

# NMRI Overview and Accomplishments

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UTHealth®

School of Dentistry

The University of Texas  
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# Birth of NMRI

- The Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (NMRI) held its first annual workshop in April 2002
- .
- This historic event occurred because of recognition by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the pressing need to increase the representation of minority health researchers among its grantees.

# Birth of NMRI

- Allen M. Spiegel, M.D., then Director of NIDDK established the OMHRC
- OMHRC established NMRI to foster communication among biomedical research investigators, as well as technical personnel, interested in minority health research.
- Over 500+ members

# Mission of NMRI

- To encourage minority health investigators to be researchers in fields of interest to the NIDDK:
  - Diabetes, endocrinology, metabolism, digestive diseases, nutrition, kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases.
- To promote two-way communication between members and NIDDK.
- To gather recommendations for strategies to enhance opportunities for, and support of, underrepresented and others in biomedical research.
- To advance scientific knowledge and contribute to the reduction and eventual elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities.

# NMRI Leadership



**Griffin P. Rogers, MD, MACP**

Director, National Institute of  
Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney  
Diseases



**Lawrence Agodoa, MD**

Director, Office of Minority Health  
Research Coordination  
Program Director, Division of  
Kidney, Urologic and Hematologic  
Diseases

**Winnie Martinez**

Program Analyst/Program Director,  
Office of Minority Health Research  
Coordination

# Benefits of NMRI

- Networking
- Grant process, evaluation and writing
- Mentorship
- Being an invited panelist
- Support for promotion
- Collaboration
- Develop academic coping skills
- Opportunity to contribute and present data
- Receive letters of participation from NIH
- Rekindle motivation
- Meet officers of national organizations who are sponsors
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# Benefits of NMRI

- Opportunity to meet officers of sponsoring organizations
- Professional Societies
  - American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
  - American Diabetes Association
  - American Gastroenterological Association
  - American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
  - American Society of Nephrology
  - The Endocrine Society



# Meet Officers of Sponsoring Organizations





# Success of NMRI

## 2011-2012

- 71 grants submitted by 37 members
- Average of 1.9 grants per respondent
- 32 grants were funded
- Oral and poster presentations total 180 from 44 members = average of 4 per respondent
- 2013 - 2014 – 27 submitted no grants; 21 funded

# Success of NMRI

- Senior members who mentor and serve as role models for junior investigators
- Senior members help junior members develop grant applications, navigate the tenure process, and learn to balance faculty commitments.

# Success of NMRI

- NMRI Mentor-Mentee program (R#2)
  - To help identify a mentor for mentees
    - NMRI directory
    - Sign up at meetings
    - Attend mentor-mentee session
  - Create a framework to help mentees accomplish their goals
    - Mentorship agreement form
    - Timelines for goals and feedback

# Success of NMRI

In my case, I have invited various network members to give seminars at my institution (UCC) that have resulted in collaborations, MOUs, participation in grants, and student and faculty exchanges.

Best,

Luis

I am writing a paper with a mentee.

I have also nominated prior members to committees

regards,

Sylvia

# Participants Comments

#	Comments for "Specific Aim Review with Senior Member (By appointment)"	Date
1	Loved this opportunity	6/17/2016 10:08 PM
2	I received great feedback from Patricia Heyn	6/17/2016 4:02 PM
3	Appreciated feedback....	6/17/2016 3:15 PM
4	Dr. Lincoln Edwards was exceptional. He gave great advice and was very thorough.	6/1/2016 5:35 PM
5	This was one the best aspects of the session. It would be nice if there could be more time spent here.	5/10/2016 1:45 PM
6	The comments were very detailed and extremely helpful to me.	5/9/2016 6:19 PM
7	Patricia Heyn provided great feedback and even agreed to help mentor and collaborate with me	5/9/2016 4:49 PM

# Success of NMRI

- How NMRI Contributes to Promotion
  - Leadership Opportunity
  - Networking
    - Letters of reference
  - Invited to give seminar

# Downstream Effects of NMRI

## Success changes peoples perspective of you and your race

### Question: Instructor's strengths and weaknesses

Dr. Edwards is the best teacher I have learned from! His understanding of the material is impressive and he is extremely good and breaking the material down in a way that is easy to understand. He keeps students intrigued the entire lecture and gives the most relevant material needed for pharmacology in Dentistry! I learned so much from Dr. Edwards and felt that I understood his material completely after each lecture!! If all the lectures had been from Dr. Edwards, it would have been much easier to learn the relevant points to dentistry and develop and in depth understanding of how and why each drug works, when to apply it, the most important contraindications and adverse reactions. I cannot say enough good things about how good of a lecturer Dr. Edwards is!

great professor and interesting lecturer!

Loved him!!

Dr. Edwards was a great surprise. We learned a lot from him, and the fact that he's a DDS helps us relate in a more direct way to how pharmacology works not as a separate entity but as a tool in our daily dental work.

# Downstream Effects of NMRI

## Success changes peoples perspective of you and your race

A talented professor that understand we need to be entertained during a lecture. Not that he performed stand-up, thank goodness, but Dr. Edwards gave us a shot in the arm with pictures of Jamaica and gave us relevant stories of his medical missions. He spoke and we read and that was exactly what was on the test. Much appreciated this.

He was really awesome!

Dr. Edwards is a great new addition. Very knowledgeable and accessible. Great instructor. Passionate. Thoughtful. Only criticism would be that occasionally his lectures briefly got bogged down in the weeds of biochemistry minutiae. In other words, he was telling us what he knew, but I don't think it was relevant to the course just because he knew it.

Dr. Edwards is a dedicated professor who truly cares. His material is extremely organized and well understood. He is an amazing educator and feel I truly understood every lecture he taught.

Dr. Edwards is well-versed and enjoyable to hear. Sometimes I found myself distracted by his Jamaican accent, but that is my own fault, and not his. I wish that we would have more quizzes with his material, just as with all of the material. I feel that I will forget a lot of it as well. Bottom line for this course: we need more repetition/quizzes/engaging assignments in class.

Dr. Edwards' lectures were especially organized and easy to follow.

Dr. Edwards had the best lectures. The course was hard and material very difficult but his lectures were so wonderful. I was never confused. He clearly outlined his lectures and the information was presented in a clear and orderly fashion that there was no room for confusion. I really appreciate his knowledge and teaching skills. I wish he could teach all of pharmacology because he has wonderful teaching skills and was great at making references to pharmacology in dentistry and applying the two together. I feel that all other sections could have been learned better if he had been teaching all sections.





# Downstream Effects of NMRI

## Success changes peoples perspective of you and your race

### Question: Instructor's strengths and weaknesses

He is a great pharmacology professor. He should be the course director. He is accessible, a great teacher, and is welcoming to students. He makes pharmacology, which is a difficult class, relatively simple to understand. He breaks it down and helps students with how to study the material and how to understand the foundation and principles of antibiotics and prescriptions used in dentistry.

Dr. Edwards has power points that are very easy to follow and provide excellent explanations. He is a wonderful lecturer and makes class fun with anecdotes and stories.

Yes, yes, yes!! He is an awesome professor and I learned so much from him!!

Dr. Edwards does an excellent job teaching. He keeps things current, entertains questions, is professional...really the total package. His slides are great to study from - very clear. The only thing is to have more case studies and prescription writing experience at each lecture. That's the only thing I would change - keep everything else as is because it is awesome!

Dr. Edwards is awesome! Not only he knows the materials well, but he lectures well! His review tips for exams are very helpful, wouldn't survive the course without them! Keep up the great work!

He is wonderful and very engaging.

amazing role model!

Really enjoyed his lectures. He should be teaching the whole course overall

Dr. Edwards also provided a review! This is very much appreciated!

Dr. Edwards presented difficult material, but did so in an understandable way. I enjoyed his lectures.

Dr. Edwards always does a great job. His lectures are wordy but do contain the information we need. He also provides reviews which are very helpful during test time.



# Downstream Effect of NMRI



# Downstream Effects of NMRI

- Invite NMRI members to speak at your institution will change attitudes towards minorities
- Maintaining a research lab allows opportunity to mentor summer students and undergraduates

In the end, I graduated with a 4.36 weighted and 4.0 unweighted GPA. I was my school's salutatorian so I got to make a speech at my graduation. I have my college paid off - plus my graduate school taken care of. I will be attending the University of Rochester in NY with a biochemistry major and since the school has no GE courses, I will be able to explore many different science interests and have many research opportunities especially with my so-called impressive resume.

My intent of walking into your respective offices was not to gain anything, I only wanted to say thank you. This program gave me the opportunity to do many things I could only dream of and gain many connections I could not get otherwise since **there are no professionals currently in my family**. On my final day I wrote to Dr. Edwards: I can no longer say I can't. I still haven't. I look forward to becoming a biomedical researcher and I'm happy to say that at 17 I got to be what I wanted to become. Once again, thank you so much.

Still with much gratitude,  
Nadia Mercado

## Edwards, Lincoln (LLU)

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**From:** Basnet, Kristen  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 7:01 PM  
**To:** Edwards, Lincoln (LLU)  
**Subject:** Thanks

Dear Dr. Edwards,

I just wanted to thank you for your great lectures in Pharmacology this year. I wasn't sure if I could make it to the lectures today because of midterms tomorrow, but when I saw that you would be lecturing, I wanted to come. You really made it worth the time and I learned a lot so I just wanted to let you know that and say thanks.

Take care,

Kristen Basnet  
MS II

# Downstream Effects of NMRI

- Your success is a source of inspiration to others



Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 9:09 PM

To: Edwards, Lincoln (LLU)

Attachments:

Hi Dr. Edwards. My name is Tafadzwa Dzimiri and i am a student at Riverside Community College. My father is a student at your university as well as a student chaplain at LLU Medical center. I am confused and really need your help with my career planning. I was wondering if there was any way we could get together and discuss.

Thank you very much in advance,  
Tafadzwa Dzimiri.



dropping your class

connie magallanes [connie\_magallanes7805@yahoo.com]

You forwarded this message on 10/14/2010 4:44 PM.

Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 5:34 PM

To: Edwards, Lincoln (LLU)

Attachments:

Hello Dr. Edwards,

I just wanted to let you know that I am dropping your class. The reason I'm letting you know is because you seem like you care for your students. I really was debating whether to do it or not, but I feel that I'm not ready for your class. My mind is not there even if I try. And, I know your class is not hard.

Definitely, I want to have you for my professor next time I register for Chem. You seem very sweet and compassionate. Well, take care and see you when I sign up for your class. =)

Sincerely,

Connie

# Downstream Effects of NMRI

- **The National Academy of Medicine, formerly the Institute of Medicine, announced the election of 70 regular members and 10 international members during its 2015 annual meeting.**
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- **Congratulations to two of our NMRI members:**
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- **Evan Dale Abel, M.B.B.S., D.Phil, John B. Stokes Chair in Diabetes Research, and director, Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center, Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa, Iowa City**
- 
- **Glenn M. Chertow, M.D., M.P.H., Norman S. Coplion/Satellite Healthcare Professor of Medicine and chief, division of nephrology, department of medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif.**

# In memory of Dr. Marion Sewer



- Dr. Sewer was an Associate Professor in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of California San Diego. The overall focus of Dr. Sewer's research was defining the factors that regulate lipid metabolism. Her laboratory studied the signaling pathways and transcriptional mechanisms that control the production of cortisol and other steroid hormones.



# Expectations of NMRI Members

1. Consistent reporting of publications, presentations, grants, tenure and promotion
2. Complete post program evaluations
3. Recruit one or more new members per year
4. Help organize NMRI Chapters
4. Contact at least one organization or society to support NMRI
5. Fellowship

# Acknowledgements

- Leadership of NIDDK and OMHRC
- Winnie Martinez
- Heather Tarleton
- Luis Cubano
- Shirley Blanchard
- Sylvia Rojas





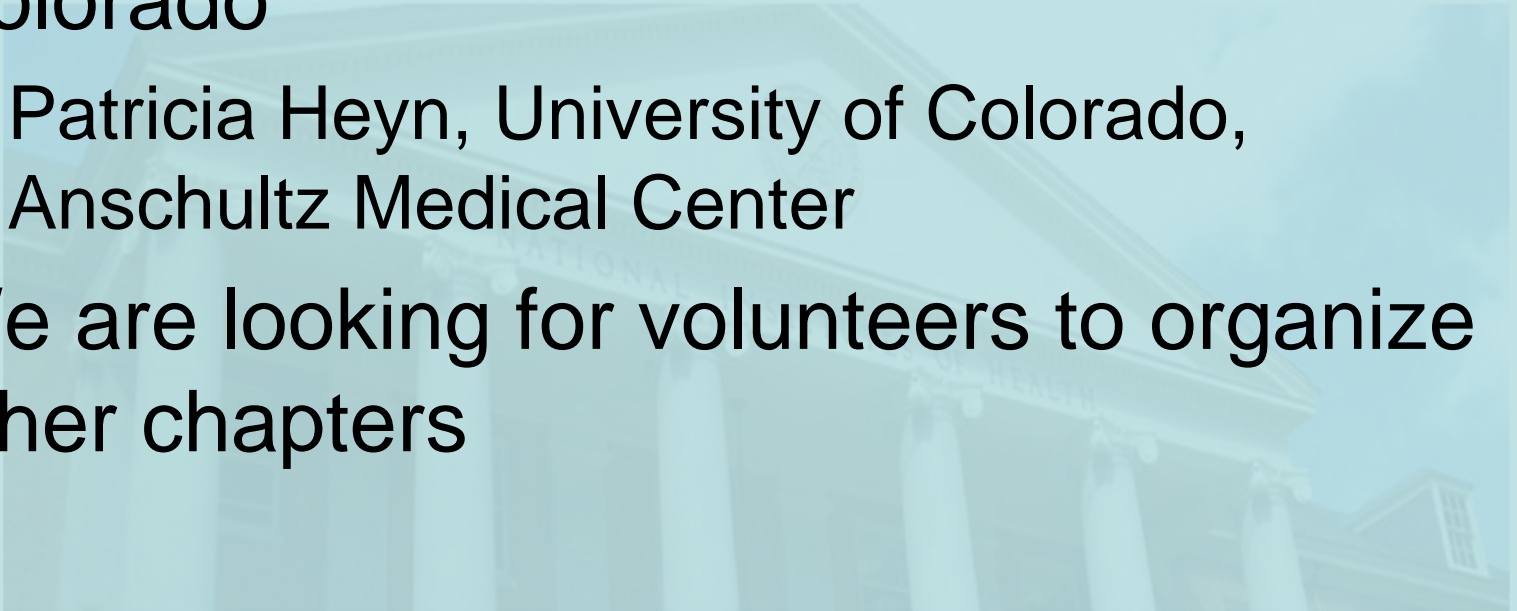
# Chapters

Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (NMRI)

- Puerto Rico
  - Luis Cubano, Universidad Central del Caribe
- Colorado
  - Patricia Heyn, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center
- We are looking for volunteers to organize other chapters

NMRI 14th Annual Workshop

April 20 - 22, 2016 | Bethesda, MD





# Our Entire Dental Team with NCU President, Dr. Gardner





# Our Entire Dental Team with NCU President, Dr. Gardner

