University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science

May 2015 Volume 1, Issue 4

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Massachusetts Worksite Wellness Program

Facilitated by the Community Engagement Core of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS), the Office of Data Analytics in Commonwealth Medicine, UMass Medical School (UMMS), and UMass Lowell (UML) have established a new collaboration to evaluate the effectiveness of the **Massachusetts Worksite Wellness Program**, funded by the Massachusetts Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund (PWTF). The PWTF Worksite Wellness Program will deliver interventions to improve employee health in about 450 small and medium-sized businesses state-wide, with attention to working conditions and work productivity, as well. The UMMS-UML collaborative team has been awarded a contract from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to carry out a broad evaluation plan for this large program. The evaluation will examine program effectiveness and cost-effectiveness as well as program activities, scope of employee participation, and fidelity of the intervention. The initial contract is for 2½ years, with potential continuation for 4 additional years. It is expected to generate insights into the value of continuation and possible expansion of the program statewide, as well as to inform evolving national policy in this area. The collaboration is an example of the long-term commitment of the University of Massachusetts, including the UMCCTS, to academic-government partnerships that improve the well-being of Massachusetts residents.

Co-Principal Investigators:

Laura Punnett, Sc.D., Professor, Department of Work Environment & Co-Director, Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW), University of Massachusetts Lowell

Wen-Chieh Lin, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Center for Health Policy and Research & Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Wenjun Li, Ph.D., Director, Health Statistics and Geography Lab, Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine & Associate Professor of Medicine (Biostatistics), University of Massachusetts Medical School

Sally Gore Awarded the 2015 Paul Vaiginas Professional Award

Sally Gore, MS, MS LIS, Research Evaluation Analyst for the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) was awarded the **2015 Paul Vaiginas Professional Award by the Massachusetts Health Sciences Library Network (MAHSLIN)** at their Annual Meeting on May 1, 2015. The award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the profession and to MAHSLIN. Sally was nominated by Brandy King, MLIS, founder of Knowledge Linking, an information and knowledge management business in the Boston area. In her nomination, Ms. King cited Sally's blog, ***"A Librarian by Any Other Name,"*** (http://librarianhats.net) as the main reason for recommending her for this award:

> *Sally's witty writing style, and the genuineness with which she approaches the questions she has sought answers to, have lead to an average of over 1,200 blog visitors a month. She has received comments from library school students, new librarians, and those near retirement. She's heard from people all over the world and from people who have nothing to do with librarianship. And in addition to reading her words, people started to ask if she could come speak to their colleagues. As a direct result of her blog, she has received invitations to speak about her work at meetings of the Texas Library Association and the Midwest, North West, and Upstate NY Chapters of the Medical Library Association.*
>
> *By venturing out into an emerging role and inviting us along on her adventure, Sally has let us all see what professional possibilities exist beyond the library. And by immersing herself completely in the role of an embedded informationist, she discovered that she could take her skills with her, out of the library, and into a new job as Research Evaluation Analyst for the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science. Sally is a role model for information professionals to look to as the library landscape continues to change and we seek to evolve along with it.*

Sally has been a great addition to the UMCCTS since joining us in December, 2014. As this award demonstrates, she has a number of valuable skills that will continue to improve the quality of our UMCCTS evaluation efforts. **Please join us in congratulating Sally!**

M2D2 to Open Fully Equipped Shared Lab Space – June 1st

The Massachusetts Medical Device and Development Center (M2D2) **will open an additional center with fully-equipped shared lab and collaborative space**.

M2D2 will provide:

The Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center located at the University of Massachusetts Lowell campus will open an additional center with fully-equipped shared lab and collaborative space.

M2D2 will provide:

- Educational programming tailored to life sciences start-up companies
- Lab space and lab equipment with maintenance and tech support
- Lab training and EHS compliance
- Access to UMass Medical School resources
- Access to UMass Lowell business, engineering, and prototyping services
- Waste removal
- Secure access
- Parking and easy access to MBTA Commuter Rail
- Conference rooms and event space with internet

To take a tour of the new facilities or if you have any questions, please contact M2D2 at M2D2@uml.edu or 978-934-3465

eScholarship@UMMS

Helps Spread the Word about UMCCTS Research

Sally A. Gore, MS, MSLIS, Research Evaluation Analyst, UMCCTS

Posters and presentations from the UMCCTS Research Retreat collection in **eScholarship@UMMS** (http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/umccts/), the University of Massachusetts Medical School's digital archive of scholarly works, were downloaded more than 1,500 times in March!

The 3 most popular papers were:

- Validating and Testing Wearable Sensors to Assess Physical Activity and Sedentary Behavior in the Center for Personalized Health Monitoring, Patty Freedson, PhD, UMass Amherst (**73 downloads**)
- http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/cts_retreat/2014/presentations/7
- Pilot Testing a Novel Treatment for Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Barbara Olendzki et al, UMass Medical School (**69 downloads**)
- http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/cts_retreat/2011/posters/15
- Improving Balance and Mobility in People with Multiple Sclerosis, Richard van Emmerik, UMass Amherst (**43 downloads**)
- http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/cts_retreat/2014/presentations/18

If you'd like to see where the readers of these papers are worldwide, check out the dynamic map on the website (http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/cts_retreat/) and if you'd like *YOUR* work to reach a wider audience, consider putting it in eScholarship@UMMS.

Contact Lisa Palmer (Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu) in the UMMS Lamar Soutter Library for more information.

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dis·sem·i·nate
/di-'se-mə-ˌnāt/

How to Share Your Science

Sally A. Gore, MS, MSLIS, Research Evaluation Analyst, UMCCTS

ResearcherID, Scopus Author ID, ORCiD … you may have noticed reference to these identifiers appear on abstracts of your articles in different bibliometric databases. Wonder what they mean? Over the next few newsletters, we'll cover these and more, helping you better understand **how to increase the reach of your research and thus, improve the impact it has on science and health**.

As research becomes more networked and dynamic, the ability to accurately identify contributors is becoming vital. **ORCiD**, or **Open Researcher and Contributor ID**, is an initiative to help solve author ambiguity and enable accurate linking of individuals to their research products. ORCiD assigns a unique identifier to an individual, and that identifier can then be used when submitting proposals to funders or journal manuscripts to publishers. The NIH, American Psychological Association, Cambridge University Press, Elsevier, and Nature Publishing Group are just some examples of organizations that are currently working with ORCiD. Better still, ORCiD is free and easy to use. Get started with ORCiD today!*Thanks to Rebecca Reznik-Zellen, Head of Research & Scholarly Communication Services in the Lamar Soutter Library, UMMS, for describing ORCiD. Seek out Rebecca if you have any questions or need help getting started.*

Common Questions on Clinical Trial Agreements

UMCCTS Office of Clinical Research (OCR) Staff provide helpful tips and information to investigators, study teams and departments

Tips for: Clinical Trial Confidential Disclosure Agreements

Cara Martinoli, JD, Contract Administrator II – Terms Specialist

An Industry Sponsor contacts you about a clinical trial, and you are interested. The Sponsor asks you to sign an agreement prior to the exchange of any confidential information. These agreements are commonly known as **Confidential Disclosure Agreements (CDA)** or are also referred to as **Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA)**. You may wonder if you can sign this document yourself. The short answer at UMass Medical School (UMMS): No. Here's why: 1) these agreements often contain terms that UMMS cannot agree to, or that may significantly disadvantage the Institution in the event of litigation and 2) these agreements can only be signed by designated University Officials. If you sign yourself, you could potentially be held personally liable for a breach. Forward these agreements to the Office of Clinical Research and be on the watch for sponsor or Contract Research Organization (CRO) feasibility surveys with embedded CDA or NDA-style language. If you encounter such an agreement, **contact the OCR office for assistance** at clinicalresearch@umassmed.edu

A consortium of Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) institutions are finalizing a standard CDA (the Accelerated CDA or ACDA). UMMS has committed to use these Accelerated agreements, including both the ACDA and the Accelerated Clinical Trial Agreement (ACTA), whenever possible. When speaking with a sponsor, encourage use of the ACDA and ACTA to simplify the startup process. The sponsor can find out more about the ACDA and ACTA at www.ara4us.org.

UMCCTS "R-Club"

Basic Elements and Process for a Successful Grant Application

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

12:30 pm

Conference Room AS6-2072

Albert Sherman Center

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Note: *This will be the last meeting until the course resumes in September, 2015*

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science and the UMMS Office of Research **"R-Club"** was established in October 2014 and is co-lead by Drs. Beth McCormick and Robert Goldberg. The R-Club is a seminar/working group that is available for all current and past K awardees and junior faculty at the institution who are contemplating the submission of an R-type grant (e.g. R01, R03, R21) to the NIH during the coming academic year.

This course will meet on a regular monthly basis and will have **discussions on all the basic elements of a grant application**. A series of mock grant reviews will be conducted during the year so that applicants will obtain a better appreciation for the peer review process and what makes for a successful grant application. This working group is intended to enhance, and not replace, mentoring by peers and senior faculty. Each of the monthly sessions will be conducted in an interactive format so that attendees can ask questions of each other and the course leaders to facilitate their proposal development.

Interested in joining or questions? Please contact the Program Leaders: **Beth McCormick, PhD** beth.mccormick@umassmed.edu and **Robert J. Goldberg, PhD** Robert.goldberg@umassmed.edu

Complete information and schedule: http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/education/r-club/

NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

CTSA Clinical & Translational® Science Awards

Connecting CTSA Researchers with SBIR/STTR Dollars

Could an SBIR/STTR Award be right for you?

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

1:00 – 2:30 pm (EST)

Webinar Link: Here

Dial-In: 1-877-668-4493 (Passcode: 628 575 898)

Lili Portilla, MPA
Director of Strategic Alliances
NCATS

Stephanie Fertig, MBA
Director, Small Business Programs
NINDS

Jennifer Shieh, PhD
Small Business Coordinator and Program Director
NHLBI

Please join NCATS' Lili Portilla, NINDS' Stephanie J. Fertig and NHLBI's Elizabeth Shieh as they discuss the $750M per year from NIH to support biomedical technology development through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs at their institutes. The webinar will start with an overview of the SBIR/STTR program, basic eligibility and grant mechanics and then segue into institute-specific programs.

Nucleic Acid Therapeutics: Progress from Bench to Bedside

Three decades ago, the late Paul Zamecnik, M.D., while at the Worcester Foundation (now University of Massachusetts Medical School), started us on a journey to develop his hypothesis of antisense therapeutics. Translating antisense to practice has met many hurdles, including immune activation by Toll-like receptors (TLRs). Turning an obstacle into an opportunity, we now have established clinical proof-of-concept for nucleic acid therapeutics that act as TLR agonists or TLR antagonists, complementing the promising results that have been shown with second-generation antisense compounds. However, antisense approaches to a wider range of serious diseases require further improvements, particularly to minimize unintended inflammatory responses.

We have designed a third-generation antisense construct, referred to as gene-silencing oligos (GSOs). GSOs provide specific gene knockdown in preclinical models, including *in vivo*, without the need for any specific formulation or delivery vehicle. More importantly, GSOs are designed to mitigate inflammatory responses. An overview of these developments will be provided.

Sudhir Agrawal, D. Phil, FRSC
President of Research
Idera Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Cambridge, MA

Dr. Agrawal currently serves as President of Research at Idera Pharmaceuticals. He joined the company as a founding scientist, and has since served in various leadership roles, including Chief Scientific Officer and Chief Executive Officer. Over the last 30 years, Dr. Agrawal's research focus has been in the field of nucleic acid therapeutics, including antisense technology and Toll-like receptor targeted compounds. Using the foundation of nucleic acid chemistry, his lab created synthetic nucleic acid constructs which allow the compounds to specifically act as agonists or antagonists of targeted TLRs. Insights gained from the work in first and second generation antisense allowed scientists in his lab to design a third generation antisense platform referred to as gene-silencing oligos for gene knockdown. These scientific breakthroughs have been reported in over 300 research papers and reviews. He is a named inventor on over 400 patents issued or pending in countries around the world. He has also edited three books; two on oligonucleotide synthesis, and one on antisense therapeutics. He currently serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of Trends in Molecular Medicine and Current Cancer Drug Targets.

Dr. Agrawal received his D.Phil. in Chemistry and conducted research at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, U.K. Working with Paul Zamecnik, M.D., he conducted pioneering work in antisense technology. Based on this technology, Idera Pharmaceuticals, formerly Hybridon, was founded.

Thursday, May 14, 2015

12:00-1:00 pm

S1-342 Faculty Conference Room

University of Massachusetts Medical School campus

Lunch will be served

Hosted by: the University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science and the University of Massachusetts Medical School Office of Innovation and Business Development

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Division of Cardiovascular Medicine Grand Rounds

The Future of Cardiovascular Research

Eric D. Peterson, MD, MPH
Fred Cobb Distinguished Professor of Medicine,
Division of Cardiology
DukeMed Scholar and the Executive Director of the
Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI)
Durham, NC

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lazare Auditorium, S1-607

University of Massachusetts Medical School campus

Dr. Peterson is the Principal Investigator of the National Institute of Health, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Coordinating Center for its Outcome Research Network and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Cardiovascular Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERTs). He is also the Principal Investigator of the Data Coordinating Centers for the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), National Cardiac Surgery Database, the American College of Cardiology National Cardiac Database (ACC-NCDR) and the American Heart Association Get With the Guidelines Database (AHA-GWTG).

Dr. Peterson participates on multiple national committees, as well as CV guideline and performance measure development groups. He is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI), the Association of American Physicians (AAP), and the Association of University Cardiologists (AUC).

In 2013, Dr. Peterson received the American Heart Association Meritorious Achievement Award and was voted one of world's top 400 most influential researchers in biomedicine. This year, he was named by Thomson Reuters as a 'Highly Cited Researcher', ranking him among the top 1% most cited in clinical medicine. He is a Contributing Editor on the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and is a recognized leader in outcomes and quality research with over 700 peer-reviewed publications in the field.

If you are interested in meeting with Dr. Peterson when he visits UMass on May 20th, **please contact Linda Chase** at linda.chase@umassmemorial.org

The Bioinformatics Core invites you to: An Informal Discussion

DIY Sequencing Analysis: the Next Generation of BioCore

Alper Kucukural, PhD and

Nicholas Merowsky, BS

BioCore

Friday, May 22, 2015

11:00 AM

6th Floor Conference Room 2072

Albert Sherman Center

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Host: Manuel Garber, PhD, Director, Bioinformatics Core Manuel.Garber@umassmed.edu

Cures Within Reach
New CureAccelerator™ Web Platform

Cures Within Reach created **CureAccelerator™** with a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The purpose of CureAccelerator™ is to **increase the amount of repurposing research that can make a positive healthcare impact**. By connecting researchers, clinicians, funders, the biomedical industry and patient groups through an innovative open access platform, CureAccelerator™ will drive more treatments more quickly to more patients.

To register to CureAccelerator™

New Users: https://beta.cureaccelerator.org/registration

Returning Users: https://beta.cureaccelerator.org/login

Also if you are interested in attending…

Cures Within Reach BioScience Awards of the Midwest 2015

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

6:00 – 9:00 pm (CST)

610 South Michigan, Chicago, IL

As a Partner Institution, registration is reduced by 50% (Discount code: CWRboard)

http://www.cureswithinreach.org/bam-registration

in conjunction with…

4th Annual Drug Repositioning, Repurposing & Rescue Conference

Wednesday, May 27 and Thursday, May 28, 2015

8:30 am – 3:30 pm (CST)

Chicago, IL

Cures Within Reach discount code for the conference (cureswithinreach)

http://www.drugrepositioningconference.com/index/

Massachusetts Life Sciences Innovation Day 2015

Weathering Healthcare Climate Change

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

8:00 am – 7:00 pm

Harvard Club of Boston

374 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA

Changes in healthcare policy, the economy, available financing, regulatory approvals, and reimbursement all impact a business as it grows. With so many unknowns, how does the entrepreneur take a best guess at the environment they will be operating in when their new product is ready for market in five, ten, or fifteen years? During 2015's Mass Life Sciences Innovation Day, our keynotes and panels will explore healthcare climate changes that are likely to impact technology development and commercialization and how you can respond.

The 8th Annual Massachusetts Life Sciences Innovation (MALSI) Day is the biggest day for life sciences startups and innovation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This is a high-energy, hands-on event which brings together scientific and business leaders to mingle with scientists, post-docs, professors, entrepreneurs, innovators, and venture capitalists.

For full details: http://www.mttc.org/malsi-2015/

4th Annual Deshpande Symposium for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Higher Education

~REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN~

June 9 – 11, 2105

University of Massachusetts Lowell Inn & Conference Center

Lowell, MA

UMass Lowell is proud to host the 2015 Deshpande Symposium on Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Higher Education. We hope you will join us for the year's symposium, which will attract over 300 participants from across North America for Lowell to examine best practices and models for entrepreneurial courses, programs, and universities.

The Symposium has expanded its nationally recognized awards program for innovation and entrepreneurship in higher education. Last year's winners included Arizona State University, Babson College and Carnegie Mellon University. Over 25 award nominations from across the country were received and winners will be announced at the event in June.

- This year's conference includes 30 panel presentations from colleagues of all disciplines addressing a range of topics, including:
- Funding streams for entrepreneurial efforts
- Entrepreneurship and international programs
- Entrepreneurship and artistic identity
- Industry collaborations
- Technology commercialization and accelerators

- The entrepreneurial university

For full details and registration: http://www.deshpandesymposium.org

If you would like to sponsor the attendance of faculty and staff from your college, please contact, Gwen_Picanco@uml.edu in Online & Continuing Education

Note: If an institution registers 4 or more attendees, the registration fee will be reduced to $295 per person. The registration must be done as a group directly with Gwen Picanco.

CHEIR
The UMass Center for Health Equity Intervention Research

~REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN~

Developing Culturally Responsive Interventions Using Storytelling: A Novel Method for Promoting Health Equity

Thursday, June 11 and Friday, June 12, 2015

UMass Medical School

55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA

The *Synthesis, Engagement, Elevation to Eliminate Disparities (SEED) Symposium* is an innovative gathering to generate new ideas for health equity. Sponsored by the UMass Center for Health Equity Intervention Research (CHEIR) and UMMS Diversity and Inclusion Office, the SEED Symposium uses cutting-edge approaches to generate new findings and resources to eliminate health disparities.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Camara Jones, MD, MPH, PhD
Senior Fellow
Satcher Health Leadership Institution

KEY MODERATOR

Marc Nivet, Ed.D.
Chief Diversity Officer
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

Registration includes access to 2-days of THOUGHT-PROVOKING, INSPIRING activities. Starting on Thursday, June 11th with arts and healing performances and the SEED Collections, a common area where interaction and engagement is stimulated by graffiti walls with provocative questions, videos, and interactive stations. Friday, June 12th has TED-like presentations by health equity researchers in policy, environmental justice, grant making, and visual arts, followed by intentional activities to provoke dialogue and collective thinking about ways to move health equity work further upstream.

For full details and registration: http://www.cheir.org/seed-symposium

Questions? seed@umassmed.edu

New CTSA Collaborative Innovation Awards

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health has just announced a new **Collaborative Innovation Award, Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program U01 and pre-application X02**.

These FOAs aims to support applications for innovative collaborative investigations (**involving three or more CTSA sites**) into improvements of the methods of translational research, at any step in the translational spectrum (T1-T4). It is anticipated that the combined effort of three or more CTSA hubs in flexible networks will substantially enhance the effectiveness of the CTSA consortium to address high priority translational research questions. These FOAs therefore aim to support innovative and collaborative experimental translational research projects carried out in the CTSA consortium that have the following characteristics:

1. Such projects should develop a new technology, method, or approach that addresses a general roadblock in science and/or operations that limits the efficiency and effectiveness of translation.
2. Such projects should demonstrate in one or more use cases whether the tool, method, or approach is effective in accelerating translation, utilizing clear and meaningful metrics and outcomes, when implemented across multiple CTSA hubs.
3. Such projects should advance collaboration, building on existing strengths and resources of individual CTSA hubs.
4. What constitutes success of the proposed project can be defined and measured.

Please see complete details in the 2 links below: There is a pre-application step (X02) followed by an invited full application (U01).

X02 URL: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-15-173.html

U01 URL: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-15-172.html

If you are interested in submitting a pre-application, please contact Nate Hafer at least 2 weeks before the grant deadline at nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu or 508-856-2511.

NRMN
Mentoring to Diversify the Biomedical Workforce
National Research Mentoring Network

National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) Coaching Groups for Grant Proposal Writing & Professional Development

Call for Applications - Trainees & Coaches

The NIH-funded NRMN was created to address the unmet need for greater diversity in the biomedical and biobehavioral research workforce. One core activity within NMRM is focused on creating – and disseminating nationally – transformative, high-impact, professional development programs that foster the persistence and advancement of research trainees and early-career investigators from **underrepresented populations in the U.S.**

Beginning June 2015, the NRMN is offering a series of four intensive coaching programs to support investigators who are at a later training stage, specifically postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty. These programs are designed to enhance participants' career development, preparing them to meet each programs' ultimate goal: the submission of strong research and research career development proposals for funding in the biomedical or biobehavioral sciences.

The National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) **invites applications from two audiences for Grant Proposal Writing and Professional Development opportunities**.

1. **Postdoctoral Fellows & Junior Faculty**

- Currently working on a grant proposal
- Planning to work on a grant proposal in the next year

2. Experienced Faculty Investigators

- Interested in serving as a grant writing and professional development coach for individuals and groups
- Hoping to learn and apply the proposal writing and coaching strategies used in the NRMN models
- Committed to the career advancement of investigators from underrepresented populations

Applications are due: May 21, 2015 https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/nrmn-pdc/

Please contact Nate Hafer at nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu if you are interested in applying.

Pfizer's Centers for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI)

Request for Translational Proposals: Biotherapeutic and Small Molecule Targets

CTI is an innovative Pfizer program that partners with leading academic medical centers and patient foundations nationwide to speed the translation of novel targets into potential therapeutics. CTI seeks to identify and partner novel targets with the goal of identifying new compounds and accelerate drug development from validated target to proof-of-mechanism in humans. A partnership with CTI may include collaborative use of Pfizer's proprietary antibody drug delivery technologies and/or compound library, broad publishing rights and financial awards in the form of milestone and royalty payments for successful programs.

Large & Small Molecule Modalities in Scope

- Large Molecules: Antibodies, Proteins, Peptides
- Small Molecules: Kinases, Serine hydrolases, Solute transporters, Epigenetic targets

Therapeutic Areas of Interest:

- Inflammation
- Autoimmunity
- Tissue remodeling
- Oncology
- Cancer Immunology
- Rare or genetic diseases
- Cardiovascular and metabolic diseases
- Neuroscience

More information on Pfizer's therapeutic areas of interest can be found at: *www.pfizer.com/research/therapeutic_areas*

Note that CTI partners with several Foundations with common research interests:

- Alliance for Lupus Research (ALR)
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)
- Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA)
- Foundation of Sarcoidosis Research (FSR)
- Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF)

What We Look For:

- **Strong Project Rationale**: Demonstrated association between target biology and disease mechanism
- **Ability to Address Unmet Medical Needs**
- **Validated Therapeutic Drug Target**: Strong link from targeted pathway to disease, and a tractable target relative to proposed drug modalities
- **Feasibility**: Plan to candidate development and translation into the clinic
- **Clinical Differentiation**: Opportunity for underpinning therapeutic strategy via patient stratification, molecular signatures, genetic associations, biomarkers

Proposal Submission Process:

- The Pre-Proposal is a brief NON-CONFIDENTIAL 2-3 page overview of the mechanism and proposed research plan to demonstrate proof of mechanism (template available in the UMCCTS website link below)
- **Submit the Pre-Proposal to one of the contacts noted below by June 12, 2015** who will then submit for review by the Joint Steering Committee via the CTI portal

All researchers, clinicians and post-docs whose work meets these criteria are invited to apply. **For more information, please contact**: Venkat Reddy, Venkateshwar.Reddy@pfizer.com or Nate Hafer, Nathaniel.Hafer@umassmed.edu

Please go to the UMCCTS website for complete details: http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/

National Institute of Health

Department of Health and Human Services

Undiagnosed Diseases Gene Function Research (R21)

RFA-RM-15-004

This Exploratory/Developmental Research Funding Opportunity intends to support gene function studies in collaboration with the Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN) building upon the NIH Intramural Research Program's Undiagnosed Diseases Program (NIH-UDP). Responsive applications will propose to investigate the underlying genetics, biochemistry and/or pathophysiology of newly diagnosed diseases in association with the respective gene variant(s) identified through the UDN. In recent years, gene function studies combined with genetic and genomic analyses and metabolic studies have greatly improved diagnoses of these very rare diseases and advanced scientific knowledge of the underlying pathogenesis. This initiative is funded through the NIH Common Fund, which supports cross-cutting programs that are expected to have exceptionally high impact.

Complete details: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-15-004.html

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National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Request for Information: Soliciting Input into the NIH Science Vision for Health Disparities Research

NOT-MD-15-006

This Notice is a time-sensitive Request for Information (RFI) soliciting input into a science vision to guide the development of the science of health disparities research for the next decade.

Complete details: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MD-15-006.html

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National Institutes of Health

Request for Information: NIH Precision Medicine Cohort

NOT-OD-15-096

This Request for Information (RFI) seeks feedback to help guide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in creating a longitudinal cohort of 1 million or more Americans who have volunteered to participate in research as part of the President's proposed Precision Medicine Initiative. Participants will be asked to give consent for extensive characterization of biologic specimens (potentially including cell populations, proteins, metabolites, RNA, and DNA whole-genome sequencing, if/when costs permit) and behavioral and environmental data, all linked to their electronic health records (EHRs). Qualified researchers from many organizations will, with appropriate protection of participant confidentiality, have access to the cohort's de-identified data for research and analysis.

Complete details: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-096.html

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National Institutes of Health

Request for Information: Optimizing Funding Policies and Other Strategies to Improve the Impact and Sustainability of Biomedical Research

NOT-OD-15-084

This is a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit input regarding the possible development of new policies and other strategies to improve the impact and sustainability of the NIH-funded biomedical research enterprise.

Complete details: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-084.html

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

362 Plantation Street, Ambulatory Care Center, 7th Floor

Worcester, MA 01605-0002

Website: http://www.umassmed.edu/CCTS

Email: ccts@umassmed.edu

Contact us: http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/contact-us/

Sign-up for Membership: http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/ccts-sign-up-for-membership/

Please remember to cite the CTSA Grant # UL1TR000161 in all supported journal publications.
http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/nih-citation-requirements/