



## CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

October 4, 2016

### UMASS LIFE SCIENCES MOMENT FUND 2016 – REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

#### INTRODUCTION

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is pleased to announce a funding call for the [UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund \(LSMF\) 2016](#). The UMass LSMF supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed towards life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research.

#### PURPOSE

The LSMF Fund serves to spur inter-campus collaboration and strengthen the University's research portfolio in clinical and translational research. By providing seed funding to outstanding faculty members, this fund facilitates the development of faculty-to-faculty networks within the University system, thereby leveraging the considerable expertise and resources that exist on the individual campuses. It is assumed that successful projects will attract additional funding from extramural sources.

Projects supported by this fund will advance a therapeutic, device, intervention, approach, etc., under study along the translational pipeline. The intent of the funding is to speed up the rate of progress to move a research project, clinical finding or other discovery into a broader network of activities, while maximizing the breadth of *interdisciplinary* skills applied to the research question. We are particularly interested in proposals that feature a clinical scientist working with a basic scientist.

Thank you for your interest in clinical and translational science. We look forward to your ideas.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Projects must include at least one investigator from the UMass Worcester campus and a collaborator from at least one of the other UMass campuses.

As the LSMF is a pilot program of the UMCCTS, all faculty applicants must first become members of the UMCCTS. [Membership](#) is free, easy and a number of benefits are associated with joining the UMCCTS which include:

- Access to UMCCTS internal pilot grants offered by the center
- Access to UMCCTS and UMMS core facilities and services operated through the center
- On-campus faculty rates for UMCCTS cores operating on a fee-for-service basis
- Opportunities to participate in UMCCTS education, training and scientific programs

#### ALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS

Individual project awards (**\$50,000 for 1 year**) will be made on a competitive basis to enable investigators to accelerate the translation of innovative, cutting edge research into:

- New understanding and/or diagnosis of a disease process
- New devices, therapeutics, and vaccines for the treatment and/or prevention of disease
- Support for junior investigators
- New standards of care in the practice of community medicine
- New approaches to community-based research demonstrating true bi-directionality between community and academia
- New methodologies to leverage institutional strengths and new initiatives
- The pursuit of high-risk, high reward studies

Funds are typically used for student/postdoc support, reagent costs, use of consultation/core services, and small equipment. PI support up to 10% is allowed. Indirect costs are not allowed.

### **~NEW THIS YEAR~**

UMMS funding for projects will require a 1:1 financial match from the non-Worcester campus. A letter of support from the person providing the funds (Department Head, Chief Research Officer, etc.) is required as part of the LOI and full application.

## **DEFINITIONS OF CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH**

NIH defines *Clinical Research* as:

- Patient-oriented research. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Patient-oriented research includes: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) therapeutic interventions, (c) clinical trials, or (d) development of new technologies.
- Epidemiological and behavioral studies.
- Outcomes research and health services research.

*Translational Research* as:

- The process of applying ideas, insights, and discoveries generated through basic scientific inquiry to the treatment or prevention of human disease.

## **OVERSIGHT**

The UMass LSMF is overseen and administered by the [Steering Committee](#) of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science. The Steering Committee makes funding decisions based upon the scientific merits and potential impact of the proposals.

## **CRITERIA FOR AWARDS**

The evaluation criteria that are used to review proposals include the following:

- **Intellectual Merit** – projects that include all efforts to enhance the impact of scholarly endeavors on benefiting the human condition, which for the purposes of this fund will include enabling technologies, will be considered for funding
- **Inter-Campus Collaboration** – projects that are multi-campus in orientation and involve at least one collaborator from the Medical School will be considered for funding
- **Growth Opportunity** – projects that demonstrate the opportunity to be leveraged to attract and secure outside funding from federal, state, industry, foundation and other sources will be considered for funding
- **Use of UMCCTS Resources** - Applicants will receive added consideration from the reviewers if they plan to use one or more of the research resources available through the [UMCCTS](#).

## **APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS**

### **Letters of Intent – Due date: November 21, 2016**

Describe in two (2) pages or less the work that has motivated you to apply for this particular fund; the collaborating PI(s) and the role of each in the project; project title; and the importance of the collaboration. The LOI review process seeks to make two determinations:

1. That the project meets one of more of the definitions of clinical and translational research defined above.
2. That the availability of Life Sciences Moment funding would accelerate the translation of innovative, cutting edge clinical research into:

- New understanding and/or diagnosis of a disease process
- New devices, therapeutics, and vaccines for the treatment and/or prevention of disease
- Support for junior investigators
- New standards of care in the practice of community medicine
- New approaches to community-based research demonstrating true bi-directionality between community and academia
- New methodologies to leverage institutional strengths and new initiatives
- The pursuit of high-risk, high reward studies

References are not required but if included do not count as part of the two page limit. Budgetary information is not required at the LOI stage.

**~NEW THIS YEAR~**

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Letters of Intent (LOI) will be reviewed by the UMCCTS Steering Committee to determine which projects are inter-campus in orientation and significantly linked to the criteria listed above. Based on this review, the most promising projects will be selected for full proposal submission. Full proposals will be subject to a standard NIH-type study section assessment.

**Please email your Letter of Intent (2 pages or less) as an attachment (Word or PDF) to: [ccts@umassmed.edu](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu) on or before **November 21, 2016 by 5:00 pm (EST)****

Full proposals will be due on January 17, 2017 for those selected finalists.

**APPLICATION TIMELINE**

<b>Request for Letters of Intent Announced</b>	Tuesday, October 4, 2016
<b>Letters of Intent Due</b>	Monday, November 21, 2016
<b>Letters of Intent Finalists Notified</b>	Week of December 5, 2016
<b>Full Proposals Due</b>	Tuesday, January 17, 2017
<b>Project Start Date</b>	Friday, February 17, 2017

**PARTIAL LIST OF CCTS RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR LSMF 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](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu)

- Massachusetts Integrated Clinical Academic Research Database (MICARD)
- REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture)
- Informatics Core
- Quantitative Methods Core
- Regulatory Consultation
- Clinical Research Center
- Investigational Drug Service (Pharmacy)
- Conquering Diseases Biorepository
- Conquering Diseases Volunteer Recruitment Core
- Community Engagement resources and consultation services
- Special Population Resource Center
- Small Molecule Screening Core
- Structure-Based Drug Design Core