



CVRTI Newsletter | Summer 2026 | Volume V, Issue I

Welcome to the 5th edition of the CVRTI Newsletter!

In this summer issue, we highlight our academic programs, feature the therapeutic development of a cure for chronic heart failure as it advances toward clinical trials, and celebrate our graduating early career investigators and the training grants that support them.

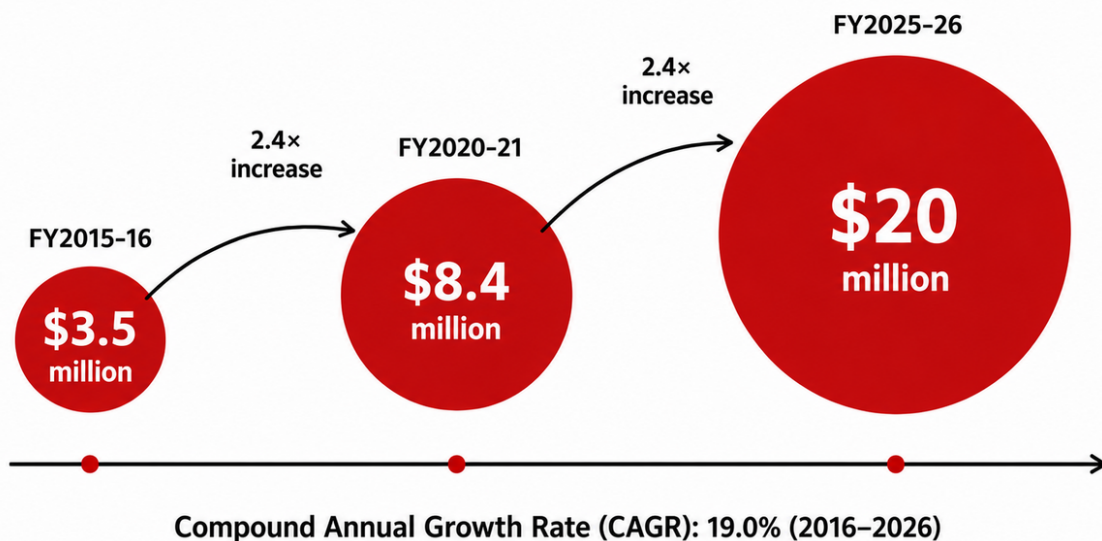
Thank you for taking a moment to look over our collective achievements and growth as we look forward to the coming academic year and next phase of the CVRTI.



Robin Shaw, MD, PhD
Director, CVRTI

Annual Extramural Funding

Growth in CVRTI Research Awards



Research Programs Grounded in Basic Science Discovery

CVRTI Leadership

Electrophysiology Program

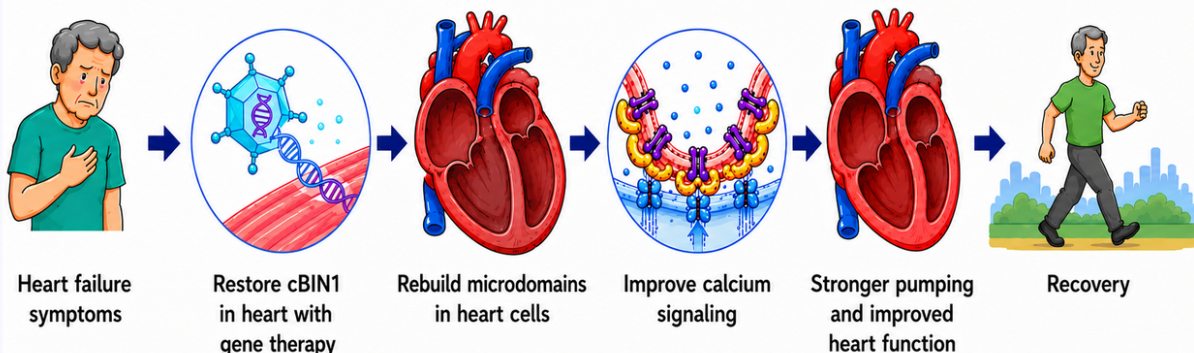
Metabolism Program

Muscle Biology Program

Vascular & Genetics Program

cBIN1 Gene Therapy (TLT-101) Mends Failing Hearts

CLINICAL IMPACT: RECOVERING HEART FUNCTION



cBIN1 Developments at CVRTI

| CVRTI Seminar Series |

During the 2025–2026 academic year, CVRTI's weekly Seminar Series featured distinguished external speakers as well as internal faculty highlighting advances in cardiovascular research. Research in Progress Seminars feature our early career investigators.

2025–2026 EXTERNAL SPEAKERS



Donald Bers, PhD
Professor of Pharmacology
University of California, Davis



Nicola Neretti, PhD
Associate Professor
Brown University



Stephen Chan, MD, PhD
Professor of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh



Howard Rockman, MD
Edward S. Orgain Distinguished Professor of Cardiology
Duke University School of Medicine



Eugenio Cingolani, MD
Associate Professor of Cardiology
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center



Yoram Rudy, PhD
Professor Emeritus, Biomedical Engineering
Washington University in St. Louis



Nikolaos Frangogiannis, MD
Professor of Medicine
Albert Einstein College of Medicine



Edward Thorp, PhD
Professor of Pathology
Northwestern University



Brian Jensen, MD
Professor of Medicine
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Camilla Wenceslau, PhD
Associate Professor
University of South Carolina



Steven Marx, MD
Professor of Cardiology
Columbia University

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[View Past Presentations](#)

| New Seminar Season Begins September 2026 |



CVRTI faculty and guests gathered following Dr. Bers' seminar. From left to right: Dr. Tristani-Firouzi, Dr. Aromolaran, Dr. Sanguinetti, Dr. Bers, and Mrs. Bers.

| NIH Training Programs |

CVRTI's T32 Training Grant supports emerging biomedical researchers through advanced training, career development, and professional growth opportunities.

[Learn More About T32 & Current Trainees](#)

The NIH R25 Research Education Award supports the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE), affiliated with the Rural & Underserved Utah Training Experience (RUUTE) at the University of Utah.

[R25 Overview & Program Details](#)

| Dissertation Defenses |

CVRTI proudly celebrates recent dissertation defenses, recognizing the hard work, dedication, and scientific contributions of our graduate researchers as they reach this important milestone.



*Actin Dynamics Regulated by GJA1-20k:
Roles in Membrane Protein Trafficking and Mitochondrial Quality Control.*
Vu Nguyen, PhD



*Diagnostic and Therapeutic Strategies for
Arrhythmogenic Cardiomyopathy.*
Steven Valdez, PhD

| Join Our Team |

To explore specific employment opportunities, please visit our [website](#) or contact CVRTI's Senior Administrative Manager, Kat Cannon at kat.cannon@utah.edu.



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