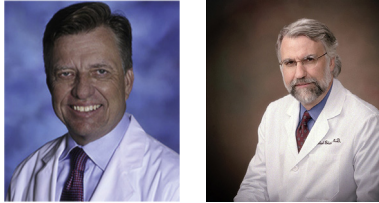




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EDITORS' PAGE



Changing U.S. Heart Failure Research Culture: Part 2—Recognizing Frontline Investigators and Coordinators



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As we continue to overcome obstacles to the heart failure therapeutic development process through the work of the Heart Failure Collaboratory (HFC), the challenge of site-based research remains (1,2). With the continued negative impact of COVID-19, the ability to perform site-based research has become even more fraught with numerous challenges, and only those centers that can weather the economic storms will be able to survive and succeed. Nevertheless, although still in its infancy, our effort to develop a national investigator network is encouraging (3). We have identified improved methods to recruit special populations into clinical trials; yet, despite these early efforts, investigators and coordinators remain challenged to perform at the highest level.

A review of recent clinical trials suggests that we continue to lag behind the rest of the world in site-based research performance (4). There are, however, some encouraging signs in most recent trials that were largely conducted in the pre-COVID era, particularly those with streamlined methods of entry criteria and site burden. Today in the *Journal*, in an effort to improve the culture of clinical research, we recognize the frontline investigators and coordinators who have demonstrated success in site-based clinical trial performance. The HFC, in conjunction with the Heart Failure Society of America, has set up national award recognition based on rigorous criteria.

The following is an outline of the criteria and process:

1. Call for candidates sent to sponsors, steering committee members, HFC members, and attendees of previous HFC meetings, targeting Phase 3 HF clinical trials of drug and device trials (approximately 225 people from academia, federal agencies, and industry).
2. Metrics included number of subjects enrolled, enrollment of underrepresented groups/diverse populations, diverse study groups, data quality, retention, and citizenship (helping other sites participate, participating in trial activities, committee participation, patient recognition and education, dissemination of results). This year we included overcoming challenges, particularly with COVID.

This year's awards represented a number of clinical trials, including the following: CY 1031, eCool-AF, eMAP, EMPERIAL, EXPLORER-HCM, GALACTIC-HF, GENETIC-HF, MAVA-LTE, MYK-491-003, MYK-491-006, RELIEVE-HF, TRANSFORM-HF, VICTORIA, ANTHEM-HF, VITALITY HFpEF, PIONEER-HF, PANTHEON, PARAGON-HF, SOCRATES, INTERVENE-HF, COUNTER HF, and METEORIC-HF.

The following are principal investigators, study coordinators, and sites that demonstrated excellence at the highest level and were awarded (Table 1):

TABLE 1 Principal Investigators, Study Coordinators, and Sites That Demonstrated Excellence at the Highest Level and Were Awarded

Name	Site	Trial
Principal Investigator Awardees		
Amin Yehya, MD	Sentara, Norfolk, VA	VICTORIA
Andrew Sauer, MD	University of Kansas Medical Center	GALACTIC-HF
Scott Feitell, DO	Rochester General Hospital	RELIEVE-HF
Rhondalyn McLean, MD, MHS	University of Pennsylvania	GENETIC-HF Zepatier For Treatment Of Hepatitis C-Negative Patients Who Receive Heart Transplants From Hepatitis C-Positive Donors (HCV)
Freny Mody, MD	Site Name: VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	TRANSFORM-HF
Sandhya Murthy, MD	Montefiore Medical Center - Albert Einstein College of Medicine	TRANSFORM-HF
Gerin Stevens, MD	Northwell Health - Manhasset	TRANSFORM-HF
Sara Saberi, MD	Michigan Medicine Cardiology Clinic	EXPLORER-HCM, MAVA-LTE
Site Coordinator Awardees		
Alyssa Boyce-White	University of Kansas Medical Center	GALACTIC-HF
Connie Watson	University of Mississippi	EMPERIAL- reduced and preserved ANTHEM-HF VITALITY HFpEF PIONEER-HF PANTHEON VICTORIA PARAGON-HF SOCRATES- reduced and preserved INTERVENE-HF Dilated CMP Precision Medicine Study COUNTER HF
Patricia Noll	Rochester General Hospital	RELIEVE-HF
Mary Sheehan	Brigham and Women's Hospital	EXPLORER-HCM, MAVA-LTE, MAVERICK, MYK-491-006
Site Awardees		
Sentara Norfolk General Hospital	John Herre, MD/Brittany McMichael	TRANSFORM-HF
VA Medical Center/University of Maryland	Stephen Gottlieb, MD/Mary Bowers-Lash	TRANSFORM-HF
Henry Ford Health System	Gillian Grafton, MD/Kelsey Neaton	TRANSFORM-HF
Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)	Johannes Steiner, MD/John Halvorson	CY 1031 // METEORIC-HF-NCT03759392
Jacksonville Center for Clinical Research of the Encore Research Group	Micheal Koren, MD/Richard W. Smith, RN	MYK491-003
Glacier View Research Institute, Cardiology	Eve Gillespie, MD, PHD/Lucia Kufa Brandy Anderson Chelsey Stocker	METEORIC-HF
University of Pennsylvania	Tiffany Sharkoski, MPH, MBE, CCRC (Program Manager)	eMAP eCool-AF

As a community, we thank each and every one of you for the outstanding efforts in not only advancing knowledge through the clinical trial and development process, but also in providing opportunities and hopes to our patients with heart failure who are the ultimate recipients of your hard work.

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