

## Welcome to CAsToR from the CEC!

The [Center for the Assessment of Tobacco Regulations \(CAsToR\)](#) has three cores designed to support our investigators, trainees & junior investigators, and staff, including the [Career Enhancement Core \(CEC\)](#). The CEC supports the career development of junior researchers in Tobacco Regulatory Science (TRS) and simulation modeling. Core trainees/junior investigators have access to the [CAsToR Trainee/Junior Investigator Packet](#), which has information about our activities.

**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 available for viewing.
- [Workshops](#) on scientific communication, such as manuscript writing, peer review, data visualization, and effective communication at scientific meetings.
- [Writing Accountability Groups](#), which are peer-led weekly groups designed to maximize writing productivity.
- Retreats with CAsToR senior investigators.
- Symposia. Check out our [May 2023 Symposium](#) and our [June 2021 Symposium](#), including video and slides.
- Courses on tobacco modeling. We offer scholarships annually to [UM's Summer Session in Epidemiology](#) to take the course (EPID 730): "Simulation of Modeling of Tobacco Use, Health Effects and Policy Impacts." In August 2022, we hosted [An Introduction to the Analysis of Trends and Transitions for Tobacco and Public Health Research](#), and video is available for most lectures.
- Online course, [Tobacco & Nicotine: Public Health, Science, Policy, and Law](#), which provides a strong foundation in the context of tobacco and public health and includes a module on modeling in TRS.
- [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.
- Grant writing support in TRS, including expert panels, peer and senior investigator feedback opportunities, tip sheets, and sample grant proposals. Core trainees/junior investigators are given access to all of this via our [Grant Writing Toolkit](#).
- One-on-one consultations with Dr. Ella August for scientific communication support.

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### Additional Resources

**CAsToR Data Analysis and Modeling (DAM) Core:** The [DAM Core](#) provides data processing and analysis services for the TRS community. More information about what they provide is available [here](#).

**Career Development Resources:** [This list](#) includes 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.

**UM Resources:** The [Office of the Vice President for Research \(OVPR\)](#) provides research resources & trainings. The [Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research \(MICHHR\)](#) 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](#).

**GU Resources:** 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.

**UBC Resources:** [This page](#) provides links to a host of professional development resources for UBC graduate students.

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TCORS

Center for the  
Assessment of Tobacco  
Regulations  
[CAsToR]

**Questions or comments?**  
Please contact Molly Coeling  
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Project Coordinator.

## Meet the Career Enhancement Core (CEC) Team



**Ritesh Mistry, PhD, CEC Co-lead**  
Dr. Mistry is Core Lead for the CEC, co-Investigator of [CAsToR Project 4](#), and a member of the CAsToR Steering Committee. Dr. Mistry is an Associate Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education, Associate Professor of Global Health 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, CEC Co-lead**  
Dr. Mendez is PI for CAsToR at the University of Michigan, Core Lead for the CEC, and Project Lead for [CAsToR Project 2](#). He is also a member of the CAsToR Steering Committee. Dr. Mendez is a Professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan. His research focuses on modeling trends of

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, 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 effectively teach writing in public health and seeks to better understand how to strengthen capacity for research publications.



**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 career development activities through the CEC.



**Nargiz Travis, MPH, Project Director**

Nargiz Travis is the Project Director for CAsToR's Georgetown University site with a focus on [Project 1](#) and [Project 3](#), as well as the TCORS 2.0 RAID Core. She has a master's degree in public health with a focus on Epidemiology from Freie University Berlin in Germany and over 9 years of experience in cardiovascular epidemiology and healthcare

research. Her responsibilities at the Center include day-to-day project coordination and support in conducting scientific work and model development.

**Additional CEC co-investigators: [Jihyoun Jeon](#), [David Levy](#), and [Rafael Meza](#)**



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