



**Kimberly Malka MD, PhD**  
Mentee

## Background

- Vascular Surgeon, Maine Medical Center
- PhD in Cellular & Molecular Biology
- Researcher at Maine Medical Center Research Institute

“I have an interest in aortic pathologies but will never have enough time to have my own lab. So using her lab space, having a research assistant and Dr. Liaw mentoring me, I don't think I'd be able to do research at all without her. It's a nice relationship because I'll be able to look at things from a clinical standpoint and [she] looks at it on a basic science level. We really complement each other that way.”

## NNE-CTR Participation

- Uses Clinical Research Design Core for database development and statistical analysis, and IRB protocols
- Uses Translational Research Technologies Core proteomics laboratory services

## Mentee Experience

- Receives mentor guidance on grant funding opportunities and proposal review to secure research funding
- Uses mentor's lab space and sample analyses tools and techniques to conduct basic science research

## Value of Mentorship

“Being mentored by Dr. Liaw, and the other people at MMCRI, has helped me figure out how to prepare samples, decide the best way to analyze data, and ways to set up my database. Her mentorship has definitely given me new techniques.”

## Learn more

The NNE-CTR Network leverages and coordinates regional resources to conduct collaborative clinical and translation research and disseminate findings to improve both health and healthcare delivery in our region. To learn more or join the NNE-CTR Network, visit: <http://nne-ctr.net/>  
This work is supported by the NIH CTR grant (NNE-CTR): U54GM115516



**Lucy Liaw, PhD**  
Mentor

## Background

- Faculty Scientist III, Maine Medical Center Research Institute
- Professor, Department of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine
- Director, Research Training Programs & Mouse Genome Modification Core

“My research is in vascular cardiovascular disease basic science. Dr. Malka's background and expertise is in vascular surgery and ...[her research interests are] on cardiovascular signaling mechanisms. So it's a really good fit for us... to expand our research directions to include clinical data from her patients and tie that into molecular studies we're doing.”

## NNE-CTR Participation

- Uses Clinical Research Design Core Research navigation services for IRB protocols
- NNE-CTR sponsored grant writing course and National Institute of Aging symposium

## Mentor Contributions

- Acts as a research mentor
- Supports mentee in identifying grant funding opportunities and providing feedback on grant proposals
- Provides lab support for processing tissue and deriving preliminary sample data for research
- Provides research assistant support and guidance to mentee's research assistant

## Value of Mentorship

“[Dr. Malka's] background and expertise – she has a PhD and has done basic science. In addition, she brings her medical, clinical, and surgical knowledge, and working with the disease and her patients - just seeing that clinical perspective has been [mutually] beneficial for us.”