



## FEATURES

### **SYNERGY Announces Advanced Certificate in Clinical and Translational Research**

This new educational opportunity, commencing in September 2016, builds research focus among learners from diverse disciplines by developing the core competencies required to achieve successful careers in clinical and translational research. Applications are open now. Read more at: <https://synergy.dartmouth.edu/advanced-certificate>.

### **SYNERGY's Research Design and Epidemiology (RDE) Core and Bioregistry Core**



These cores, led by Margaret Karagas, PhD (far left) with Rebecca T. Emery, PhD, MPH (near left), provide consultation and guidance to investigators at the earliest stages of their study design, with a particular focus towards novice investigators across the Dartmouth community. The overarching goal of the RDE is to provide individualized services to investigators, promoting critical thinking regarding the design, conduct, and reporting of translational research. RDE faculty and staff respond to consultation requests that are sent via the SYNERGY web portal,

offering services that include among others, grant reviews, project/study design consultations, publication/presentation reviews, and analyses. Read more at: <https://synergy.dartmouth.edu/research-design-and-epidemiology>. The RDE Core and Bioregistry Core staff assist investigators in identifying available epidemiological data and annotated biospecimens to pursue clinical and translational studies. A new service, eSAMPLE, will allow study investigators to plan and manage archival and prospective sample collection. Read more and/or schedule a consultation: <https://synergy.dartmouth.edu/bioregistry>.

### **Seminar Announcement**

SYNERGY's Center for Translational Population Research (CTPR) and The Dartmouth Institute (TDI) announce a special seminar highlighting an important research resource, the Atlas Rate Generator, on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> from 3-4pm in WTRB Room 571 E&W. The Atlas Rate Generator (ARG) (<https://synergy.dartmouth.edu/ctpr>) allows investigators to obtain cross-sectional rates of Medicare data efficiently, at a low cost, and in a timely manner. ARG "rate runs" are covered under the TDI's existing CMS data use agreement and are run using sophisticated SAS code macros to efficiently produce cross-sectional overall and regional "Atlas" health services use rates. This makes the ARG an ideal resource for researchers and others needing to validate or pilot research hypotheses or for policymakers and media needing custom rate measurements. The seminar will be conducted by David Goodman, MD, MS, Professor of Pediatrics, of Community and Family Medicine and of The Dartmouth Institute. A co-PI of the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care, Dr. Goodman leads and mentors a wide range of projects investigating the causes and consequences of variation in health care capacity and utilization.

### **NIH Guidance re: Enhancing Rigor and Transparency in Research**

In October 2015, the NIH Office of Extramural Research announced updates to the application instructions and review criteria for most research grants and individual mentored career development awards. These updates instruct applicants to address four key areas NIH deems important for enhancing rigor and transparency in research: 1) the scientific premise forming the basis of the proposed research; 2) rigorous experimental design for valid, robust, and unbiased results; 3) consideration of relevant biological variables; and 4) authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources. Research grant and mentored career development award applications submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2016 must address the rigor and transparency requirements outlined in the application instructions. For more information, see Dartmouth's Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) website: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~osp/>. Policies, guidance, FAQs and tutorials on addressing rigor and transparency can be found at NIH: <http://grants.nih.gov/reproducibility/index.htm>.

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Dartmouth SYNERGY Clinical and Translational Science Institute is funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program. The CTSA program is led by the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). SYNERGY is located in the Williamson Translational Research Building at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH, USA.