

TARCC Scientific Update

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TEXAS ALZHEIMER'S
RESEARCH AND CARE CONSORTIUM

A project of the Darrell K Royal Texas Alzheimer's Initiative

TARCC MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Baylor College of Medicine | Texas A&M University Health Science Center |
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center | University of North Texas
Health Science Center | UT Health Science Center–San Antonio | UT-Austin
Dell Medical School | UT Southwestern Medical Center | UT Health Science
Center–Houston | UT Medical Branch at Galveston

TARCC Grant Program

In 2018, with a mature database and upon recommendations from the EAC, TARCC moved from a cohort surveillance model to a grants-based program in order to support the best science in the state and enhance TARCC data utilization and productivity

To recap, a request for proposals (RFP) was issued

- Two external expert reviewers provided rated 65 grants using NIH-style criteria
- Top-scoring applications were reviewed by the External Advisory Committee
- Funding recommendations for 14 were made and approved by Council in August
- All participating TARCC schools were awarded grants

Monitoring includes quarterly progress reports* and Steering Committee review



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Grant Progress report form (see handout for details)

- **Overview – Aims**
- **Accomplishments**
 - What was accomplished under these goals?
 - Changes/challenges
 - Plans for next reporting period
 - How were results disseminated? (abstracts, posters, papers, talks)
 - Changes in funding and/or support (additional grant applications, etc)
- **Training Opportunities** – involvement of trainees
- **Impact** – on field or beyond science/technology?
- **Financial status** – amount expended / on track?



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TARCC Steering Committee

Each site has a Steering Committee representative involved in quarterly calls to:

- **Monitor progress on each site's TARCC grants**
- Review TARCC data access requests
- Review abstracts for annual TARCC conference
- Disseminate information about collaborative projects and grant opportunities
- Foster collaborative TARCC data-use projects and review progress



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TARCC Steering Committee

David Paydarfar, MD

Donald R. Royall, MD

John DeToledo, MD

Kelly Dineley, PhD

Marcia G. Ory, PhD, MPH

Valory Pavlik, PhD

Bob Barber, PhD

Claudio Soto, PhD

Rodrigo Morales, PhD

Munro Cullum, PhD

UT Austin Dell Medical School

UT Health San Antonio

Texas Tech Health Science Center

UTMB Health

Texas A&M Health Science Center

Baylor College of Medicine

UNT Health Science Center

UT Health Houston

UT Health Houston

UT Southwestern Medical Center



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TARCC Research Conference

Tomorrow we will hear from all grant recipients about their work in the inaugural TARCC Research Conference

The response to the conference announcement was overwhelming, and many had to be turned away, which speaks to the interest and enthusiasm not only in neurodegenerative conditions but in TARCC

TARCC research projects range from basic science focused on biomarkers and understanding pathways of pathology in Alzheimer's Disease to longitudinal clinical studies of disease risk factors and phenotypes



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TARCC Research Conference

- This represents the first assembly of TARCC investigators, Steering Committee members, collaborators, and trainees
- Allows for TARCC grant recipients and their labs to share research via talks & posters
 - Awards for best posters!
- Review latest information on aging and dementia from TARCC sites
- Update on TARCC database
- Encourage introduction and collaborations within and across TARCC



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The TARCC cohort represents a mature data set of over 3,000 cases that has been carefully reviewed for diagnostic consistency by an expert panel

New, modern, easy-to-use database interface that enhances data accessibility to investigators and will stimulate data utilization and collaboration (demo tomorrow)

TARCC is establishing itself in the field through its scientific contributions and unique statewide collaborative approach

TARCC is growing in national and international visibility and poised for scientific progress in the fight against dementia, a proud reflection upon Texas research

Need to build on the current momentum and ensure future of TARCC



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EAC - recommended initiatives for leftover TARCC funds

I. TARCC Clinical Fellows program

Goal: Training the next generation of Texas clinician-scientists

- Request for proposals from TARCC institutions for one or two year fellowship
- MDs or PhDs involved in *clinical care and research* on dementia
- Build on existing infrastructure for clinical and research training
- Performance milestones and productivity/accomplishment metrics

II. TARCC Brain Bank

Investigate establishment of infrastructure for centralized brain bank

Develop procedures and criteria for tissue acquisition, sharing, etc.



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Questions?



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