



College of Medicine
Division of Infectious Disease & International Medicine
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**USF College of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease Awarded
Prestigious 1.6 Million HRSA Grant to Establish Hepatitis C Treatment
Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center**

(Tampa, FL.) – The USF College of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease and Michael Knox, PhD successfully competed for a **four year \$1.6 million dollar HRSA grant to establish The Hepatitis C Treatment and Evaluation Technical Assistance Center (ETAC)**. The HRSA treatment expansion initiative critically examines the treatment of patients co-infected with HIV and Hepatitis C. The *USF ETAC* will provide clinical training and technical assistance to 15 clinic sites across the country in its first year and to an additional 15 clinic sites in subsequent years. An important goal for this grant is to establish a standard of care for the complex co-viral infection.

The USF ETAC will collect and analyze data from each demonstration site to evaluate the effectiveness of four different models of HIV/HCV comprehensive care. The project will investigate both the clinical success and cost-effectiveness of each care model. In order to ensure the highest quality of care across all clinical sites, the USF ETAC faculty will provide specific assistance at each site including training in clinical HCV management, medical information management, and tools to overcome financial barriers to treatment. At the projects' conclusion, the USF ETAC and HRSA will help design a model that defines a



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standard of care and the integration of HCV treatment into federally funded programs nationwide.

A few of the demonstration site clinics for the first year of the HCV treatment expansion initiative include:

1. *University of California Medical Center, Veteran's Medical Center and San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, San Francisco*
2. *Washington University and Barnes Jewish Hospital, St. Louis*
4. *The State University of New York, Albany*
5. *Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, affiliated with Harvard and Tufts University.*

The ETAC Research team is led by Principal Investigator Michael Knox, PhD, Co-Principal Investigator John Sinnott, MD, Program Director Jeffrey Beal, MD, Infectious Disease Specialists; Todd Wills, MD and Charurut Somboonwit MD, and Evaluator Martha Friedrich, PhD.

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USF Health (www.health.usf.edu) is dedicated to creating a model of health care based on understanding the full spectrum of health. It includes the University of South Florida's colleges of medicine, nursing, and public health; the schools of biomedical sciences as well as pharmacy, and physical therapy & rehabilitation sciences; and the USF Physicians Group. With more than \$394.1 million in research grants and contracts in FY2009/2010, the University of South Florida is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of only 25 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community-engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.