

Newsletter Fall 2026

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Boston University Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Office BU IBRO
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Affinity Research Collaboratives (ARCs & Pre-ARCs), Fall 2026

<https://www.bumc.bu.edu/evanscenteribr/>

The Evans Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research (ECIBR) led by Dr. Katya Ravid, promotes growth and discovery in biomedical research and education using interdisciplinary and convergence science approaches as defined by NSF. The Center and its members collaborate with BU-supported Convergence Science Initiatives.



To express interest in initiating a Pre-ARC, or for information about the process and expectations, use the QR code visit '[Joining An ARC](#)'

Both basic & translational research ideas are welcome.

**Please contact Dr. Katya Ravid (kravid@bu.edu)
to learn more about forming/joining a funded ARC.**

Ongoing and newly selected ARCs (4)

- **(Yr 3) Innovative Technology and Novel Biomarker Discovery and Development for Disease Diagnosis and Treatment (B4D)** / Co-Directors: Weining Lu, Manju Subramanian, Chao Zhang, **Liang Hao**, Joel Henderson
- **(Yr 2) Boston Medical Center and Boston University Women's Health (WH)** / Co-Directors: Drs. Elisha Wachman, Emelia Benjamin, **Joyce Wong**
- **(Yr 1) Visionary Integration of Technology, AI, and Learning in Critical Illness (VITAL)** / Co-Directors: Charlene Ong, Noelle Saillant, Deepa Gopal, **Iaonnīs Paschalidis**
- **(Yr 1) Food Is Medicine** / Co-Directors; Olivia Thomas, Drs. Megan McCrory, Vipul Chitalia, Maria Kukuruzinska

Funding supported by the DOM, CTSI, GSMD, BMC

ARC Programs (5)

- **Tuberculosis Interdisciplinary Approach to Research Alliance (TIARA)** / Co-Directors: Drs. Karen Jacobson, C. Robert Horsburgh

- **Musculoskeletal Health, Biology Over a Lifespan (MHet)** / Co-Directors: Drs. Paola Divieti Pajevic, **LaDora Thompson**, David Felson
- **Thrombosis and Hemostasis** / Co-Directors: Drs. Vipul Chitalia, Katya Ravid, Nathanael Fillmore
- **Precision Medicine for Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders** / Co-Directors: Drs. Lindsay Farrer, Rhoda Au, **Alice Cronin-Golomb**
- **Fibrosis ARC: Connecting Tissues and Investigators** / Co-Directors: Drs. Maria Trojanowska, Bob Varelas

Recent Metrics, August 2026 reporting

9 ARCs during 2025-2026 yielded 408 new collaborative publications and secured 113 multi-PI and multi-investigators grants: 72 newly funded of 141 new grant applications submitted (a nearly 51% success rate!), and 41 continuing grants

Pre-ARC, 2026-2027

BU-Forum for Antibody Discovery (BU-FAb-D)

Director: Xueling Wu, PhD, DoM Infectious Diseases and VIM

Co-Directors: Kun-Wei Chan, PhD, DoM Infectious Diseases; Manish Sagar, MD, DoM Infectious Diseases and VIM; Joseph Mizgerd, PhD, DoM Pulmonary Medicine and VIM; John Misasi, MD, VIM and Pediatrics; Michelle Teplensky, PhD, CRC, Biomedical Engineering

Upcoming Events hosted by ARCs

A full listing of upcoming seminars and events is updated regularly:

<https://tinyurl.com/ARC-seminars-and-events>

Thursday 10/15/26: Shining Light on Interdisciplinary Collaborative Research

Part of the Department of Medicine's Evans Research Days

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (lunch boxes will be available)

72 East Concord St, Keefer Auditorium

"Redefining Cognitive Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Through Next-Generation Digital Cognitive Biomarkers." (supported by the ARC program and the Hariri Institute)

Presenters:

Stacy Andersen, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine

Co-director, New England Centenarian Study

And

Katherine A. Gifford, PsyD

Associate Professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology; FHS- Brain Aging Program Precision Brain Health Initiative

David L. Coleman, MD, Junior Faculty Prize Presentation & Talks

Awardees: **Kostas Alysandratos, MD, PHD; Simeon Kimmel, MD, MA; Pranay Sinha, MD**

Monday 10/26/26: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Aging Research: Synopsis 5'

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

650 Albany Street (*Medical Campus*), X building, rooms 714/715

Proposed by Drs. Katya Ravid ([Evans Center IBR](#)) and Deborah Carr ([Center of Innovation in Social Science](#)), this round-robin event will highlight a dozen speakers from Boston University's greater pool of aging research experts, *followed by a reception and networking*.

RSVP requested:

<https://www.bumc.bu.edu/evanscenteribr/2026/08/20/rsvp-for-oct-26/>



QR code SCAN ME

Congratulations

NIH funding facilitated by an ARC: Brain Aging Program Receives \$31.5 Million Funding Renewal:

Rhoda Au, PhD, and Lindsay Farrer, PhD

A quote: "This grant is continuing the legacy of Philip Wolf, who started the dementia studies at FHS in 1984, and obtained initial funding from the NIA in 1989. **The initial U19 and this renewal grant have been strengthened by not only our ARC grant, but the ARC network.** Existing relationships were further solidified through our monthly ARC meetings and new relationships were formed **that have led to new collaborations.**" Rhoda Au, PhD, and Lindsay Farrer, PhD, ARC Program co-PIs

Dr. Chao Zhan, Weining Lu and colleagues received notable NIH funding to develop innovative projects extended from their ARC titled:

Innovative Technology and Novel Biomarker Discovery and Development for Disease Diagnosis and Treatment (B4D) ARC (ARC Directors: Weining Lu, Manu Subramanian, Chao Zhang, Liang Hao)

Dr. Lindsay Farrer, the newly appointed William Fairfield Professor, and Director of the Precision Medicine in Alzheimer Disease ARC Program,

has been selected as the recipient of a 3-year, \$450,000 Zenith Fellows Award from the Alzheimer's Association for his project, "Genes to AD Therapy: A Roadmap for Personalized Medicine."

Dr. Belinda Borrelli, Director of the ME Health ARC Program, was invited to give the keynote address at Brown University's 50th Anniversary of their Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior on Saturday September 26, entitled, **Stealth Interventions: Using Creativity, Context, and Lived Experience to Motivate and Sustain Change— and What It all Means for Mental Health and Behavior Change in the Age of AI**

We are pleased to announce two new RO1 grants awarded during vulnerable research funding times, facilitated by ARC-derived collaborative research. The **Interdisciplinary Approach to Tuberculosis Research (TIARA) ARC** was initiated with mentoring and support of the Evans Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research (ECIBR), joined by BMC.

R01AI198006, Mycobacterium tuberculosis impact on HIV reservoir Clearance (MyTHIC), PI Karen Jacobson, MPI Manish Sagar. NIH/NIAID. Started May 1, 2026

R01AI191221, TACTIC: **Tuberculosis Active Case Tracking via Interpersonal Connections**,
PI Karen Jacobson. NIH/NIAID, start date June 18, 2026.

OnLine=Connected & Informed

Tune in to a podcast by Dr. George Murphy (one of our earlier ARC co-Directors):

🎧 Watch here: Dr. Rich Miller: "There Are No Biomarkers of Aging"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_yzQUkfMSc

ARC co-director Vijaya Kolachalama, **ARC co-Director: Developing an artificial intelligence digital pathology diagnostic tool for proteinuric kidney disease (BIT-ARC)** (Weining Lu, Chao Zhang, Joel Henderson, William Tomlinson, & Vijaya Kolachalama) **co-founded** (<https://cognimark.ai>) to integrate a new AI platform across 7.7 million patients, starting with single neurology clinic.

For over a decade, the Evans Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research (ECIBR) has provided opportunities for **interdisciplinary** collaborations within our newly envisioned and developed **Affinity Research Collaboratives (ARCs)**. With mentoring provided by the ECIBR, as needed, ARC groups innovatively address complex biomedical challenges by **integrating knowledge, concepts and methods from multiple disciplines**, in line with BU-supported **[convergence science approaches](#)**.

Interested in joining an ARC? please contact the ARC leaders and/or Robin MacDonald [remac@bu.edu]

[For More Information about the ARCs and ARC process](#)



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Visit our web sites

ECIBR: <https://www.bumc.bu.edu/evanscenteribr/> IBRO: <https://rb.gy/ybd8r>

Address inquiries related to logistics to: Robin MacDonald, at remac@bu.edu



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