

IHP RESEARCH CONNECTOR

Connecting faculty, students, staff, and community

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A NOTE FROM DR. GAVINI

Greetings and welcome to the inaugural issue of the IHP Research Connector. In this quarterly newsletter we provide information on

upcoming events and new initiatives as well as spotlight two to three faculty from one IHP department. In this issue, we highlight two new faculty members, Drs. Kathleen Lyons and Ariel Schwartz of the Occupational Therapy department. In addition, we share some information regarding our newly created Speed Mentoring Session.

One mission of the Research Office is to effectively communicate with IHP faculty, students and staff regarding events, news, updates and initiatives related to IHP research. This newsletter looks to not only inform but foster a relationship between members of the IHP community. While we continue to abide by a hybrid work schedule, I believe it's imperative

for us to engage with one another, virtually or in person, through various research activities and opportunities presented to students, faculty and staff of the IHP. This newsletter seeks to keep readers informed on the vast amount of research conducted, published and presented within the IHP as well as the impact of the work on the greater MGB system. The Research Office encourages all members of the institute to participate and register for our seminars, events and workshops as they offer valuable opportunities for students, faculty and staff to converse with one another and grow collaborations and scholarly activities. Follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) to learn more about the IHP Research Office Activities. For inquiries, please contact Research Admissions & Operations Coordinator [Riley Keefe](#).

—Nara Gavini, PhD, MPhil

Associate Provost for Research, Professor



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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

A Few Words from the Department of Occupational Therapy

The Department of Occupational Therapy is thrilled to be featured in the inaugural issue of IHP Research Connector. Launched in 2013, the OT Department enrolled our first cohort of students in 2014. Since that time, our faculty has grown to include sixteen dedicated educators, scholars and leaders in the field whose expertise spans the continuum of care. Faculty publish regularly in leading academic and professional journals, share their [work](#) at national and international conferences, and have secured competitive grants from a range of federal agencies and private foundations including NIH, NCI, PCORI, and AOTF. The scope of our collective accomplishments in this short department history is staggering! Consistent with the OT profession's value on participation and client-centered care, the department has a strong emphasis on community partnerships driving research in areas such as health literacy, equity, and policy, community based rehabilitation, early childhood development, trauma informed care, maternal health, mental health, and measurement of the effects of social determinants of health on participation. Additional programs of research include topics in neurorehabilitation, health care ethics, professional reasoning, mindful practice, robot-assisted therapy, cognitive strategy training, interprofessional education, simulation and experiential learning, and much, much more. Research is a strong component of the doctoral curricula in both our entry-level and post-professional degree programs. Through mentored experiences our graduates create innovative solutions and serve as practice scholars, translating theory to practice. This newsletter highlights two new occupational therapy faculty—Dr. Kathy Lyons and Dr. Ariel Schwartz. Their research is making important contributions to the science of OT and harnessing the power of the lived experience to inform evidence-based, client-centered care. As you read more about their work, I encourage you to reach out to them and other OT faculty for future collaborations.

—**Regina F. Doherty, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, FNAP**

Professor and Chair

Department of Occupational Therapy



**REGINA F. DOHERTY,
OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, FNAP**



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Dr. Ariel Schwartz, PhD, OTR/L

*Assistant Professor, Department
of Occupational Therapy*

Dr. Ariel Schwartz, PhD, OTR/L has been engaged with the disability community since childhood. Her initial research experiences were in biochemistry, but she pursued a career in occupational therapy, because the field's driving frameworks and models are aligned with the social model of disability. Her research in the Partnership Lab is focused on participation, mental health, and accessible patient-

reported outcome measures for young adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. In this work, she utilizes an inclusive research approach in which individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are paid co-researchers throughout the entire research process. This approach ensures that Ariel's research is guided by the needs of the disability community and incorporates invaluable lived experiences of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Some of her current projects include refining and expanding peer mentor training for young adult peer mentors with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities delivering a mental health intervention, development of a cognitively accessible research ethics training, and evaluating the cognitive accessibility of the VIA Character Strengths Survey.

Prior to coming to the IHP, Ariel was a postdoctoral fellow at Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Her work has been funded by a range of foundations and federal funders, including the Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund, NIDILRR, and PCORI. As a junior scholar, Ariel's initial contributions and potential have been recognized by research awards from the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the Association of University of Centers on Disability. Welcome, Ariel!



**DR. ARIEL SCHWARTZ,
PhD, OTR/L**

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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Kathy Lyons, ScD, OTR/L

Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy

Dr. Kathy Lyons, ScD, OTR/L practiced occupational therapy in geriatric rehabilitation for six years before pursuing her Doctor of Science degree at Boston University. Those clinical experiences heavily influenced the nature of the research questions that intrigue her the most. The focus of her research program is upon building the evidence base for rehabilitation, primarily in the area of cancer survivorship. She has expertise in experimental design, mixed methods, implementation science, the service of developing, testing and refining stakeholder-informed, and individually tailored interventions.

Kathy joined the Center for Psycho-oncology Research at Dartmouth College in 2003. While there, she was awarded the Tiffany Blake Fellowship from the Hitchcock Foundation, followed by a five-year Mentored Research Scholar Grant from the American Cancer Society. She secured R01 funding for a two-site clinical trial, evaluating a rehabilitation intervention for breast cancer survivors. Her research challenges the predominant paradigm of supportive care in oncology.

Nationally, Kathy is seen as a leading researcher in the area of cancer rehabilitation. In addition to developing a research program that has been funded by the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute, she has mentored many doctoral and post-doctoral occupational therapists pursuing cancer research. She led a task force within the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (2017-2019) and was an invited member of a World Health Organization task force for the Rehabilitation 2020 initiative.

Her main line of research was developed in partnership with clinical psychologist Dr. Mark Hegel. In their pilot studies, they infused occupational therapy approaches of activity adaptation and environmental modification into a problem-solving treatment structure to help breast cancer survivors stay active during treatment.

Kathy was delighted to join IHP in September 2021 to create the Cancer Rehabilitation (CaRe) Lab. Welcome, Kathy!



DR. KATHY LYONS, ScD, OTR/L



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NEW INITIATIVES: SPEED MENTORING

Speed mentoring, a new initiative created by the Research Office, offers an opportunity for faculty and staff to collaborate with highly experienced mentors. These virtual sessions consist of 5-7 faculty and staff members as mentees with 2 mentors from the IHP.

What is Speed Mentoring?

Speed mentoring, also referred to as Flash Mentoring, is a series of short, focused conversations about specific questions. These conversations involve a one-on-one interaction between a mentee and mentor. The mentee rotates to several mentors during an allotted amount of time to obtain the information they are looking for.

What are the benefits of Speed Mentoring?

1. Interacting with People in Different Work areas: Mentees can ask a series of questions within a short period of time, allowing them to touch base on a number of topics that maybe pertain to their

respective work area. However, sharing experience/ advice regardless of background allows for mentees to learn more about different working environments.

2. Allows for Inclusion of Everyone: Speed mentoring is all about creating an environment where faculty and staff from all backgrounds can converse with one another. The experiences, knowledge, and wisdom shared can offer insight for those looking to learn more research, clinical, teaching and career growth.

3. Fosters a Sense of Community Within the Workplace: Given the unforeseen circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, staff and faculty are eager to connect with each other. With some semblance of normalcy returned, speed mentoring sessions allows mentors and mentees to reconnect with their colleagues and build new networking relations.

[Research Office Speed Mentoring Session](#)



Pictured to the left is the first Speed Mentoring Session held on 2/10 with Research Grantsmanship as the topic of discussion.

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Follow us on Social Media
and look for an email for
more information on our next
Speed Mentoring Session



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UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATE

March 30–May 25

How to Design a Clinical Study: Principles & Protocol Development

This course is an opportunity for new clinical investigators who have an idea for a clinical trial to learn the fundamentals of clinical trial design. Participants will learn the fundamentals of clinical trial design, including instructions on how to design a protocol, information on IRB and regulatory topics, and on trial implementation. Additional course topics include statistical analysis, budgeting, and data management.

*Only available to Harvard affiliates.

[APPLY](#) by March 7

March 2, 2022

N-of-1 and Aggregated N-of-1 Trials: Motivation, Applications, and Future Directions

The Center for Quantitative Methods and Data Science (QM&DS) will host N-of-1 and Aggregated N-of-1 Trials: Motivation, Applications, and Future Directions. This talk will be presented by Nicholas Schork, PhD, Deputy Director and Distinguished Professor of Quantitative Medicine at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), an affiliate of the City of Hope (COH) National Medical Center, and an Adjunct Professor of Medicine and Population Science at COH. [REGISTER](#).

March 9–June 8

Fundamentals of Comparative Effectiveness Research: Data Sources & Methods

This online course teaches participants about the motivation for

Comparative Effectiveness Research and how it compares to other research areas. Designed as an introduction to comparative effectiveness research (CER), participants will learn about the motivation for CER and how it compares to other research areas. The course, formerly known as Comparative Effectiveness Research, will also delve into the purpose of CER and the variety of data sources and analytic methods that are used in CER studies. Further, course participants will gain experience performing data transformation and analysis using R, Stata or SAS. [REGISTRATION](#) is open.

COVID Funding Opportunities

Please visit the new MGB web page for COVID funding opportunities that provides a central database for researchers to view open and competitive funding announcements. We have aggregated opportunities from federal and private funding sources including NIH, DoD, CDC, EPA, foundations, and more. The database defaults to sorting by award amount and can also be sorted by deadline or filtered by research focus.

[REGISTER](#).

Thursday, March 10, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Are you Writing a K? Get Practical Advice

This workshop consists of two sessions. The Program Workshop will take place 1:00-3:00 p.m., and the Administrative Components (optional session) will be from 3:15-5:00 p.m. This workshop is appropriate for clinical and basic



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science researchers from all fields. K99 applications will not be discussed in detail. [REGISTER](#).

March 10, 2022

Translational Research Day 2022 to Feature Leading Learning Health Systems Panel

Tufts CTSI announces Translational Research Day 2022: The Impact and Promise of Learning Health Systems (Tuesday, March 15, 10:00AM-4:00PM via Zoom) will include a leadership panel, Leading Learning Health Systems, featuring Wellforce President and CEO Michael Dandorff, MHA and Wellforce Chief Academic Officer and Dean ad interim of Tufts University School of Medicine Helen Boucher, MD, FACP, FIDSA. The session will begin with a talk by Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Gordon Bernard, MD, who will discuss using pragmatic trial designs in research studies conducted across Vanderbilt's Learning Health System. The panel will include a Q&A moderated by Tufts CTSI Dean Harry Selker, MD, MSPH. Check out the full agenda for Translational Research Day, and register here.

Deadline: Wednesday, March 30

Course: TRANSforming Care with Emerging, Novel Devices (TRANSCEND)

TRANSforming Care with Emerging, Novel Devices (TRANSCEND) explores the current climate for the development of class II and class III medical devices. This hybrid course begins with a 4-week online session that includes case examples featuring real-world critical aspects and challenges in device development, key factors in

regulatory decision-making, techniques for technology valuation and potential sources of funding, examining the ways in which risk management informs device development processes and designing a customizable pitch that deliver non-confidential information to key stakeholders. [REGISTER](#).

Deadline to Apply: April 6, 2022

Essential Skills for Conducting Clinical and Translational Research

Essential Skills for Conducting Clinical and Translational Research offers study team members and new investigators a greater understanding of the processes and capabilities needed to successfully conduct clinical research. Participants will be introduced to the clinical and translational research domains before exploring ways to effectively

May 23-24, 2022

Achieving Research Equity & Inclusion: Name it! Act on it! Change it!

Mass General Brigham is engaging stakeholders from across the country and our communities for a unique opportunity to change how we do research. The conference will address inclusion from a broad standpoint to include issues related to race and ethnicity, disability, age/sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, culture, social determinants, and urban/rural issues. A unique aspect of the conference will be prioritizing the involvement of the community not only as attendees, but also as speakers, moderators and discussants.



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LIBRARY RESOURCES

The Bellack Library, located on the fourth floor of Building 38, is offering newly acquired resources to all IHP students, faculty, and staff. Two new databases, [Business Source Complete](#) and the [Sociological Collection](#), are sources offered online and on site. Business Source Complete offers full text resources with a concentration in healthcare administration. The Sociological Collection offers access to sociological abstracts in combination with other databases covering the international literature in sociology. In total, it provides abstracts, indexing and full text coverage of journal articles.

In addition to these two new databases, the Library is offering a myriad of new journal subscriptions available to all students, faculty and staff this month. Offered alongside these new online journal subscriptions are several online books. These resources are available online (click the link above for more information on the newly acquired resources and journal publications). For all inquiries regarding the availability and location of these, please contact [Librarian Jessica Bell](#).

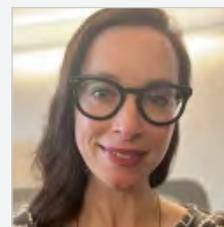
The Bellack Library is happy to welcome two new staff members to its directory. Lindsey Nichols joins as a reference librarian having formerly worked at the Emerson College library. A professional librarian since 2007, Lindsey specializes in research assistance and information literacy instruction for the arts, sciences, and business.

Joining Lindsey is Assistant Director Dominique Couturier. Dominique brings over five years of professional reference librarian experience having worked as an instructional librarian at Emmanuel College prior. Please join us in welcoming Lindsey and Dominique to the IHP!



Jessica Bell

Director of Library and Instructional Design



Dominique Couturier

Assistant Director



Lindsey Nichols

Reference Librarian

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RESEARCH OFFICE STAFF

Nara Gavini, Associate Provost for Research, Professor

Jordan Green, Chief Scientific Advisor, Matina Souretis Horner Professor in Rehabilitation Sciences, Director of the Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab

Riley Keefe, Research Admissions and Operations Coordinator

Michael Moody, Senior Grants Administrator

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Request a News Story

If you have any news, tips, or ideas for the IHP Research Office newsletter, please contact Riley Keefe in the Research Office rkeefe@MGHIHP.edu.

Statistical Consultation Services

Statistical consultation services are available to all faculty, postdocs, and graduate students conducting research and/or applying for funding from IHP methodologists Annie Fox-Galalis and Perman Gochyyev. Short-term consultations (e.g., analysis or statistical software questions, responding to reviewer's statistical requests, etc.) and long-term collaborations (e.g., grant applications) are possible. If you need statistical methodological support for a grant application, please contact us as early in the process as possible (minimum 6-8 weeks before the deadline) so that we can budget time for your project. For more information or to request a consultation, please visit our [website](#). We can also be reached via [email](#).



Annie Fox-Galalis
Associate Professor



Perman Gochyyev
Assistant Professor

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