UMass CCTS Community Engagement & Research Section is pleased to award three 2014 Pilot Projects in Community Translational Research. These awards mark the fifth consecutive year of funding projects that utilize a collaborative approach of academic and community partners to tackle ‘real world’ problems in the community. Proposals were submitted by faculty from any UMass campus working in partnership with any community organization in an area of translational research focused on the improvement of health in real world communities.

The Impact of Participation in Recovery Learning Communities on the Social Integration of People with Serious Mental Illnesses: Developing a Conceptual Framework

Recovery Learning Communities help people with serious mental illness build skills for success living and working in the community. This pilot project will investigate ways in which they can help people socially integrate into the community.

UMass Worcester
Kathleen Biebel, Ph.D
Research Assistant
Professor of Psychiatry and
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Community Partner
Brenda Vezina, MSW
Executive Director
Central Massachusetts
Recovery Learning
Community

Community Partner
Jonathan Delman, PhD, JD, MPH
Research and Evaluation Director
Central Massachusetts Recovery
Learning Community
**A Culturally Appropriate Mindfulness Intervention for Survivors of Homicide: A Community-Based Participatory Research Project**

Inner-city gun violence takes a toll on surviving family, friends, and first-responders. This project will explore the use of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction as an effective tool to promote coping and healing for survivors, many of whom are low-income and persons of color.

**UMass Worcester**
Carl Fulwiler, MD, PhD
Associate Professor
Director, Systems and Psychosocial Advances Research Center
Department of Psychiatry

**Community Partner**
Ms. Clementina Chery
Executive Director
Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

**Show Back: A Partnership with the VNA Care Network to Improve on the Teach Back Paradigm When Assessing Older Adult Medication Self-Management**

At discharge, hospital patients are often prescribed new medications. Adverse drug events are the most common cause of complications patients face after being discharged from the hospital, and many of these complications can be prevented. This project will develop and test a checklist to assess a patient's ability to organize and take medications. After designing a checklist through this pilot project, the collaborators intend to conduct a clinical trial.

**Mass Worcester**
Alok Kapoor, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Hospital Medicine

**Community Partner**
Keren Diamond, RN, BSN, MBA
Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations
Visiting Nurse Association, Boston & Affiliates