

momentUM

ncrc newsletter

April 2013

The collaborate!@NCRC initiative, designed to inspire collaborative research across disciplines, welcomes you to an exciting event on May 13 - the first day-long workshop dedicated to this idea.

This month we spoke with Dr. Mousumi Banerjee, a researcher at the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation. She shared with us some thoughts on her multi-faceted work and its connection to the NCRC location.



NCRC continues to remain busy, even as we get closer to the end of the academic semester. We now have over 2,000 community members on our site, with several regular services, transportation options, parking, food and other amenities. Although it has been somewhat tentative in its arrival, I wish you a beautiful spring in the coming month!

[David Canter](#), Executive Director, NCRC

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Collaborating Across Disciplines: A Research Imperative

NCRC workshop promotes dialogue on research collaboration

“Nothing new that is really interesting comes without collaboration,”
James Watson, co-discoverer of the double helix, 1953.

collaborate!@NCRC

In this era of increasing scientific complexity, researchers who collaborate across disciplines are more successful in securing research funding. The big challenge in science requires an interdisciplinary effort. Keeping in mind this research imperative, the **collaborate!@NCRC** initiative at NCRC is sponsoring a one day workshop on research collaboration on May 13, 2013. Consisting of speakers, interactive working sessions, and networking opportunities, this workshop will facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and team science, inspire and engage the audience with scholarly discussions, and promote real conversations about research collaboration.

To register for the collaborate!@NCRC Workshop [Click Here](#).

After acquiring the NCRC campus in 2009, University leaders described their vision for an exciting new campus with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary and translational research. The large stretches of contiguous space provided an unprecedented opportunity to co-locate investigators based on affinities regardless of their academic home. As stated by James O Woolliscroft, M.D., Dean of the University of Michigan Medical School - “It is a phenomenal opportunity to do science differently and further the University’s mission.”

Over the last three years we have focused on bringing a vibrant research community to NCRC. As we approach the 2013-14 academic year, NCRC is home to over 2,000 researchers, staff, students and administrators. Institutes such as Biointerfaces and the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation have brought together researchers and faculty members from different disciplines and schools under one roof. As inter-disciplinary research blossoms across the U-M campus and NCRC increasingly becomes a hub for such research, critical dialogue on various aspects of collaborative research becomes an important mandate. “We are very excited to host this workshop and passionate in our support of researchers exploring the impact of collaborative activities into their research efforts”, says Joan Keiser, Director of the **collaborate!@NCRC** Initiative.

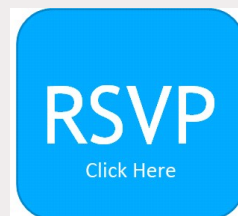
In this workshop, participants will engage in dialogue with researchers that think about collaboration - from medical and engineering to the social sciences, their success stories and the challenges they faced along the way. Creative approaches to making the most of research collaborations will be discussed. Current trends in collaborative research across the country as well as at U-M will be presented, with specific examples such as the MCubed initiative.

With an objective to focus on the various aspects of the collaborative research process, the morning session will explore how collaborations are fostered, reinforced and nurtured using the learning from the social sciences. The afternoon session will focus on team science with researchers sharing their experiences in both large and

small teams.

This inaugural event will initiate an ongoing dialogue between researchers on how to facilitate and implement collaborative research.

The morning session will feature Drs. [Jason Owen-Smith](#) and [Felix Kabo](#), along with [Richard Gonzalez](#) and colleagues. The afternoon session features [Dorene S. Markel, M.S., M.H.S.A.](#), [A. Harvey Bell, IV](#), and [Alan Taub, PhD](#), [Matthias Kretzler, MD](#), [Mark Burns, PhD](#), and [MCubed](#) teams. A reception at the end of the day will offer an opportunity to network and reflect on the discussions.



Research Continues to Thrive at NCRC: Interview with Dr. Mousumi Banerjee

Collaborative spaces at IHPI promote research productivity and new linkages

1. Please tell us about your research role in the Center for Healthcare Outcomes & Policy (CHOP) group of the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation (IHPI).

I serve as Director of Biostatistics in the CHOP group of IHPI. In that role, I collaborate with faculty members in CHOP on research design, measurement issues, and statistical analysis of various health services and outcomes research projects. I also direct the analysts' group in CHOP that comprises Master's level statisticians and programmers. Earlier in my career, my focus was on cancer health services and outcomes research, and although that continues to be my primary interest, through my role in CHOP my interests have broadened to encompass other diseases.



"The fact that all my collaborators are housed at NCRC makes it very easy to schedule meetings, hold impromptu discussions, and often exchange ideas in informal hallway conversations."
- Dr. Mousumi Banerjee

2. Are there other groups that your involvement in CHOP has allowed you to collaborate with and how valuable have they been?

At the time I joined CHOP, I was mostly collaborating with Department of Surgery faculty members specializing in cancer health services research (HSR). At the CHOP weekly seminar series I started meeting and interacting with researchers outside Surgery. These interactions have been valuable and have led to collaborations on grant applications, manuscripts, and other informal initiatives. Now I collaborate with several faculty members in Urology and Internal Medicine who have broader HSR interests beyond cancer. Our physical proximity in building 16 of NCRC has helped in this regard since it is very easy to walk across the hallway or up a flight of stairs and bounce off ideas.

3. Do you work with students and how has the formation of IHPI at NCRC furthered the educational mission?



My primary faculty appointment is in the Department of Biostatistics in the School of Public Health. In that role, I serve as advisor for several graduate students in Biostatistics. These students work with me on various projects where the principal investigator is a clinician/IHPI faculty member. As a result, the students now have an opportunity to interact with

clinical faculty members through meetings and project work. This interaction helps them to develop skills in applied research, and takes them beyond what they learn as part of graduate coursework. Often times, this experience helps them appreciate that it is essential to first understand the scientific question before plunging into statistical modeling. It also helps them to develop effective communication skills when working with non-statisticians.

I run a monthly journal club here at NCRC on Quantitative Methods in Health Services Research that is attended by a wide range of audiences including the CHOP analysts, fellows and some faculty members, as well as several researchers across other IHPI units. I am also involved in the training of the Surgery fellows at CHOP specifically on issues related to study design and statistical analysis of their projects.

4. How has the physical set-up of IHPI at NCRC proved to be beneficial to your research?

The physical set-up of IHPI at NCRC has been extremely beneficial to me in terms of spontaneous research discussions/collaborations. The fact that all my collaborators are housed in the same building makes it very easy to schedule meetings, hold impromptu discussions, and often exchange ideas in informal hallway conversations. This has been a blessing for me, because in the past I would shuttle between the School of Public Health, the Cancer Center, North Ingalls Building, and the downtown MSCORE facility for meetings and seminars. The meeting rooms here at NCRC, equipped with outstanding technology, definitely enhances the quality of the meetings.

NCRC Metrics: Did You Know?

NCRC Mcard Office Facts

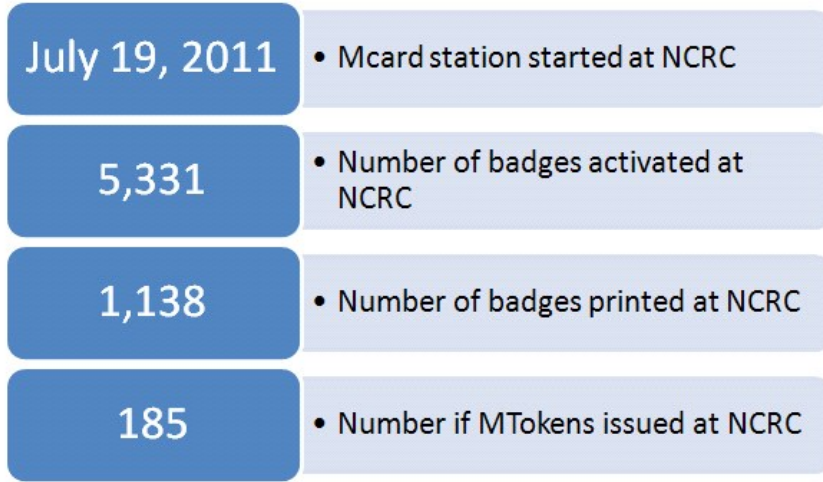
The Mcard Office at NCRC continues to expand to serve the growing needs of the University.

Mcard

All of the university community is required to have a valid Mcard. Over 110,000 student, faculty, staff, retiree and visitor Mcards are active at the Ann Arbor campus.

MToken

MToken provides a second form of authentication, reducing the risk that information can be easily compromised. Individuals with access to the personal information of others in Web-based administrative and business systems need to use MTokens.



April 2013



Number of Occupants



Space Usage



Key Facts

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