



**Transformative Research in Metabolism (TRiM)**  
**Internal Steering Committee Meeting (ISC)**  
**Friday, February 26, 2021**  
**12:00 to 1:00 p.m. by Zoom**  
<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/899633093>

Meeting Objectives: Spotlight on TRiM Staff; Planning for TRiM’s Annual Retreat; “Dynamic Collaboration Plan” Policy Decision; Journal Club Themed Seminars; and Sharing Program Updates

- 12:00 p.m. Welcome: Dr. Khrys Duddleston, ISC Chair
- 12:05 p.m. Review and request action on ISC draft meeting agenda, 2.26.2021
- 12:05 p.m. Review and request action on ISC draft meeting minutes, 1.8. 2021
- 12:07 p.m. Old Business items: Announcements - Kelly
- 12:10 p.m. Spotlight on TRiM Staff – Pat Rivera, Admin Core and Scott Jerome, HaMR Core
- 12:20 p.m. Planning for TRiM’s Annual Retreat – Kelly and Denise
- Do we want to hold our retreat in conjunction with INBRE’s Annual Retreat (October 2-3, 2021) at the Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge? Discussion, Poll (Yes/No)
  - While in Talkeetna, would you like to hold a separate team science building event for TRiM that would be in addition to attending talks and the INBRE reception?
    - Poll responses – Yes/No
  - If we held a separate TRiM team science building event, below are possible activities to hold:
    - Research Ethics
    - Team Science
    - Research and Core sharing
    - Other topics to explore?
  - Discuss plans for moving forward
- 12:30 p.m. Sharing Program Updates, Research Project and Cores
- How do we share program updates going forward? Discussion, Poll responses
    - Invite all Research PIs and Core Leaders to provide *brief* written updates to be included in the meeting packet
    - For sharing purposes, ask one Project PI (or designated staff) and one Core Leader (or designated staff) to present program updates at meetings
    - Ask one staff member each representing a Research Project and Core to provide updates regarding their work
    - Other ideas?

12:35 p.m. “Dynamic Collaboration Plans” – Kelly and All Discussion

12:55 p.m. Research Project and Core *Quick* Updates – All are invited to share

1:00 p.m. Adjourn

**Next ISC meeting: Friday, April 30, 2021, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Center for Transformative Research in Metabolism (TRiM)**  
**Internal Steering Committee Meeting (ISC), Draft Minutes**  
**Friday, January 8, 2021, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., Virtual Meeting by Zoom**

**Call to order:** ISC Chair Dr. Khrys Duddleston welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

**I. Attendance:** UAA representatives present included Dr. Khrys Duddleston (ISC Chair and Project 2 PI) and Eric Henderson (AIMS Core). UAF representatives present were Dr. Kelly Drew (TRiM Director and PI), Dr. Vadim Fedorov (Project 1 PI), Dr. Anya Goropashnaya (Project 1 & Admin Core), Dr. Robert “Trey” Coker, Project 3 PI); Dr. Carl Murphy (Leader, HaMR Core), Dr. Oivind Toien (HaMR Core), Scott Jerome (HaMR Core), Jen Danielson (TRiM external evaluator, Goldstream Group), Dawniel Dupee (Admin Core), Elizabeth Hood, Amelia Topcock, and Denise Daniello (Admin Core).

**II. Agenda, 1.08.2021:** A motion to approve was made by Carl and seconded by Trey. There were no objections.

**IV. Draft Minutes, 10.23.2020:** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trey seconded by Carl with no objections. Minutes were approved.

**V. Research Projects and Core Updates**

- Post transcriptional mechanisms of muscle atrophy prevention in hibernating mammals (Project 1)– PI Vadim Fedorov. Vadim reported ongoing sampling work of 10 AGS with 5 animals at six weeks in hibernation and 5 animals at 10-12 weeks in hibernation. They are sampling all animals to note seasonal dynamics of hibernation using muscle histology techniques. He also noted that Dr. Anya Goropashnaya will apply for TRiM’s Pilot Project program on Monday (1.11.2021) and plans to apply for R21 funding in February for her Peripheral Artery Disease research project. Vadim also reported that his manuscript on bear hibernation is completed and will be submitted in two weeks. He also submitted an abstract to the Experimental Biology 2021 conference regarding his paper which has been approved. The title of the manuscript and abstract is “Transcriptional Changes and Preservation of Bone Mass in Hibernating Black Bears.”
- Microbial provision of essential amino acids: protein conservation in hibernation (Project 2) – PI Khrys Duddleston. Khrys reported that her squirrels are still hibernating and provided the following updates: (1) Will administer injections of urea to examine incorporation of nitrogen into tissues. Her lab will use metabolomics to look at labeled amino acids within tissues. For non-labeled amino acids, they will use microbiota analysis to track the amino acids in the gut. This analysis will address SA3 of Project 2 which involves growing microbes in bio reactors and conducting experiments with those samples. Khrys explained that the original plan of doing the sampling in November/December had to be postponed due to computer problems but went ahead and purchased the software for respiratory equipment to be used for breath analysis. The computer problem has been resolved and sampling will begin next week; (2) Hired Heidi McGee, a MS graduate student, to assist with sampling for SA3; (3) Collaborating with Mario Muscarella on research related to submission of a Pilot Project proposal; (4) Working to finalize papers with a colleague from the University of Wisconsin that is focused on intestinal and fat immune responses and changes in glucose tolerance over the course of the active season. A second paper in preparation will follow the first paper in looking at the microbial community of AGS; (5) Re-submitted the R01 application however, it was not discussed. Currently, Khrys is working with collaborators to decide whether to re-submit in March or hold off to July 5; and (6) Collaborated with

Kelly and others on a proposal submission to the NASA TRISH (Translational Research in Space Health) solicitation in January.

- Nutritional strategies for metabolic health in aging – *PI Robert “Trey” Coker*. Using a power point presentation, Trey reported the following updates: (1) Made several COVID-related modifications to his project including implementing COVID-related screening procedures, such as frequent cleaning/disinfecting surfaces, and other recommendations per the CDC and the Department of Health and Social Services. The COVID-related procedures were made in consultation with clinicians, especially Dr. Garcia and Dr. Utschneider at the University of Washington, and have been approved by the IRB. They are now ready to begin testing eligible older adults in the clinical trial; (2) Recruitment for new Fairbanks participants is planned for next week that will include flyers and ad announcements; (3) Exercise equipment was moved to a new dedicated space, thanks to the help from Scott Jerome; (4) Since his last update (November 2020), Trey reviewed his list of manuscripts submitted (n=5), invited presentations (n=2), inviting an upcoming Journal Club speaker (March), and submitting two grant proposals with one under review and the other in preparation; and (5) Trey noted his work with ITHS (Institute of Translational Health Sciences, UW) with their renewal application that will utilize “smart technology” for career development.
- Health and Metabolism Research Core (HaMR) – *Dr. Carl Murphy, Leader*. Carl reported that the HaMR Core has lost access to the Qualtrics license used for reporting. Carl is planning to use REDCap to serve this purpose. The UAF School of Management held the license for Qualtrics, which was abruptly removed last winter. Qualtrics is a software used by the Core to gather user information through surveys. Carl is working on translating the forms from Qualtrics into RedCap in order to track MIF use for Merit and Service awards. The updated MIF Policies and Procedures have been submitted to IAB for review, that include description of the new Merit Awards and eligibility. IAB recommended using an external evaluator to approve Merit and Service awards. Dr. Cory Williams has agreed to serve in this capacity. Carl also noted that the MIF is ready for research projects underway, including Dr. Coker’s Project 3 and the Duffy/Dunlap/Jerome canine project.
- Advanced Instrumentation for Microbiome Studies (AIMS) – *Dr. Brandon Briggs, Leader. Eric Henderson, Lab Manager* reported for the AIMS Core. Eric reported that the AIMS lab has produced more than 36,000 VTM vials for COVID testing purposes. They are winding down this effort as requested by the State DHSS to prepare for vaccine administration. The AIMS lab has 7,000 VTM vials ready to go. COVID 19 community wastewater testing continues. To date, they have tested 62 community samples. Eric Bortz’s lab, at UAA, is sequencing the samples. AIMS also ordered a biotech citation plate reader for their lab.
- AGS Breeding Facility – *Dr. Kelly Drew and Dr. Oivind Toien* reported. Kelly reported no new information about the AGS Breeding Facility. This winter, the animals hibernated indoors at the Animal Resource Center. The budget had an overrun of \$36,000 that was paid by IAB. Come spring, the squirrels will be transported to the outdoor breeding facility.
- Admin Core – *Denise Daniello, Program Coordinator, reported*. Denise used a power point presentation to note updates from the Admin Core which included: (1) TRiM’s Pilot Program received 8 pre-proposals on January 11 with 7 moving forward for consideration; (2) Kelly is conducting weekly project mentoring for pilot investigators to assist them with preparing proposals for other funding

mechanisms; (3) At least three external reviewers have been identified for each investigator who submitted a proposal using the NIH reporter tool. Each external reviewer will be offered a \$500 payment for services; (4) TRiM investigators and staff will be asked to participate in the PIESTAR modules for NIH reporting purposes. Reporting surveys will begin on January 20 and close on March 30 using PIESTAR software to collect this information. The Admin Core staff will upload investigators' publications, presentations, proposals, and training to help reduce reporting burden. Thank you all for submitting your current CVs; (5) TRiM is collaborating with the American Indian/Alaska Native Clinical and Translational Research Program Professional Development Core to host a five-part seminar series on Human Clinical Trial Trainings beginning January 22-February 19; (6) Admin Core is working on developing a Master Facilities and Equipment document that will be posted on TRiM's website for use by investigators applying for grants using TRiM resources; and (7) Admin Core is also compiling Alaska Native student enrollment and graduation rates in the biomedical sciences that will be used to develop an institutional profile for use by investigators to apply for a new NIH funding mechanism called SuRE (Support for Research Excellence). SuRE is designed to develop and sustain research excellence in higher education institutions that receive limited NIH research support and serve students who are underrepresented in biomedical research. SuRE's FOA is expected later this spring and replaces the former SCORE (Support of Competitive Research Program) funding mechanism.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m. Chair Duddleston and others suggested that we alternate updates between research projects and cores to conserve on meeting time, as opposed to asking all for updates each meeting.

**Next meeting:** Friday, February 26, Noon to 1:00 p.m.