



Investigator Spotlight

Katherine Motyl, Ph.D.

"My hope is that this work will identify mechanisms of opioid-induced bone loss and bring more awareness to issues of bone health related to opioid and other pharmaceutical therapies."

Background

- Assistant Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine
- Faculty Scientist, Maine Medical Center
- Full Graduate Faculty, UMaine, Orono, School of Biomedical Sciences and Engineering
- Participant, Northern New England Clinical Translational Research Network (NNE-CTR)

Research

Research Interests

- Mechanisms of opioid-induced bone loss
- Substance use disorders
- Models of osteoporosis
- Pharmacology
- Aging

Research Goals

- To test the indirect mechanisms of opioid-induced bone loss
- To pursue clinical collaboration with rural health providers in Northern New England
- To inform improved prescribing, prevention and treatment strategies, bone fracture rates, and bone healing in patients with opioid use disorder

NNE-CTR Network

Participation

- Received Round 2 Pilot funding in 2018
- Working with Translational Research Technologies Core for microRNA analyses
- Plan to use Research Navigation services for study design, assistance with IRB, and recruitment of practice sites to collect samples

Benefits

"I don't think I could have gotten this project off the ground without the pilot project funding because it is an expensive project and it took overcoming several logistical issues to get started. For example, I had to obtain a DEA license to work with schedule II drugs, something that I may not have initiated if it were not a funded project" - Dr. Katherine Motyl

Learn more

The NNE-CTR Network leverages and coordinates regional resources to conduct collaborative clinical and translation research and disseminate findings to improve both health and healthcare delivery in our region. To learn more or join the NNE-CTR Network, visit: <http://nne-ctr.net/>

This work is supported by the NIH CTR grant (NNE-CTR): U54GM115516