Request for Proposals

Innovations in Patient Recruitment Program
Applications due April 22, 2016

The Goal of the Innovations in Patient Recruitment Program
A goal of the University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is to support UMass researchers’ human subjects research through technological innovations. In collaboration with the UMCCTS Informatics Core and the Special Population Resource Center, this request for letters of intent seeks proposals for innovative techniques to identify and engage research participants, particularly among historically hard-to-reach patient populations. Innovative methods for recruiting such patients need to be identified, supported, and disseminated to the larger UMass research community. The intent of the funding is to support ongoing or future research projects that utilize innovative patient recruitment methodology. Applicants are especially encouraged to 1) demonstrate community input/buy-in of the recruitment strategy, 2) take advantage of other UMCCTS cores and services (partial listing at the end of this announcement) and 3) form multi-campus, transdisciplinary teams.

Examples of Innovative Recruitment Methods
Peer-to-peer recruitment (e.g. respondent driven sampling), social media recruitment, cohort identification through EHR, and recruitment through patient portal are examples of innovative recruitment methods. Other ideas are welcomed and encouraged!

Commitment
- Participate in a research innovation group, typically at the Worcester campus
- Complete a project or conduct pilot work to support a grant application
- Submit a recruitment methodology manuscript or external grant application

Pilot Project Funding and Resources
Recruitment Innovation projects will receive funding in-kind through consultation support, computer programming, and computing resources provided by the UMCCTS Informatics Core

Eligibility
All faculty from the 5-UMass campuses can apply provided they meet the following eligibility requirements:
- Academically or professionally salaried
- PhD, MD or equivalent advanced degree
- Minimum half-time benefited employee

Evaluation Criteria
A review committee of UMCCTS faculty and staff will evaluate each applicant based on:
- The candidate’s proposal for conducting novel recruitment methodology research including detailed design plan to monitor recruitment success
• The potential of the candidate’s research area/project leading to publications or future external funding
• Commitment of support by Department Chair or Division Chief as demonstrated by protected time, space and resources
• The quality of the candidate’s academic achievements and potential for future productivity
• The strength of the letters of support

**Application Components**
Submit the following components in one pdf document to [ccts@umassmed.edu](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu)
Deadline: On or before **Friday, April 22, 2016 at 5:00 pm EST.**

- **Cover page:** including: Title of project, Applicant’s name and credentials, Campus, Department, Faculty rank, telephone, and email address
- **Current NIH Biosketch** for Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigators
- **Description of Project and Recruitment Innovation** (not to exceed 3 pages): Include a description of your ongoing or proposed project and the innovative patient recruitment methodology, including: preliminary studies and plan for a future external grant application, including Specific aims, Significance and Methods
- **Resource needs** (not to exceed 1 page): Briefly describe the type and amount of resources you will require
- **Letters of support:** Include a letter of support from your Chair/Chief that includes a statement of your department or division’s commitment to you, noted by protected time, space and resources. The letter must also state that the Chair/Chief has read your proposal.

**Partial List of CCTS Resources Available for Applicants**
More information about these resources can be found at [http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/resources/](http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/resources/) or by contacting Dr. Nate Hafer, Director of Operations, UMCCTS at [nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu)

- Informatics Core
- Clinical Research Center
- Community Engagement Consultation
- Conquering Diseases Biorepository
- Conquering Diseases Volunteer Recruitment Core
- Massachusetts Integrated Clinical Academic Research Database (MiCARD)
- Quantitative Methods Core
- REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture)
- Regulatory Consultation
- Special Population Resource Center

**If you have any questions:** Please contact Daniel Amante at [daniel.amante@umassmed.edu](mailto:daniel.amante@umassmed.edu)

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