

Welcome to CAStoR from the CEC!

Welcome to the [Center for the Assessment of Tobacco Regulations \(CAStoR\)](#) at the University of Michigan and Georgetown University. In addition to its primary research projects, CAStoR has three cores designed to support our investigators, trainees, and staff, including the [Career Enhancement Core \(CEC\)](#). The CEC offers a variety of resources and activities that aim to support the career development of junior researchers in Tobacco Regulatory Science (TRS) and simulation modeling, and we also strive to connect you with additional career development resources.

Career Enhancement Core (CEC) Activities: For the most up-to-date information, refer to [the CEC webpage](#).

- [Webinars](#) with a focus on TRS and modeling. [Past webinars](#) are also available for viewing.
- [Workshops](#) on scientific communication, such as data visualization, selecting a target journal, and oral/poster presentations, as well as technical skills, such as using Linux, RStudio, and GitHub.
- [Symposia](#). In June 2021, we held a virtual symposium that provided an overview of simulation modeling approaches in TRS and explored future directions in the field from a lens accessible to modelers and non-modelers alike. [Video recordings](#) and [written proceedings](#) of almost all presentations are available.
- Scholarships to UM's [Summer Session in Epidemiology](#) to take the course (EPID 730): "Simulation of Modeling of Tobacco Use, Health Effects and Policy Impacts" (announced late winter/early spring for July course).
- [Pilot funds program](#) open to new and early stage investigators to support research projects that inform the regulatory goals of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products (CTP), Office of Science.
- Passport program which offers trainees and investigators the opportunity to visit, interact with, and receive skill-based training from leading TRS scientists across the TCORS Consortium.
- One-on-one consultations with Dr. Ella August for academic writing (e.g., conference abstracts, scientific posters, or manuscripts) and data visualization.

Data Analysis and Dissemination Core (DAD): The provides data processing and analysis services to the CAStoR team, as well as the broader TCORS Consortium. More information available [here](#). Data requests can be submitted [here](#).

Research Assessment and Input Development Core (RAID): The RAID Core develops well supported research-based input parameters for use in TRS modeling and can help support systematic research reviews, meta-analyses and other statistical evaluations, and expert elicitations to inform TRS. More information is available [here](#).

Additional Resources

Research & Data Modeling Tools: Publicly available resources, such as the Smoking and Vaping Model developed by CAStoR, as well as other tobacco control modeling and policy tools, are available [here](#).

Career Development Resources: Click [here](#) information on the [Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco](#), [Pre-Publication Support Service Author Resources](#), and [CASEL's Tobacco Regulatory Science Knowledge Center](#).

Statistical & Methodological Resources: This [list of resources](#) was developed by CASEL for TRS researchers.

For UM-affiliated Researchers: The [Office of the Vice President for Research \(OVPR\)](#) provides research resources & trainings. The [Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research \(MICHR\)](#) offers services, opportunities & workshops for early stage investigators. [Consulting for Statistics, Computing and Analytics \(CSCAR\)](#) provides individualized support & training to UM researchers in data management, collection & analysis. Other UM education & training resources include: [Michigan Institute for Computational Discovery & Engineering \(MICDE\)](#), [Center for Complex Systems](#), and [Rogel Cancer Center](#).

For GU-affiliated Researchers: The Lombardi Comprehensive Center maintains [this list of resources](#). The School of Medicine hosts a [New and Early Career Faculty Mentoring Program](#). The GU-Howard Center for Clinical and Translational Science hosts seminars & workshops.

NIH National Cancer
Institute and FDA Center for
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TCORS 2.0
University of
Michigan &
Georgetown
University

Center for the
Assessment of Tobacco
Regulations
[CAStoR]

Questions or comments?
Please contact Molly Coeling
(mcoeling@umich.edu), CEC
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Meet the Career Enhancement Core (CEC) Team



RITESH MISTRY, PHD
University of Michigan

Ritesh Mistry, PhD, CEC Co-lead

Dr. Mistry is Core Lead for the CEC and a member of the CAsToR Steering Committee. Dr. Mistry is an Associate Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan. His research focuses on evaluating health disparities in smoking trends, as well as adolescent tobacco use and secondhand

smoke exposure in global settings.



DAVID MENDEZ, PHD
University of Michigan

David Mendez, PhD, CEC Co-lead

Dr. Mendez is Core Lead for the CEC and Project Lead for [CAsToR Research Project 2](#). He is also a member of the CAsToR Steering Committee. Dr. Mendez is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan. His research focuses on modeling trends in cigarette smoking cessation or

switching to e-cigarettes. Dr. Mendez's research also investigates the financial implications of these trends, with specific focus on tobacco control in the United States.



ELLA AUGUST, PHD
University of Michigan

Ella August, PhD, CEC Training Lead

Dr. August is the CEC Training Lead and a CAsToR co-investigator. Dr. August is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan and the Editor-in-Chief of [PREPSS \(Pre-Publication Support Service\)](#), which supports researchers across the globe in publishing their work in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. August's research investigates how to reach writing effectively in public health and also seeks to better understand how to strengthen capacity for research publications.



MOLLY COELING
University of Michigan

Molly Coeling, MPH, CEC Project Coordinator

Molly Coeling is the Project Coordinator for the CEC and [CAsToR Research Project 2](#). She holds an MPH in Health Management & Policy from the University of Michigan. Molly has experience managing primary data collection and intervention work in youth violence

prevention research at the University of Chicago and community-based cancer prevention research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She is responsible for coordinating all CAsToR trainee activities through the CEC.



MARIE KNOLL
Georgetown University

Marie Knoll, MSPH, Research Associate

Marie Knoll, MSPH is a Research Associate for CAsToR and works with the CEC and [RAID Core](#) at Georgetown University and coordinates CEC activities at GU. Marie has a Masters of Science in Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology from the University of South Carolina where she worked with the Rural and Minority Health Research Center

investigating the effectiveness of policies aimed at improving health and reducing barriers to care (specifically cancer screening) among rural and minority populations. Marie also has two years' experience in clinical trials looking at the role of heart rate variability biofeedback in chronic pain among veterans.

Additional CEC co-investigators: [Cliff Douglas](#), [Marisa Eisenberg](#), [Ruzong Fan](#), [Jihyoun Jeon](#), [David Levy](#), and [Rafael Meza](#)



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