th Annual Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN) Summit was hosted this month by the University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UK CCTS). More than 200 researchers, community members and students gathered on Nov. 14 and 15 to foster collaborations, present findings and share best practices.

The ATRN, now a 501c3 organization, is comprised of nine academic and medical institutions (many of which are recipients of Clinical and Translational Science Awards) and multiple community-based organizations that are committed to addressing the significant health challenges of the region. The Network aims to serve as a conduit for enhancing research across the translational spectrum, ranging from basic science to translation to patients, practice and communities.

Representatives from the nine academic and medical institutions and from community organizations planned of the ATRN Summit together. The two-day event featured fifteen break-out sessions that included 32 oral presentations selected from abstract submissions; a poster session with 44 presentations, 20 of which were from graduate student and post-doctoral presenters who received feedback from mentors; networking and committee meetings; and an update on the impact of recent flooding in Eastern Kentucky. The full agenda is available [here](#).

Elizabeth Dickson, PhD, RN, from the Center for Participatory Research at the University of New Mexico, gave a keynote address about the Engage for Equity model of developing measures and tools in order to strengthen partnering and engagement processes. Article continues on [Page 5](#).

Appalachian Studies Association Conference to be held at Ohio University



Rebekah Crawford

The 46th Annual ASA Conference will explore the theme "From Surviving to Thriving" by celebrating the many successes that have renewed the region in more recent times. Special sessions of the conference invite participants to explore progress that has been made in many areas such as healthcare, the economy, education, and the environment.

Those living, studying, and working in Appalachia should ask themselves what more can be done in these areas and how do we engage community partners both inside and outside the region in this mission?

How do we include everyone in the goal to make Appalachia a region that is celebrated nationwide? Come and explore these ideas together in Athens, Ohio at "AppalachiaFest" in 2023.

Registration is open at: <https://www.appalachianstudies.org/2023-conference>

CONTACT >

Mary Thomas, Executive Director,
mthomas@marshall.edu.

Ann Bryant, Office Manager,
mullins88@marshall.edu

Telephone: (304) 696-2904

Mailing Address:

Appalachian Studies Association
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755

ABOUT US >

The Appalachian Studies Association was formed in 1977 by a group of scholars, teachers, and regional activists who believed that shared community has been and will continue to be important to those writing, researching, and teaching about Appalachia. The ASA is headquartered at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia.



Brianna Sheppard named Chair of the Executive Leadership Committee of the Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN)

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. – Ian Moore

Brianna Sheppard, Ph.D., M.A., research scientist at the West Virginia University Health Affairs Institute, has been named chair of the executive leadership committee of the Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN).

Dr. Sheppard is co-director of the Community Engagement and Outreach (CEO) Core at the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute (WVCTSI) and a research scientist with extensive experience in behavioral health and translational science approaches applied to rural healthcare research, policy, and practice. Following her appointment at WVCTSI, Dr. Sheppard joined the ATRN in August 2020, first as secretary, then chair-elect and now chair. In her new role, Dr. Sheppard will facilitate the work of the executive leadership committee to identify and implement activities that align with the ATRN's mission and strategic goals.

“The ATRN is a great collaborative space where community members and academic partners come together to turn translational research into solutions,” Dr. Sheppard said. “I am honored and excited about this opportunity to share my passion for Appalachia and rural health, lessons learned, and stories of success with other rural communities across the country.”

Through her new position, Dr. Sheppard hopes to build upon the many successes achieved under the past leadership of the ATRN. She is also committed to strengthening the ATRN organizational infrastructure and supporting professional development opportunities for its members.





In Memoriam: Dr. Rebecca Jackson

August 18th, 1955- October 11th, 2022



Funding Director and PI, Dr. Rebecca Jackson (2006- 2022)

Dr. Jackson was a visionary and nationally recognized leader in the world of translational science and research. She helped establish the CCTS in 2006 as its founding director and served through 2022. While her clinical work specialized in understanding and improving women's health, she built a legacy that lives on through her impact as a leader. She supported the education and training of translational scientists and physicians and served as a mentor to many. Dr. Jackson's work will forever leave a profound impact for the future of medicine.

ATRN and University of KY Host the Annual Summit (continued)

A plenary address from Alex Elswick, PhD, co-founder of Voices of Hope and University of Kentucky Extension Specialist for Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, discussed “Recovery Capital: Assets, not Abstinence,” emphasizing the need for providing wrap-around services and redefining what “success” means in the context of treating substance use disorders.

Gia Mudd-Martin, PhD, MPH, RN, director of community engagement/research and the ATRN for the UK CCTS and associate professor in the College of Nursing, said the array of topics covered at the Summit—environmental health, biomedical informatics, artificial intelligence, community-engaged research and more—was inspiring.

“We originally planned to have three sessions per breakout period, but because we received so many high-quality abstracts we ended up hosting four sessions per breakout period.”

She said a particular highlight was a panel of community health workers from diverse communities, including Herlinda Martinez, CCHW, UK College of Nursing H.E.A.R.T. (Health Equity Advanced through Research for Transformation) program and UK CCTS; Katie Miller, Amish Community Health Worker, The Ohio Center for Appalachia Research in Cancer Education (CARE); Lucas Tuning, CCHW, Virginia Department of Health; Lashara Wade, CCHW, Virginia Department of Health; and moderator Melissa Thomas, PhD, of Ohio University

“Each community health worker basically said the same thing: they recognize that because they’re from the community they’re working in, people open their doors and hearts. They’re able to reach the community in ways an outsider could not. It was really beautiful,” Mudd-Martin said.

Current Chairperson of the ATRN Brianna Sheppard, PhD, MA, who serves as associate director of research at the West Virginia University Office of Health Affairs and co-director of community engagement and outreach for the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute, described the collaborative energy at the conference as “palpable.”

“The annual summit provides a tangible opportunity to build and enhance infrastructure for the community-based research we need in Appalachia to inform community health efforts and facilitate activities that support the ATRN mission,” she said “The ATRN has grown tremendously over the last three years and we, as an organization, are very excited for the collaborative work and opportunities to support transformative change in the region.”



Wake Forest School of Medicine Announces Community-Engaged Research Series



(Top row: Dr. Scott Rhodes, Dr. Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda, Dr. Ucheoma Nwaozuru, Dr. Angela Odoms-Young)
(Bottom row: Dr. Parissa J. Ballard, Dr. Karen Kim Yeary, Dr. Joseph A. Skelton, Dr. Hazel Tapp, Claudia Barret)

This winter the Wake Forest CTSI Program in Community-Engaged Research hosted a virtual 4-session educational series on community-engaged research. The goal of this series was to increase the understanding of the ins and outs of community-engaged research and build the capacity of our researchers and partners to conduct authentic community-engaged research throughout the Atrium Health enterprise catchment area. Wake Forest University School of Medicine (WFUSM) is the academic core of Atrium Health. The lineup of speakers included experts from across the United States.

In the first session of this series Drs. Scott D. Rhodes (WFUSM) and Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda (Duke University School of Nursing) covered the fundamentals of community-engaged research. The second session included Drs. Ucheoma Nwaozuru (WFUSM) and Angela Odoms-Young (Cornell University) focusing on methods aligned with community-engaged research, including crowdsourcing and community advisory boards as change agents. In the third session, Drs. Parissa Ballard (WFUSM) and Karen Kim Yeary (Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center) shared some real word successes working with youth and faith-based communities. In the fourth and final session, Dr. Hazel Tapp (Atrium Health), Ms. Claudia Barret (IMPRINTS CARES), and Dr. Joseph Skelton shared insights on how to sustain community-engaged research partnerships to improve community health.

For more information please contact Isaiah Randall at irandall@wakehealth.edu.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

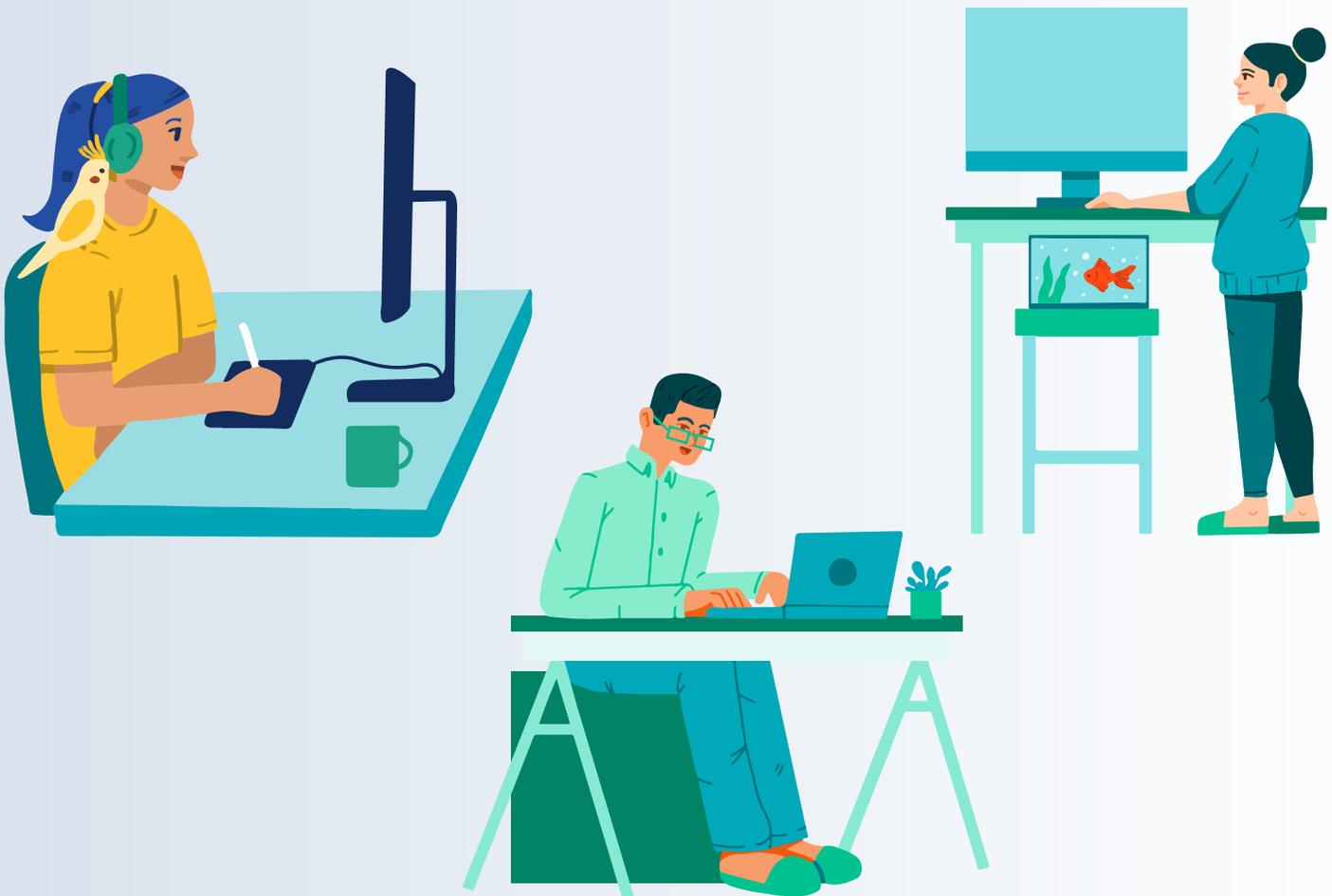
CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

First All-Virtual Scientist Academy Program Brings Stakeholder Engagement Training to Rural Ohio

Beverly Stringer

The Ohio State University CCTS Community Engagement Program conducted a Community Scientist Academy (CSA) program during the fall of 2022. Working together with the Meigs County (OH) Public Health Department to enroll community stakeholders from Southeast Ohio (in what we plan to be the first of many in this area of emphasis/need), we registered 10 participants for the program.

This was the first time an all virtual (Zoom) CSA was conducted, expanding the reach of the program to more people across the state of Ohio, including the rural communities of Ohio's Appalachian Region.



UPCOMING EVENTS

18TH ANNUAL CCTS SPRING CONFERENCE

MARCH 27, 2023 | UK GATTON STUDENT CENTER

Translating Equity into Action



featuring a keynote address by

Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD

University Professor of Medical Humanities and Professor of American Studies,
George Washington University



**REGISTER
HERE
TODAY!**

UK Center for Clinical and
Translational Science
Accelerating discoveries to improve health™

UPCOMING EVENTS

Voices in Clinical Translational Science Series

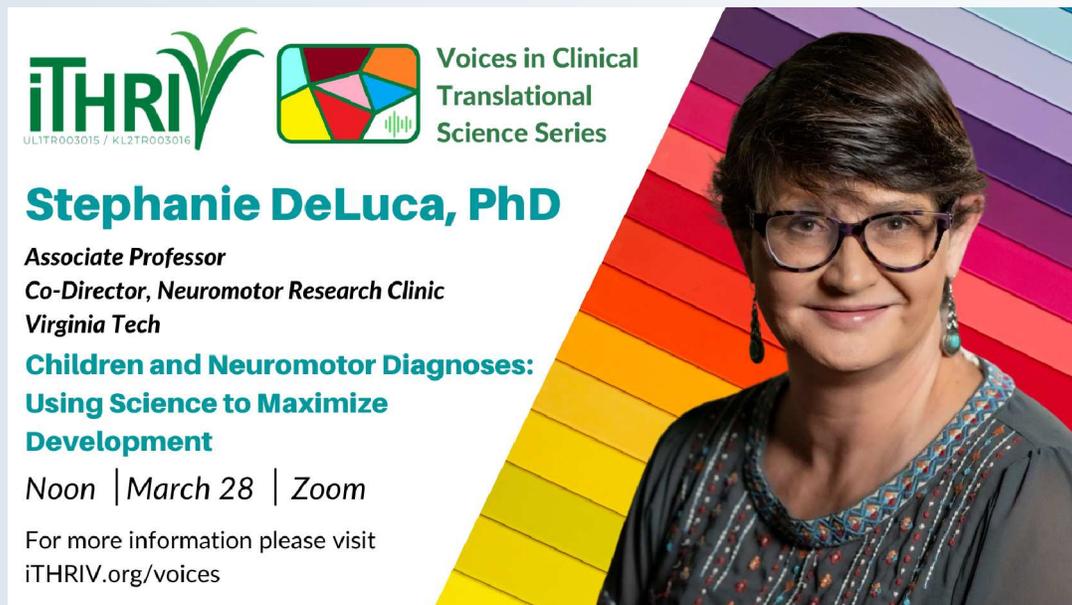
The Voices in Clinical & Translational Science Seminar series serves as a platform to lift underrepresented voices in research across the iTHRIV partnership with a focus on promoting dialogue and encouraging team science. This virtual seminar series is aimed at amplifying diverse perspectives in clinical and translational research to foster innovation and an inclusive environment. Presenters will share their science and also their lived experience as an underrepresented person in research. It is our hope that listeners will be called to listen more deeply to one another, and to seek new opportunities to broaden their own research in our shared quest to improve the health of our communities in Virginia and beyond. iTHRIV is funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Science of the National Institutes of Health Awards UL1TR003015/ KL2TR003016.

Registration is free but required;

click here for more information and registration: www.ithriv.org/voices

*Once registered, you will receive an email with the Zoom link and calendar invitation.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS



iTHRIV
UL1TR003015 / KL2TR003016

**Voices in Clinical
Translational
Science Series**

Stephanie DeLuca, PhD

*Associate Professor
Co-Director, Neuromotor Research Clinic
Virginia Tech*

**Children and Neuromotor Diagnoses:
Using Science to Maximize
Development**

Noon | March 28 | Zoom

For more information please visit
ithriv.org/voices

March 28th, 2023

Title: Children and Neuromotor Diagnoses: Using Science to Maximize Development

Dr. DeLuca has served as PI on numerous randomized controlled trials (RCTs) all of which have a goal of using science to investigate complex bio-behavioral interventions aimed at helping children with disabilities maximize their development. Currently, she serves as a lead investigator on a 13-site Phase III clinical trial, directs the Treatment Implementation Core, and serves as a Site-PI for Virginia Tech. She also serves as a lead investigator and leads Didactic Interactions for the National Pediatric Rehabilitation Resource Center, as part of the Medical Rehabilitation Research (MR 3) Network. The center is designed to improve and increase pediatric rehabilitation trials to NIH that have immediate and lasting impacts in pediatric rehabilitation. <https://redcapsurvey.healthsystem.virginia.edu/surveys/?s=RFTMN7KXD8>

UPCOMING EVENTS

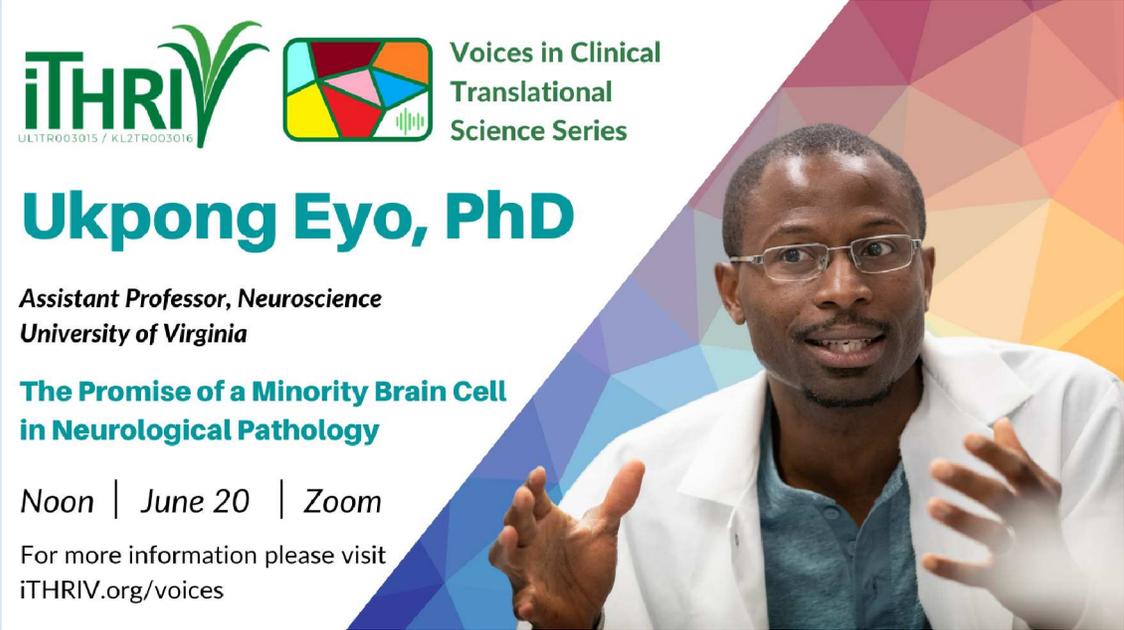
Voices in Clinical Translational Science Series

The Voices in Clinical & Translational Science Seminar series serves as a platform to lift underrepresented voices in research across the iTHRIV partnership with a focus on promoting dialogue and encouraging team science. This virtual seminar series is aimed at amplifying diverse perspectives in clinical and translational research to foster innovation and an inclusive environment. Presenters will share their science and also their lived experience as an underrepresented person in research. It is our hope that listeners will be called to listen more deeply to one another, and to seek new opportunities to broaden their own research in our shared quest to improve the health of our communities in Virginia and beyond. iTHRIV is funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Science of the National Institutes of Health Awards UL1TR003015/ KL2TR003016.

Registration is free but required; click here for more information and registration: www.ithriv.org/voices

*Once registered, you will receive an email with the Zoom link and calendar invitation.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS



iTHRIV
UL1TR003015 / KL2TR003016

**Voices in Clinical
Translational
Science Series**

Ukpong Eyo, PhD

*Assistant Professor, Neuroscience
University of Virginia*

**The Promise of a Minority Brain Cell
in Neurological Pathology**

Noon | June 20 | Zoom

For more information please visit
ithriv.org/voices

June 20th, 2023

Title: The Promise of a Minority Brain Cell in Neurological Pathology

Dr. Eyo (pronounced "A"-Yo") was born in Nigeria and immigrated to the US in 2003 to pursue undergraduate studies at Northwest Missouri State University. He then went on to graduate school at the University of Iowa where he developed a keen interest in real-time imaging of microglia during development under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Dailey. Following his Ph.D studies, Eyo joined the lab of Dr. Long-Jun Wu, first at Rutgers University in New Jersey, then at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota to study microglial-neuronal communications. In August 2018, Dr. Eyo started his independent lab in the Department of Neuroscience and the Center for Brain Immunology and Glia (BIG) to continue his research on microglia in (i) neural injury (especially seizure disorders); (ii) neurovascular interactions and function and (iii) sex differences. Thorough his career, Dr. Eyo has published in diverse journals including Nature Communications, Cell Reports, Nature, Neuron, GLIA, Brain Behavior and Immunity, Scientific Reports and others. As a PhD, he has had success in securing grants and his lab is currently funded by 2 R01s from the NIH as well as private funding including a consortium grant to study COVID with HHMI. Dr. Eyo is a passionate advocate for diversity in research and runs a diverse lab. Away from the lab, Dr. Eyo enjoys time with his blessed family including his wife, two sons, and two daughters. <https://redcapsurvey.healthsystem.virginia.edu/surveys/?s=3HPYRRP4ME>

Would you like to subscribe to the ATRN Newsletter?



To submit content, please email the representatives below at each partnering institution :

ATRN Communications Committee

Newsletter Editor: Ashley Hall agtayl3@uky.edu

Ian Moore imoore3@hsc.wvu.edu

Sheanna Spence smith566@marshall.edu

Beverly Stringer Beverly.stringer@osumc.edu

Jennifer Iams jennifer@kassalen.org

Keith Jones LKJ5DK@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu 

Jeff M. Grever Jeff.Grever@osumc.edu

Brooke Crockett brooke.crockett@osumc.edu

Isaiah Randall irandall@wakehealth.edu

Emma Jones Emma.Jones2@cchmc.org 

Rebekah Crawford crawforn@ohio.edu 

Newsletter content includes:

- Researcher Spotlights
- Funding opportunities
- Seminars/Lectures
- Trainings
- Events
- Collaborations among partnering ATRN institutions
- Other—send your Communications Group representative an email with your ideas!