Request for Applications

INNOVATIONS IN PATIENT RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

Applications due June 30, 2017

The Goal of the Innovations in Patient Recruitment Program

A goal of the UMass 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 Science Participation Resource Center, this opportunity seeks proposals for leveraging UMMS data-lake driven innovative techniques to identify and engage research participants, particularly among historically hard-to-reach patient populations. The UMCCTS Informatics Core has implemented several tools (UMMS Data Lake, i2b2, TrinetX, and Conquering Disease Volunteer Registry; see http://umassmed.edu/it/cdp/) to improve participant recruitment to ongoing clinical studies. The purpose of this funding is to enable us to measure the effectiveness of these tools to improve/accelerate recruitment to clinical research studies at the UMass Medical School. UMass researchers who are currently conducting research studies and are facing recruitment challenges are encouraged to respond to this RFA to seek assistance from the UMCCTS Informatics Core to develop recruitment strategies that include cohort identification from EHR data in the Data Lake and EPIC research tools-based recruitment.

Commitment

- Collaborate with the UMCCTS Clinical Informatics Core in developing the appropriate recruitment strategy for your research project
- Evaluate the comparative effectiveness of the recruitment strategy with traditional methods
- Submit a recruitment methodology manuscript
- Incorporate funding request for recruitment strategies and informatics in an 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 ½ time benefited employee
Evaluation Criteria

A review committee of UMCCTS faculty and staff will evaluate each applicant based on:

- The candidate’s proposal for improving recruitment and proposed methodology including detailed design plan to monitor recruitment success
- The potential for the proposed methodology to significantly accelerate the pace of recruitment, enable meeting recruitment goals and improve participation in clinical trials from under privileged communities
- 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 by June 30, 2017 at 5pm Eastern:

- Cover Page: including:
  - Title of project
  - Applicant’s name, credentials, and faculty rank
  - Campus, Department/Division
  - Email address and telephone number
- 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 patient recruitment needs, including: preliminary studies and plan for a future external grant application, including Specific Aims, Significance and Methods
- 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 or by contacting Nate Hafer at 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 Jomol Mathew, PhD (jomol.mathew@umassmed.edu)