

Internal UMMS Pilot Grant Programs

Several sources of pilot funds are available at the Medical School, which may fund basic, clinical, and translational research projects (Items 1-11). In addition, several additional programs (Items 12-15) specifically support clinical and translational research projects through the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

1. AIDS Research Grants

Sponsor: UMass Center for AIDS Research (CFAR):

<http://www.umassmed.edu/Content.aspx?id=119686&linkidentifier=id&itemid=119686>

Purpose: To promote and strengthen AIDS-related research activities at the Medical School by means of:

- **New Investigator Support** - Proposals from junior investigators who require funds to develop meritorious and independent lines of investigation.
- **Interactive and Translational Projects** - Applications that apply multidisciplinary expertise of two or more investigators to AIDS-related research problems. The intent is to encourage translational research involving basic and clinical investigators and to encourage investigators in other fields to apply their expertise to AIDS-related research. Proposals involving investigators at UMMS and at neighboring institutions are also encouraged.
- **Evolving Research Opportunities** – Proposals that address emerging scientific issues that are of particular importance in AIDS research. For example, applicants might request funds to develop assays for inhibitor screening by the UMMS small molecule screening facility.

Eligibility: UMMS Faculty (Junior) Investigators and Neighboring Institution Investigators

Maximum Award: \$40,000 per year for up to 3 years (New Investigator Support); \$45,000 per year for 2 years (Interactive and Translational Projects and Evolving Research Opportunities)

Funding Cycle/Most recent deadline: September 30, 2011

Contact: Mary Warbasse, CFAR Administrative Assistant, (508)-856-6216 or Mary.Warbasse@umassmed.edu
Dr. Celia Schiffer, Program Director for scientific questions (508) 856-6216 or Celia.Schiffer@umassmed.edu

2. UMMS American Cancer Society (ACS) Institutional Research Grant – has been closed for new applications for the 2011-2012 year.

3. UMass/Dartmouth/Vermont Cancer Centers Collaborative Research Program

Sponsor: UMMS Donor-Based Funds

Purpose: provide opportunities for development of new research initiatives to explore novel dimensions in cancer biology, tumor diagnosis, therapeutic strategies, cancer prevention and control, quality of care, risk assessment, cancer epidemiology, palliative care and health outcomes.

Eligibility: Every grant requires a partnership of two or three co-investigators from the UMass Memorial Health Care Cancer Center of Excellence, Norris Cotton Cancer Center and/or the Vermont Cancer Center

Maximum Award: Grants will be funded for twelve months at a maximum of \$120,000. There will be an opportunity for a second year of funding

Funding Cycle/Next Deadline: Passed

Contact: Priscilla Vazquez (508) 856-3818

4. Diabetes Pilot & Feasibility Program

Sponsor: UMMS Diabetes & Endocrinology Research Center (DERC)

Purpose:

- To initiate new pilot and feasibility studies of topics related to diabetes.
- To attract both young and established investigators to undertake new research initiatives in diabetes and endocrinology.
- To allow investigators to develop sufficient data to apply for independent research support through conventional granting mechanisms.

Eligibility:

- UMMS investigators at the beginning of their scientific careers, (post docs are not eligible)
- Established UMMS investigators from other fields who wish to apply their research expertise to study diabetes/endocrinology, or
- Established UMMS investigators whose proposed research would constitute a new and material departure from their current diabetes/endocrinology research area.

Maximum Award: Up to \$90,000 for 1 year

Funding Status: Most recent deadline: December 5, 2011. Future P&F awards to be announced pending DERC renewal.

Contact: Lisa Hubacz, Administrator DERC, (508)-856-8028

5. Primary Care, Clinical Epidemiology, and Health Services Research

Sponsor: Meyers Primary Care Institute and the Rosalie Wolf Interdisciplinary Geriatric Health Care Research Center
<http://www.umassmed.edu/Content.aspx?id=91514>

Purpose: Research projects that address issues relevant to primary care medicine and health services research.

Projects focused on health of older adults are encouraged

Eligibility: UMMS, Reliant Medical Group and Fallon Community Health Plan clinical and professional staff

Maximum Award: Up to \$30,000 to fund 2 projects

Funding Cycle/Next Deadline: To be announced

Contact: Ben Prince, Administrator, (508)-791-7392

6. Public Service Grants

Sponsor: University of Massachusetts Public Service Endowment

Purpose: To enhance *public service* by the University through grants for specific service projects

Eligibility: UMMS faculty and non-faculty staff

Maximum Award: Average award \$2500, Maximum for consideration: \$5,000

Funding Cycle/Most recent deadline: January 6, 2012

Contact: Joan Lynch, Office of the Vice Provost for Research, (508)-856-1572

7. Joseph P. Healey Grants

Sponsor: University of Massachusetts Joseph P. Healey Endowment

Purpose: To enhance the academic quality of the University, primarily through grants to faculty to increase research and scholarship potential. In addition to basic science and clinically oriented research proposals, the endowment also supports applications related to the University's educational mission.

Eligibility: UMMS faculty and non-faculty staff. Researchers may receive no more than 2 grants in a 6-year period

Maximum Award: average award \$2500, Maximum for consideration: \$5,000

Funding Cycle/Most recent deadline: January 6, 2012

Contact: Joan Lynch, Office of the Vice Provost for Research, (508)-856-1572

8. Annual Research Fund – Innovation Grants

Sponsor: Worcester Foundation Grants (a funding program within UMMS)

Purpose: To support promising and innovative research. Projects can be basic, translational, or clinical research.

Eligibility: All UMMS tenure-track or tenured faculty. Applications from non-tenure track clinical science faculty pursuing full time (greater than 50%) investigation will be accepted. Applications focused on neurodegenerative diseases are eligible for the special Morton H. Sigel Award.

Maximum Award: \$35,000

Funding Cycle/Next Deadline: Annual/To be announced

Contact: Pamala Harney, Research Funding Services, (508)-856-5752

9. CVIP Technology Development Fund

Sponsor: UMass President's Office - CVIP Technology Development Fund

Purpose: Administered by the University President's Office, this fund assists faculty and the UMass Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property (CVIP) office with the development of important technologies discovered on our campuses. The Fund is not intended to support basic research, but rather:

- To advance previously disclosed technologies toward commercialization
- To move technologies to the proof of concept stage; or
- To allow the investigator to take other critical steps to make the technology attractive for licensing or other forms of commercialization
- To close the gap between the research discovery and proven technology
- To make a significant difference in demonstrating the commercial potential of the technology

Eligibility: UMass faculty and research staff

Eligible Technologies:

- Those developed primarily at UMass.
- Those previously disclosed to CVIP (via CVIP disclosure form)
- Technologies from all disciplines
- Technology with significant commercial potential
- Those where adequate funding from other sources is not readily available

Evaluation Criteria: The technology must be:

- Novel
- Have a reasonable probability of commercial success and financial return for the University
- Address a demonstrated market need

- Address a market of sufficient size that justifies further investment

Maximum Award: \$25,000 per project for 1 year

Funding Cycle/Next Deadline: January 13, 2012

Contact: Michele Bernier, Awards Manager, CVIP/MTTC, mbernier@umassp.edu

10. Science and Technology Initiatives Fund

Sponsor: University of Massachusetts President's Office

Purpose: To catalyze research collaborations among UMass campuses and with other partners to create impact at many levels. This program provides resources to outstanding faculty working in areas of demonstrated campus commitment and priority. It will also enable growth of networks for the purpose of enhancing UMass' contribution to the commonwealth's economy.

Eligibility: Faculty researchers in the UMass system

Maximum Award: \$50,000-200,000 per project

Funding Cycle/Next Deadline: Annual/ Most recent awards announced May 2011

Contact: Thomas Chmura, Awards Manager, tchmura@umassp.edu

11. Global Health Pilot Projects and Travel Grants

Sponsor: UMass Office of Global Health

Purpose: To catalyze the development of interdisciplinary translational research projects that provide a firm scientific basis for clinical practice and public health policy in global settings. Pilot grants may be used to establish the clinical and laboratory infrastructure to support medical education and translational research and/or to develop specific translational research projects. Travel grants will facilitate the training of global health researchers and care providers or will facilitate the conduct of research.

Eligibility: UMMS faculty and trainees from all departments and programs. Projects that involve multiple investigators at UMMS and/or other UMass campuses are encouraged.

Maximum Award: Pilot project awards: up to \$50,000 for a period of up to 1 year (direct costs only)

Further information:

<http://www.umassmed.edu/globalhealth/grantsandfunding.aspx?linkidentifier=id&itemid=132182>

Contact: Jessica Chang (jessica.chang@umassmed.edu)

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Pilot Grant Programs

12. Pilot Projects Program

Sponsor: UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

Purpose: To effect a qualitative change in the way UMMS investigators conduct research that addresses six specific aims:

- Stimulate the development of new clinical and translational inter- and multi-disciplinary teams
- Provide novel support mechanisms for junior investigators
- Increase the emphasis on pilot funding for community-based research
- Develop new methodologies to leverage institutional strengths and new initiatives
- Pursue high-risk, high reward studies
- Support projects utilizing the unique core facilities at the medical school

Eligibility: UMMS investigators

Maximum Award: Individual project proposals (up to \$100,000 for one year; up to \$150,000 for two years)

Funding Cycle/Next Deadline: Annual/January 13, 2012

Contact: Dr. Gary Schneider, Associate Vice Provost for Research, (508)-856-1530

13. Collaborative Pilot Project Program

Sponsor: UMMS and Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Purpose: To establish partnerships between our faculty and institutions that:

- Promote pioneering scientific discovery
- Develop highly innovative technologies, with a long-term view toward fostering and accelerating the translation of research from the bench to the bedside

Eligibility: Teams of UMMS/WPI investigators

Maximum Award: \$200,000

Funding Cycle/Next Deadline: To be announced

Contact: Dr. Gary Schneider, Associate Vice Provost for Research, (508)-856-1530

14. Life Sciences Moment Fund

Sponsor: University of Massachusetts President's Office

Purpose: To support clinical and translational research and foster collaborations between the UMass Worcester faculty and investigators at the other four university campuses that:

- Leverage the multidisciplinary strengths, expertise and facilities throughout the university system to address new and novel research questions
- Support community research projects through specific RFAs directed toward T2/T3 research

Eligibility: Collaborative teams that include at least one investigator from the UMass Worcester campus and a collaborator from one or more of the other university campuses

Maximum Award: Individual project grants of up to \$150,000

Funding Cycle/Next Deadline: Annual/Estimated February 2012

Contact: Dr. Gary Schneider, Associate Vice Provost for Research, (508)-856-1530

15. Community Translational Research Pilot Program

Sponsor: UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Community Engagement Research Core

Purpose: To stimulate community engaged research to improve health. May include:

- Assessment of new methodologies, observational studies, needs assessments, and pilot studies that use qualitative and/or quantitative data
- Initiatives that are spin-offs of existing larger research initiatives are acceptable if the additional funding addresses unique study aims
- Projects that form the basis of larger, more comprehensive studies
- Projects that have innovative or novel concepts with potential for high impact

Eligibility: UMass faculty (especially early-stage investigators) from any campus working in partnership with any community organization working in the area of translational research related to the improvement of health in real world communities.

Maximum Award: Individual project proposals (up to \$12,500 for six months)

Funding Cycle/Next Deadline: Annual/Most recent awards announced September 6, 2011

Contact: Phil Merriam, Co-Coordinator, Community Engagement Core, Philip.merriam@umassmed.edu