K-to-R Seminar Emphasizes NIH Grants

KL2 Program Celebrates Successes of ICTR Scholars

The UW ICTR KL2 Scholars program, one of the largest in the country, has graduated 40 scholars since 2007. The program provides training, mentoring, and protected research time to promising young investigators to assist them in developing an independent clinical and translational research program. Of the 40 graduated scholars, 30 remain on the faculty at UW-Madison and 10 of those have been promoted to associate professor.

Begun in 2007 with the ICTR NIH grant, the earliest cohorts included K12 Scholars from the UW Training and Education to Advance Multidisciplinary (TEAM) Clinical Research Program. In the current annual application process, candidates must first be nominated by their departments (see page 5 for the 2015 KL2 RFA announcement).

This year, four new Scholars (see page 4) will start June 1 and join 10 continuing Scholars. By broadening eligibility to include junior faculty from all UW-Madison schools, colleges, and the Marshfield Clinic, KL2 Scholars include basic, translational, and clinical scientists across disciplines committed to promoting human health.

Marc Drezner, MD, ICTR Executive Director, comments, "We believe that training cohorts of clinician-scientists alongside basic scientists is a step towards advancing research collaborations along the translational pathway. Indeed, our new June cohort exemplifies this philosophy."

Benefits of the program

Like many other CTSA sites, ICTR provides benefits to KL2 Scholars that extend beyond salary support and protected time. Program activities include formal mentor meetings and advisory committee reviews, monthly career development seminars, and extra workshops such as the recent “Team Science” meeting, manuscript writing groups, mock study section reviews, K writing groups, and a “K-to-R” workshop.

Additionally, the ICTR Research Education and Career Development (REC) core has an active program in mentor training for mentors of biomedical researchers, which benefits the KL2 program.

K-to-R Seminar Emphasizes NIH Grants

KL2 Program Celebrates Successes of ICTR Scholars

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KL2 Program Celebrates Successes of ICTR Scholars

KL2 Program Celebrates Successes of ICTR Scholars

Sweet success leads to a wave goodbye!

Four recent scholars took an “early” departure from the KL2 program after receiving NIH grant awards.

These individuals join a number of other KL2 scholars who achieved independent funding. A summary of all past and present KL2 Scholars and their research can be found on the ICTR web portal (ictr.wisc.edu/KL2Scholars).

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UW ICTR Leadership

Executive Director
Marc Drezen, MD
Senior Associate Dean, SMPH

Senior Associate Executive Director
Christine Sorkness, PharmD

Associate Executive Directors
Rebecca Marnocha, PharmD
Robert Steiner, MD

Assistant Executive Directors
David DeMets, PhD
W. John Kao, PhD
Paulette Sacksteder
Barry Sievers

ICTR Core Directors
Alexandra Adams, MD, PhD
Collaborative Center for Health Equity

Nizar Jarjour, MD
Clinical and Translational Research Chair, Scientific Review Comm

W. John Kao, PhD
Translational Technologies and Resources Core

Mary Lindstrom, PhD
Biostatistics

Rebecca Marnocha, PharmD
Clinical Research Infrastructure System

Paul Moberg, PhD
Evaluation

Maureen Smith, MD, MPH, PhD
Community-Academic Partnerships

Umberto Tachinardi, MD, MSc
Biomedical Informatics

UW ICTR Leadership
Howard Bailey, MD
NIW Network for Health Research

Murray Brilliant, PhD
Translational Technologies and Resources (Marshfield Clinic)

Karen Timberlake, JD
Community Engagement

F. Javier Nieto, MD, PhD
Survey of the Health of Wisconsin

Paul Sondel, MD, PhD, Chair
Scientific Review Committee

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College of Engineering

Jeannette Roberts, PhD, MPH
Dean, School of Pharmacy

Brian Ewert, MD, President
Marshfield Clinic

For more information: contact (608) 263-1018 or info@uwictr.wisc.edu

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UW Madison ICTR Report
By Christine Sorkness, PharmD, Senior Associate Executive Director

An Update on the UW ICTR Graduate Program in Clinical Investigation

The occasion of our newest graduate from the ICTR Graduate Program in Clinical Investigation (GPCI), Dr. Casey Gallimore, has stimulated me to reflect on our success as this will bring the total MS degrees granted to 15 by the end of the spring. ICTR’s approach to the GPCI has been to build on the strengths of our existing campus academic programs, fill identified gaps in clinical research training based on core competencies published by an NIH workgroup in July 2009, and utilize resources in the broadest sense across the ICTR academic partners.

The Marshfield Report
By Robert Steiner, MD, Executive Director, MCRF
ICTR Associate Executive Director

I am delighted to welcome Dr. Steve Ziemba, who has joined MCRF as the Associate Director. Steve comes to Marshfield from Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, GA, where he was the Director of Clinical Research. Steve’s outstanding experience in research administration, as well as his science background, will be a great asset to MCRF. Steve will help oversee many of MCRF’s day-to-day operations. He’ll be instrumental in allowing us to move forward with our new strategic plan and vision we’re developing to support the outstanding research at MCRF, while helping move the Foundation forward. Please join me in welcoming Steve to our organization.

Steve Ziemba, PhD
Associate Director, MCRF

First, allow me to express my gratitude and excitement for being invited into the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation (MCRF). This allows me to be engaged in groundbreaking work with outstanding individuals and in a unique organization. Many recent examples of our successes derive from our partnership in UW ICTR headquartered at UW Madison. A number of services are available via this partnership. As a result of our work, the MCRF received high accolades at the recent ICTR External Advisory Committee visit held in Madison, at which various ICTR members presented their work.

The MCRF has been involved in many endeavors throughout its 50 years, which have established it as a highly-regarded contributor to scientific and medical knowledge. Examples include the Personalized Medicine Research Project with its wealth of genotypic and phenotypic patient data; rural medicine programs; and most recently, oral systemic biobanking and integration of medical and dental EHR. We are collaborating very effectively with our ICTR partner UW-Madison in the Bioinformatics core and have some exciting projects in progress in the Translational Technologies Resources Core. The Great Plains Collaborative submission through a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute grant was successful in large part to our collaborative efforts. Work between UW-Madison and MCRF continues to branch out, encompassing the National Farm Medicine Center at MCRF and the Department of Pediatrics at UW-Madison to evaluate immune systems of infants in farm families. By continuing to work collaboratively, we can expand our capabilities and achieve even greater success.

Continued on page 6
Winter 2014 Voucher Award Winners Announced

Three awards were made for the second round competition for service vouchers from the ICTR TTRC group.

• **Mannish Patankar, PhD** (Obstetrics and Gynecology, SMPH)  
  *Novel terpene conjugates for cancer therapy*  
  Facility: UW CCC Small Molecule Screening & Synthesis Facility

• **Sana Salih, MD** (Obstetrics and Gynecology, SMPH)  
  *Preventing doxorubicin insult in the ovary utilizing dexrazoxane and bortezomib*  
  Facility: UW CCC Experimental Pathology Laboratory

• **Bo Liu, PhD** (Surgery, SMPH)  
  *Impact of the micromechanical environment on inflammation in AAA progression*  
  Facility: UW CCC Flow Cytometry Laboratory

Contact Marwa Bassiouni, TTRC administrator, for additional information about the voucher program and upcoming application deadlines, msbassio@wisc.edu, (608)265-6234, or check online, [ictr.wisc.edu/FundingOpportunities](http://ictr.wisc.edu/FundingOpportunities).

Now in the SMPH Video Library: “Navigating the Critical Path”

In February 2014, UW ICTR held the 1st Annual Symposium on Therapeutics Discovery & Development: Navigating the Critical Path with over 150 attendees. The ICTR Translational Technologies and Resources Core (TTRC) worked with the Molecular Pharmacology Graduate Training Program and campus partners to develop this symposium, which provided participants with an introduction to drug discovery and development.

This event included a keynote speaker giving an overview of translational research, breakout sessions with case studies on various aspects of the critical path led by industry and academic experts, and student poster presentations. The keynote and breakout sessions were video-captured for wide public dissemination. The target audience was pre- and post-doctoral students and their mentors, campus members and partners, ICTR members, and other Clinical and Translational Science Award sites.

Based on the post-event survey, more than 95% of survey respondents wanted a longer symposium with more detailed content and more in-depth learning on certain topics; 94% said the conference gave them a better understanding of therapeutic discovery and development, and 96% indicated that the symposium information can be applied to their career.

Symposium sponsors included ICTR, UW SMPH, UW School of Pharmacy, the UW-Madison Graduate Program in Molecular Pharmacology, and the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, along with support from Covance, Promega, and Sigma-Aldrich.

Recordings of the keynote presentation and individual breakout sessions are available in the SMPH video library: [videos.med.wisc.edu/events/218](http://videos.med.wisc.edu/events/218)

If you are working on a therapeutic discovery or development project, and need help finding research resources on campus, please contact Marwa Bassiouni, TTRC administrator, msbassio@wisc.edu.

Poster Awardees

- **Chorom Pak**, Department of Medicine, SMPH  
  *Development of in vitro platforms with the ability to predict drug sensitivity for specific cancer patients has the potential to enable personalized medicine*

- **Ryan Behrens**, Molecular Pharmacology Graduate Training Program, SMPH  
  *Species-Specific Regulation of HIV-1 Rev Activity*

- **Jiaquan Yu**, Department of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering  
  *Micro Triculture Angiogenesis Model for Physiologically Relevant In Vitro Drug Development and Mechanistic Studies*

- **Kassondra Meyer**, Molecular Pharmacology Graduate Training Program, SMPH  
  *REST, a transcriptional repressor and tumor suppressor, is lost in 20% of human breast tumors, termed RESTless*

- **Renata Jaskula-Sztul**, Department of Surgery, SMPH  
  *Targeted Delivery of Thailandepsin A using Unimolecular Micelles to Improve Antitumor Effect in Carcinoid Cancer*

Keep UW ICTR Up-To-Date with NIH

**Acknowledge ICTR Support**

Publications arising from UW ICTR supported research should acknowledge support by stating "Supported by grant UL1TR000427 from the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, NIH."
Value of KL2 scholars program

The history of KL2 success in applying for independent funding from NIH benefits not only the successful scholars, but also future applicants. Receipt of an independent K or R award opens slots for future KL2 scholars. While the KL2 program limits support to a maximum of four years, ICTR routinely “graduates” scholars early when they receive independent funding (see front page). Many other scholars have a K or R award application submitted for review or in the final stages of preparation as they leave the program.

Scholars can benefit from both independent K and K-to-R grant writing groups that are scheduled on an as-needed basis to support their preparation of NIH applications for independent funding. The K grant writing group is led by former KL2 Scholar, Amy Kind, MD, who mentors participants in drafting effective career development and training plans.

The K-to-R seminar launched in fall 2013 is an intensive, eight-session series that requires a high-level dedication of time and effort from both participants and faculty mentor facilitators. Class size is limited to six participants. Both workshops culminate with a grant mock review organized by ICTR REC staff.

What scholars and mentors say about the K-to-R seminar

Former Scholar Joshua Mezrich, MD, assistant professor of Transplant Surgery, comments on his experience with the K-to-R grant writing group, “The strengths were the analyses of my own grant proposal by the group leaders and the other scholars…I recommend that all scholars take this at some point during their KL2 program.” Mezrich submitted his R01 application in June 2013 as he was graduating from the program.

With the second series nearing completion, Nizar Jarjour, MD, Professor of Medicine, co-leader of this year’s K-to-R seminar, reflects, “Facilitating this workshop was very rewarding.” Jarjour adds, “Not only do participants improve their own grantsmanship, they also develop peer review skills by analyzing and critiquing the work of other group members.”

Both the K-to-R seminar and grant writing groups are open to other UW K scholars and VA career development scholars if space is available. Interested faculty can contact Pam Asquith, REC administrator, psasquith@wisc.edu, to enquire about availability and scheduling of upcoming sessions for 2014-2015.
Casey Gallimore, PharmD, began her ICTR graduate career with classes toward the Fundamentals of Clinical Research Certificate in Fall 2010, and began the MS program in Fall 2011. She is an assistant professor (CHS) and Pharmacotherapy Lab coordinator in the School of Pharmacy. Her research focuses on the prescription, use, and monitoring of antidepressant medications in primary care. The title of her thesis was Medication Related Problems in Patients Prescribed Antidepressant Medication in Primary Care. Former UW-Madison associate professor Henry Young, PhD, led her degree committee, with professors Betty Chewning, PhD; Ken Kushner, MA, PhD; and Dave Mott, PhD, MS, RPh, also advising her.

Investigators seeking additional training in the skills needed for clinical and translational research have a range of options in the two certificate programs administered by ICTR. For both programs, certificate options include a Capstone Certificate for non-degree seeking students, a Professional Certificate for students currently enrolled in professional degree programs (PharmD, MD, DVM, etc.) and a Graduate Certificate for students currently enrolled in a graduate program (Masters or PhD).

Regardless of the chosen option, certificate students are special students who enroll through the Division of Continuing Studies and may apply year round. Two-thirds of current MS and PhD students in Clinical Investigation started as certificate students.

Certificate in the Fundamentals of Clinical Research

The objective of the Fundamentals of Clinical Research certificate program is to provide formalized training in research design and statistical analysis for professionals in health care, biotechnology, and the pharmaceutical industry. This is a 13-credit program.

Certificate in Type 2 Translational Research

This program focuses on the development of skills to engage successfully in research that focuses on the application of best practices in typical community settings and the characterization of factors that facilitate or impede implementation of such practices. The certificate explores why engagement with community organizations, clinicians, and researchers is essential in the research process. This is a 14-credit program culminating in a community-based research project report.

Learn More About UW ICTR Certificate Programs

Details about this certificate are available on the web portal (ictr.wisc.edu/CertificatePrograms). For further information please contact: Sally Wedde, Education Programs Administrator, Rec-Education@hslc.wisc.edu.

GPCI Graduate: Casey R. Gallimore

Casey Gallimore, PharmD, began her ICTR graduate career with classes toward the Fundamentals of Clinical Research Certificate in Fall 2010, and began the MS program in Fall 2011. She is an assistant professor (CHS) and Pharmacotherapy Lab coordinator in the School of Pharmacy. Her research focuses on the prescription, use, and monitoring of antidepressant medications in primary care. The title of her thesis was Medication Related Problems in Patients Prescribed Antidepressant Medication in Primary Care. Former UW-Madison associate professor Henry Young, PhD, led her degree committee, with professors Betty Chewning, PhD; Ken Kushner, MA, PhD; and Dave Mott, PhD, MS, RPh, also advising her.

More information about the ICTR KL2 Program can be found on the ICTR web portal (ictr.wisc.edu/KL2Scholars), or by contacting Pam Asquith, ICTR Research Education and Career Development administrative director (psasquith@wisc.edu).
• Sorkness, Pfund, and Branchaw Receive P20 Planning Grant to Develop National Research Mentoring Network

ICTR Senior Associate Executive Chris Sorkness, along with Co-PIs Christine Pfund, (Researcher, Wisconsin Center for Education Research, ICTR, and SMPH Department of Medicine), and Janet Branchaw (Interim Director, Institute for Biology Education) were awarded one of seven NIMHD P20 planning grants to develop a National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN).

This project is an extension of the ongoing ICTR efforts to train and evaluate research mentors, notably the Entering Mentoring curriculum for biomedical trainers. The UW-Madison group has joined three other P20 recipients to form a multi-institutional team to prepare a grant application to build and support the NRMN.

NIH envisions nationwide implementation of successful training and mentoring strategies across all career stages that change the culture of biomedical research training and increase engagement of individuals underrepresented in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical, and social sciences research fields. The NIH will select one of the NRMN proposals in September 2014 to support its diversity initiatives. More information is available on the ICTR Web portal (ictr.wisc.edu/node/1309).

• Clinical Research Unit Adds Nurse Practitioner

The Clinical Research Unit (CRU), a 24/7 inpatient/outpatient resource to ICTR members with clinical studies, recently hired an Advance Practice Nurse, Marianne Hines, MS, APNP, NP-C, to provide admission services for PhD-led studies with inpatient subjects, as well as protocol-required exams for outpatient studies.

"While Maryanne especially helps PhD studies by providing histories and physicals for overnight patients, she is here to help other CRU studies, as well," says CRU Nurse Manager Mary Jane Williams, DNP, MPH, RN. "We and our investigator clients are very lucky to have this service available, which has a usual $100 fee for services."

ICTR currently does not charge for CRU RN nursing services and room charges for investigator-initiated studies, while industry studies pay the hospital at a discounted research rate. For more information about the nurse practitioner services, call Williams at (608)263-0201 or MWilliams2@uwhealth.org.

To submit a consult, see ictr.wisc.edu/cru_consult.

My reflection brought to mind the strengths and diversity of our GCPI graduates and mentors. In its four-year history, the program has granted four PhDs and 15 MS degrees, with two MS degree earners continuing their formal education to pursue a PhD. As the program is now admitting its fifth incoming class, we expect that an additional three scholars will have earned the PhD by the end of 2015. The GCPI overall maintains a healthy enrollment with nine MS students, eight PhD (major) students, and 24 students pursuing a Minor in Clinical Investigation while earning a PhD at UW-Madison.

Graduates and enrollees of the GCPI Programs include faculty and staff from multiple departments in the School of Medicine and Public Health, including anesthesiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, medicine, neurology, neurosurgery, pediatrics, population health sciences, psychiatry, and surgery. Other enrollees and graduates are from the School of Pharmacy, the School of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation. This multidisciplinary spirit transcends the scholarly interchanges in our GCPI courses, and predicts our success for preparing students to successfully engage in team science. Kudos to the GCPI graduates and current scholars, their dedicated course instructors and mentors, and the ICTR staff who provide key student services.

Myths about Clinical Research Compliance

When: April 9, 12 Noon
Where: HSLC 1345

Do I need to maintain the regulatory files for a federally-funded study like I do for an industry-sponsored study? The answer is Yes. Come learn more at the next ICTR Research Learning Series. Tracy Ohrt, MS, CCRC, CCRA, UW ICTR Clinical Research Compliance and Training Officer, and Shari Zeldin, BS, CCRC, UW Carbone Cancer Center Clinical Research Compliance and Training Officer will present a session dedicated to "myth busting" frequently held beliefs about clinical research compliance.

Can't attend? The session will be streamed live on the web, live.videos.med.wisc.edu/ and will also be available in the SMPH video library, videos.med.wisc.edu/events/77.

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

For more information, contact Tracy Ohrt, tlohrt@wisc.edu
First Round of Dissemination Supplements Announced

ICTR recently awarded its first Dissemination Supplements to support the development and targeted distribution of evidence-based research findings, products, or materials to appropriate audiences, whether health-care practitioners, health-care systems, community programs, or public health efforts.

Christine Sorkness, PharmD, Senior Associate Executive Director of UW ICTR, notes, “These new awards support dissemination activities specifically and allow investigators to take evidence-based programs to clinical and community-based stakeholders.” She continues, “With a rapid application turnaround and multiple rounds per year, these awards are intended for quick-strike, highly-focused activities.”

For more information about future rounds of supplements, please contact Andrea Dearlove, adealerove@wisc.edu, or check the UW ICTR web portal, ictr.wisc.edu/FundingOpportunities.

Register Now:

Manuscript Writing II
Topics Include:
• Setting Up for Acceptance and Handling Rejection
• From the Editors’ POV
• Framing Your Submission: Writing an Effective Cover Letter
• Proving Effective Per Feedback

Dates: May 2nd, 2014
Place: HSLC 1220
Time: 9 am-3 pm

Participants in this workshop should actively be working on a manuscript to be shared with small groups for feedback.

Space is Limited!

@UWICTR News on Twitter
UW ICTR is posting the latest in ICTR research information on Twitter (@UWICTR). Check out news about research supported by our resources and training, as well as up-to-the-minute reminders of events and deadlines (twitter.com/#!/UWICTR).

Follow Twitter news feeds and links to other UW-Madison research events on the new ICTR Communications page on the web portal (ictr.wisc.edu/CmuEvtTwr). Also see News and Events announcements on the home page (ictr.wisc.edu).

2014 Dissemination Supplements (First Round)

Evidence-Based Tobacco Dependence Treatment Clinician Days of Learning
Robert Adsit, MEd
Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention, Department of Medicine, SMPH

Stakeholders: Statewide health professionals including physicians, nurses, physician assistants, mental health and substance use professionals, dentists, and dental hygienists.

Goal: Provide a Tobacco Dependence Treatment Clinician Day of Learning in four Wisconsin locations (Eau Claire, Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Wisconsin Dells) to train a total of 400 clinicians and health professionals.

Integration of the Stepping On Fall Prevention Program into the UW Hospital and Clinics
Hee Soo Jung, MD
Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, Department of Surgery, SMPH

Stakeholders: Dane County Fall Prevention Task Force, Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging, UWHC, UW SMPH

Goal: Sustainably incorporate the Stepping On program into the UWHC system by integrating the program into the UWHC Department of Specialty Nursing Learning Center program.

Using Technology to Improve Dissemination and Translation of Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW)
Kristen Malecki, PhD, MPH
Department of Population Health Sciences, SMPH

Stakeholders: Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Prevention Research, Wisconsin Department of Health Regional Health Officers

Goal: Work collaboratively with state health partners to develop a web portal of key health information from the SHOW.

The Wisconsin Sports Concussion Education Project
Timothy McGuine, PhD, ATC
Sports Medicine Program, Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation, SMPH/UW Health

Stakeholders: Leaders and membership of the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians, the Wisconsin Athletic Trainers Association, and the Wisconsin Association of School Nurses

Goal: Distribution of an educational video to be used in conjunction with either hands-on training sessions or a stand-alone online educational module to disseminate the Sports Concussion Assessment Tool 3rd (SCAT 3).
**Adapting Mental Health Programs for Underserved Communities**

**Spotlight on: Earlise Ward**

When Earlise Ward, PhD, worked at a local community mental health clinic in 2002, she noted serious problems with patient dropout rates among Hmong, African American and Latino clients. She also knew that research examining mental health issues in diverse, underserved communities was hindered by the stigma of mental illness and continued negative perceptions about participating in research.

Fast forward 12 years, and Ward is a tenured faculty member in the UW School of Nursing and the PI of a $1.8 million NIH-funded depression intervention for African Americans, *The Oh Happy Day Depression Intervention* (OHDC). She used quantitative and qualitative data from African American research participants to develop and test a culturally-relevant intervention for treating depression among African American adults.

Ward’s research relies on partnerships with African American churches and community centers in Madison and Milwaukee as part of its recruitment strategy. African American adults are the source of information about how to overcome barriers that racial and ethnic minorities experience in seeking mental health services and/or in receiving proper diagnosis and treatment. Now in its fourth year, the research represents a significant and novel contribution to evidence-based strategies for community-based provision of mental health services in underserved populations.

**ICTR resources and training help an emerging scholar**

After earning her PhD in Counseling Psychology from UW Madison in 2002, Ward was a clinical post-doctoral scholar through UW Counseling and Consultation Services, followed by a research post-doctoral fellowship at the UW Center for Women’s Health. As a TEAM K12 Scholar, Ward was a member of one of the first cohorts of ICTR KL2 scholars in 2007.

Ward’s association with ICTR was multi-faceted over the next few years. She received a key pilot research award of $50,000 through the ICTR Type 2 Translational Research Pilot program in 2008. This support, together with small funding awards from the UW School of Nursing and the UW Graduate School, allowed Ward to obtain the key preliminary data for her ultimately successful R01 application to the NIH (2011).

ICTR also provided Ward with access to mentoring and other research resources that contributed to her emergence as a funded investigator, including ongoing study design and analysis from the ICTR Community Academic Partnerships Program; assistance with finding collaborators in Milwaukee via the Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE) and Community Health Connections; study design consults from ICTR biostatistics, the Scientific Review Committee, and the Health Innovation Program; and scientific editing.

**Transition to mentoring other junior investigators**

Ward was chosen as a CCHE Health Equity Leadership Institute (heliuw.wordpress.com/) scholar in 2010. Participation in HELI included a mock study section review of her revised R01 grant application.

Ward’s participation in HELI was so pivotal that when she joined CCHE as a faculty researcher in 2013, she became one of the HELI faculty directors charged with planning and prioritizing content for future sessions. Other ways that Ward gives back both to ICTR and the broader health equity research infrastructure include teaching research methods courses in the School of Nursing and mentoring new health equity investigators.

**Ward’s passion for her work**

Ward reflects, “My passion for this work started with a critical incident one day on the Metro Bus. An African American woman initiated a conversation with me. When I told her I was studying counseling psychology and cultural issues, she responded, ‘That’s good, we really need people like you to study that stuff. Let me tell you what happened to me recently. Sometimes I have mood swings. When the weather gets cold, I sometimes get depressed and unhappy, you know. Part of my unhappiness is related to being a Black woman living in a White city. Anyway, I decided to tell my doctor about my mood swings. He recommended counseling. At first I did not want to go, because you know how us Black folks feel about counseling. Plus, I don’t want anyone to think I am ‘crazy.’ When I finally got the courage to go to counseling, in the first 30 minutes the counselor tells me I need to see a psychiatrist for medication. What’s wrong with him, he didn’t even spend any time getting to know me? I just needed someone to talk too, but instead he is talking about medication. Well girl, I never went back.’”

Ward continues, “I was emotionally moved by this woman’s story, and thought, ‘This cannot continue. Something needs to be done, somebody needs to do something about these issues.’ After a few days of reflection, I realized that I was the ‘someone’ that needed to do something to create change. My program of research is my effort to ‘do something’ to create change.”

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**Learn more about Earlise Ward:**

Earlise Ward Receives Tenure (April 18, 2013) [www.son.wisc.edu/earlise-ward-receives-tenure.htm](http://www.son.wisc.edu/earlise-ward-receives-tenure.htm)

African American Depression Intervention Project: Searching for Solutions (April 18, 2013) [capitalcityhues.com/041813DepressionInterventionProject.html](http://capitalcityhues.com/041813DepressionInterventionProject.html)