



SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY



**CLINICAL DIRECTORS NETWORK, INC.  
THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY**

**Community-Associated Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* Surveillance Network**

This one-year pilot project will create the infrastructure necessary to assess prevalence and practices associated with identifying, diagnosing, and managing community-associated Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (CA-MRSA) in the Community Health Center (CHC)-primary care settings in the New York Metropolitan area. The project will also yield information that will be used to design a prospective surveillance system with nested case-control studies to understand the causes and correlates of CA-MRSA in medically underserved communities and its relationship to Hospital-Acquired MRSA (HA-MRSA).

To accomplish these goals, the project will be carried out in two phases. The goal of the first phase is to engage and involve CHCs. The specific aims are to (1) recruit CHCs in geographic areas to create an initial infrastructure for the CA-MRSA Surveillance Network; (2) conduct onsite and online Continuing Medical Education (CME)-accredited updates on MRSA focusing on infectious diseases, dermatology, genetics, and immunology to assess and establish baseline levels of knowledge and self-reported CA-MRSA screening behavior; (3) assemble a CA-MRSA CHC Advisory Committee, bringing together clinicians from the surveillance network to investigate current prevalence and practices associated with identifying and managing CA-MRSA in CHCs and to establish levels of knowledge about MRSA by CHC clinicians; and (4) create an ongoing forum for a variety of different types of interaction, including focus groups, individual interviews and Research Town Hall Meetings among CHC Clinical Leadership, Administrative Leadership, Staff, Health Center Users, and Academic Investigators from Rockefeller University.

During Phase Two, a surveillance and specimen sampling pilot study will be undertaken. The aims of this phase are to: (1) conduct a preliminary retrospective assessment of rates of CA-MRSA in the CA-MRSA Surveillance Network by looking at existing electronic CHC data sources; (2) conduct more detailed reviews of medical records for a sub-sample of patients identified as having CA-MRSA to ascertain comorbid conditions and potential sources of exposure; (3) conduct an ecological/geocoding analysis to determine whether an association between rates of HA-MRSA and CA-MRSA exists; (4) conduct patient interviews to determine knowledge and attitudes about CA-MRSA and potential sources of exposure, and: (5) conduct pilot assessments of methods to obtain specimens/swabbings from known, suspected, and normal controls for MRSA sub-typing/genotyping. The long-term goal of this project is to build high levels of knowledge and awareness of CA-MRSA in CHCs around the New York Metropolitan area and to establish a study design that will be able to accurately assess the prevalence of CA-MRSA in these CHCs for an upcoming study.

**Project Timeframe:** May 2010 – April 2011

**# of Participating Practices:** 12

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**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR :**  
**Jonathan N. Tobin, Ph.D.**  
Clinical Directors Network, Inc.  
5 West 37<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York , NY 10018  
TEL: (212) 382-0699 ext. 234  
FAX: (212) 382-0669  
EMAIL: [jntobin@CDNetwork.org](mailto:jntobin@CDNetwork.org)  
[www.CDNetwork.org](http://www.CDNetwork.org)

**CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**  
**Alexander Tomasz, Ph.D.**  
Laboratory of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, NY 10065  
TEL: (212) 327-8277  
FAX: (212) 327-8688  
EMAIL: [Alexander.Tomasz@Rockefeller.edu](mailto:Alexander.Tomasz@Rockefeller.edu)  
[www.Rockefeller.edu](http://www.Rockefeller.edu)

**CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**  
**Rhonda Kost, MD**  
Clinical Research Officer  
Hospital Clinical Research Office  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, NY 10065  
TEL: (212) 327-8408  
EMAIL: [Rhonda.Kost@Rockefeller.edu](mailto:Rhonda.Kost@Rockefeller.edu)  
[www.Rockefeller.edu](http://www.Rockefeller.edu)

**PROJECT MANAGER :**  
**Chamanara Khalida , MD , MPH**  
Clinical Directors Network, Inc.  
5 West 37<sup>th</sup> Street , 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York , NY 10018  
TEL: (212) 382-0699 ext.236  
FAX: (212) 382-0669  
EMAIL: [ckhalida@CDNetwork.org](mailto:ckhalida@CDNetwork.org)  
[www.CDNetwork.org](http://www.CDNetwork.org)