

During this past summer, nine UMass undergraduate students participated in summer internship work as part of an inaugural multi-campus collaboration. This internship program was developed to give students from the UMass Amherst School of Public Health & Health Sciences and the UMass Lowell Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences experience in clinical research, and to provide insight into the rewards of a career as a Clinical Research Professional. A major goal of the University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is to develop a rigorously trained workforce that supports high-quality, innovative, and impactful clinical and translational science. Interns were each paired with a clinical research team and designated Clinical Research Professional (CRP) mentor to train for 10 weeks on the UMass Chan Medical School campus. Following a week of intensive group-level training in clinical research, privacy, and human subjects protection, interns joined their study teams to engage in hands-on, behind the scenes learning about all phases of the clinical research process. The interns were also treated to weekly panel discussions with UMass faculty and staff, engaging in dialogue about topics such as Implementation Science, Community Engagement, Digital Medicine and Clinical Informatics.

"I have never worked anywhere like UMass Chan. From beginning to end, I knew that I was a valued member of the team. I got to see so much more of the clinical research process than I ever anticipated, and everyone I talked to was always happy to teach me what I didn't know. I feel this research experience has brought me closer to a career in clinical research. I am excited to see where both my experience in this program and the connections that I've made take me."

Benjamin Weitz, UMass Amherst, Math & Public Heath, CCTS Undergrad Intern, Health Informatics & Implementation Science