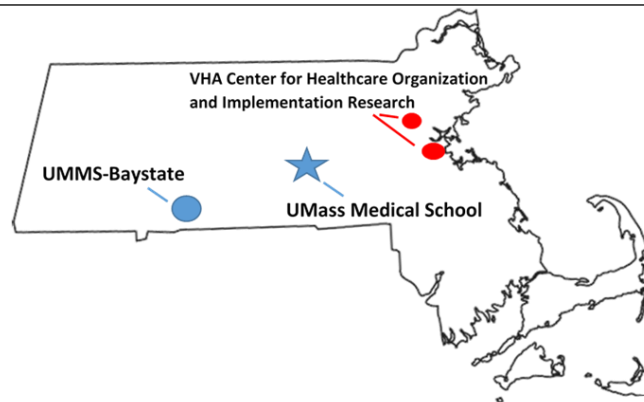


**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**  
**MASSACHUSETTS CONSORTIUM FOR**  
**CARDIOPULMONARY IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE SCHOLARS**  
**(K12 TRAINING PROGRAM)**

**Letter of intent:** January 19, 2018  
**Application due date:** April 4, 2018  
**Start Date:** July 1, 2018

This Request for Applications seeks K12 mentored research scholars to join the newly formed Massachusetts Consortium for Cardiopulmonary Implementation Science Scholars (MCCISS), an institutional K12 training program funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. This is a program spanning three organizations: the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS), the UMMS-Baystate Health campus, and CHOIR (the Center for Healthcare Organization, Implementation Research of the Veterans Health Administration).

**Massachusetts Consortium for Cardiopulmonary Implementation Science Scholars**



At these organizations, The MCCISS programs trains **implementation science scholars** (current junior faculty, and post-doctoral fellows transitioning). These MCCIS Scholars are committed to reducing the burden of cardiopulmonary diseases, such as coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and asthma. MCCIS covers cardiopulmonary disease prevention, treatment and management, and encompasses both clinical treatment and health promotion.

**What is Implementation science?**

**Implementation Science** an emerging health sciences discipline that

- Addresses the need for new research about effective organizational change and best incorporate evidence-based practice into routine clinical and public health practice.
- Requires a unique and diverse set of methodologies and skill sets.
- uses an interdisciplinary team science approaches in collaboration with stakeholders representing practice settings and organizations aiming to adopt evidence-based approaches.

A critical component for the future of implementation science is a well-trained scientific workforce. MCCISS seeks to fill this workforce gap.

**MCCIS training program:**

The program melds three required components: 1) mentored research opportunities; 2) didactic curriculum; and 3) additional enrichment activities. All scholars will devote 75% effort during their tenure in the program. Two-year and three-year tracks are provided.

**Three-year track.** A three-year fellowship is geared for scholars without previous training in introductory and intermediate clinical and population science methods. First year coursework will include methods-focused courses offered through the Masters of Science in Clinical Investigation program. Scholars in this track will obtain an MSCI degree. This degree requires 36 credit hours.

**Two-year track.** A two-year fellowship is intended for scholars who enter the program with formal training in introductory and intermediate biostatistics and epidemiologic research methods. Within the two year track, candidates may or may not have had previous coursework specific to implementation science. *VHA CHOIR scholars are eligible only for this track.*

Time will be equally split between course and enrichment activities and mentored research in the first year for scholars on the two-year track and first two years for scholars in the three-year track. The final year is devoted entirely to mentored research with increasing emphasis on independence. Scholars will be required to submit an NIH grant application, typically an NIH K or R-level application, VA IIR or equivalent that builds from their K12 research.

**To be eligible for the MCCISS Program, a candidate must:**

- 1) Have earned a research or health professional doctoral degree (MD, DO, PhD, ScD, DVM, PharmD or equivalent) and be at least 2 years post receipt of their doctoral degree,
- 2) Have a current full-time appointment or commitment for a full-time appointment (demonstrated via letter of support) at UMMS or UMMS-Baystate, or at least 5/8ths appointment or commitment to a 5/8ths appointment (demonstrated via letter of support from the Hospital Director) at the Bedford VA or the Boston VA.
- 3) Demonstrate a commitment to a career as an independent investigator in implementation science in an area related to cardiopulmonary disease prevention, treatment or management,
- 4) Provide evidence of departmental support of a minimum of 75% protected time for 2-3 years.
- 5) Not have previously been the principal investigator on an R01, R21, R34, VA IRR or equivalent grant, nor have a pending application for any other PHS or VHA mentored career development award (e.g., K01, K07, K08, K22, K23 or VA CDA) that duplicates any of the provisions of the K12 program. Appointed scholars may apply for PHS or VHA individual mentored K awards; if successful, the K12 appointment would be terminated.
- 6) Be a US citizen, non-citizen national, or permanent resident.

**The MCCISS program provides scholars with:**

- 75% effort at up to \$100,000 annual salary plus fringe benefits,
- \$30,000 per year in research and education funds,
- \$1,500 to travel to NHLBI for trainee meeting.

***The program does not support*** indirect costs nor provide salary support for the mentor.

**Stakeholder engagement:**

This program supports implementation science projects conducted in collaboration with clinical, community or public health stakeholders. Examples of such partners include UMass Memorial Health Care, Baystate Health, the Veterans Health Administration, and community-based organizations that are a part of the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance or the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester.

**Applications must include:**

1. Abstract of the project (1 page)
2. Specific Aims (1 page)
3. Candidate and Training Information (12 pages, total), including:
  - a. -Candidate background, career goals and objectives
  - b. -Career development/training activities during the training period
  - c. -Research project strategy
4. Literature cited
5. Training in responsible conduct of research (1 page)
6. Biographical sketch (5 pages)
7. Description of institutional environment (1 page)
8. Protection of human subjects and inclusion of children, women and racial/ethnic minorities, following PHS guidelines. (no page limit)
9. Budget (NIH PHS 398 form pages 4 & 5 which includes budget justification)
10. Letter of support from the department or program chair which outlines the department's commitment to mentoring the candidate as an independent researcher. The signed letter should provide assurance that the candidate will not have any administrative or other commitments that exceed 25% effort. The letter should also provide assurance that the department will provide the requisite funds for salary support and research supplies for the candidate not covered by the K12. Department chair letters for fellows must indicate clear support to hire the scholar as an assistant professor or instructor.
11. Mentor statements describing the mentorship team's relationship with and commitment to the applicant scholar. The primary mentor must be affiliated with one of the three participating organizations (UMMS, UMMS-Baystate, VHA CHOIR). Other members of the mentorship team can be from other institutions. The mentor statement should include a statement of support for the applicant's training plan; a description of the anticipated level of mentoring for the applicant, including frequency and type of contact; a description of the coordination among the full mentoring team; and how the proposed project fits with the mentor's ongoing program of research and research/practice resources. Specific source(s) of available grant or institutional support for the proposed project should be described.
12. Two letters of reference that attest to the candidate's commitment to and potential for development as an independent implementation scientist.

**Application process:**

**Webinar:** An informational webinar will be held on January 10, 2018 from 12-1PM. The webinar will be audiorecorded for those who are unable to attend.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/9899145585>

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +14086380968,9899145585# or +16468769923,9899145585#

Or Telephone:

Dial:

+1 408 638 0968 (US Toll)

+1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

+1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 989 914 5585

**Contact person at each campus:**

Inquiries about the MCCISS program can be directed to:

**UMass Medical School**

Stephenie C. Lemon, Ph.D. at [Stephenie.Lemon@umassmed.edu](mailto:Stephenie.Lemon@umassmed.edu)

Thomas K. Houston, MD, MPH at [Thomas.Houston@umassmed.edu](mailto:Thomas.Houston@umassmed.edu)

**Baystate Medical Center**

Peter Lindenauer, MD at [Peter.Lindenauer@baystatehealth.org](mailto:Peter.Lindenauer@baystatehealth.org)

**VHA CHOIR**

Renda Wiener, MD, MPH at [Renda.Wiener@va.gov](mailto:Renda.Wiener@va.gov)

**Letter of intent:**

We request a non-binding letter of intent, due on Friday January 19, 2018. It should be emailed to Barbara Estabrook, MSPH at [Barbara.Estabrook@umassmed.edu](mailto:Barbara.Estabrook@umassmed.edu) The letter should not exceed 2 pages and briefly describe the applicant's eligibility status, research areas and mentors. Letters will be reviewed by MCCISS program leadership to ensure an appropriate fit with the program.

**Application due date:**

Applications are due by 5PM on Friday April 4, 2018. Applications should be emailed as a single PDF file to Barbara Estabrook, MSPH at [Barbara.Estabrook@umassmed.edu](mailto:Barbara.Estabrook@umassmed.edu)

**Decision and start date:**

Funding decisions will be made in May, 2018, with earliest start dates of July 1, 2018