



Translational research: moving knowledge and discovery gained from the basic sciences to its application in clinical and community settings

The **Institute of Translational Health Sciences** (www.iths.org) is a regional inter-disciplinary consortium funded through the NIH-NCRR Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA) to the University of Washington.

The goal of the **ITHS** is to make a positive impact on human health locally and globally by enabling and sustaining innovative translational research and research collaborations across disciplines and professions. Achievement of this goal requires collaboration between many groups in academia, industry, non-profit agencies, government, and the community. *Everyone from basic scientists to community-based participatory researchers can be involved in translational research.*

Community Outreach & Research Translation (CORT)

The CORT core of the ITHS aims to increase community participation in all stages of research, foster research relevant to community needs, form and facilitate research network capabilities, and promote uptake of useful research findings in diverse health care settings. We partner with three distinct communities across the 5-state *WWAMI* region (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho):

- American Indian and Alaska Native communities and organizations
- Primary care clinical and teaching practices in the WWAMI states
- Group Health Cooperative, an integrated group practice delivery system in Washington state

We offer consultations that provide guidance on translating health research in a bi-directional manner with communities and clinical practices. Specific to developing research partnerships with American Indian and Alaska Native communities and organizations, CORT offers to:

- Facilitate the identification of health priorities for research and the development of tribal research protocols.
- Connect researchers and tribal communities/clinics for health research partnerships.
- Provide resources for working with tribal communities. For example, we can assist in the development of Memoranda of Understanding, consents, tribal research codes, IRB and other relevant protocol for conducting research in or with tribal communities.

The CORT core is developing a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) in the WWAMI states. Beginning with Family Medicine Residency Network teaching sites, our long-term aim is to develop partnerships with clinical practice sites of all types in the region, expanding the PBRN's breadth and depth to increase community and practice participation in all stages of research. In consultation, CORT offers to:

- Provide guidance on converting clinical problems observed in typical community practices into researchable questions.
- Provide guidance on what is needed to conduct research in community clinical sites, how and where to find resources for research in community clinical settings, and how to identify and connect with community practice sites for research.

“It has been very useful to have the infrastructure of the UW available through the ITHS, because some of those resources I need are not available locally.”

- Erica Woodahl, PhD

The CORT core is also building relationships between the Group Health Research Institute researchers, Group Health clinicians and ITHS members and aims to:

- Create opportunities for new and productive research collaborations between Group Health and ITHS members.
- Educate ITHS members about GHRI and how we translate research into clinical practice within our delivery system.
- Connect University of Washington and ITHS researchers with Group Health and GHRI collaborative resources.
- Tailor GHRI tools and know-how on multi-site research collaborations and networks to the WWAMI region and American Indian and Alaska Native practice/community based research networks.
- Assist in creating a system for standardizing health data used for research across different sites within the WWAMI region and American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Other ITHS Core Groups That Support Translational Research

○ **Portal Program**

Provides the “gateway” to all things ITHS. Portal requests are directed to other applicable “cores” to best assist ITHS members and potential members

○ **Preclinical Research Development Network**

Gathers collaborative network of experts and resources from academia and biomedical industry to facilitate public/private partnerships that support translational research; offers drug & device development support from discovery through Investigational New Drug (IND) application or Investigational Device Exemption (IDE)

○ **Translational Technologies & Resources**

Offers central information source to enhance access and use of existing technologies and resources across ITHS partner institutions and WWAMI region, provides consult about which technologies may be appropriate for your project; fosters development of new technologies and resources

○ **Clinical Research Center Network**

Manages an integrated network of clinical research centers across multiple ITHS sites in the Puget Sound region

○ **Center for Biomedical Statistics**

Offers core of biostatisticians and analysts to support statistical design and analysis options for proposed studies, including the preparation of grant proposals; provides assistance with data management

○ **Biomedical Informatics**

Provides consultation on accessing and integrating diverse research data including electronic medical record data, electronic case report form data, and high throughput instrumentation data (e.g. genomic or proteomic data)

○ **Regulatory Support & Bioethics**

Provides support for ethical translational collaborative research within the ITHS; education, training and consultation related to research regulation (e.g., IRB, HIPAA) and other research ethics issues

○ **Center for Scientific Review**

Manages a portfolio of pilot grants to support innovative research and integrate technologies into existing studies

○ **Evaluation Research**

Assesses the local and regional impact of ITHS initiatives; performs independent research on methods to facilitate the translational research process

○ **Research Education**

Provides formal (degree-granting) and informal training programs to facilitate the development and evolution of research skills in every phase of a translational investigator’s career

○ **Mentoring and Career Development**

Offers junior investigators training opportunities to support career development and advancement

Leadership

Laura-Mae Baldwin, MD, MPH
Dedra Buchwald, MD
Eric Larson, MD, MPH

For More Information

www.iths.org or www.iths.org/CORT

To Contact Us

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