



University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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In This Issue:

NEWS

- UMMS Receives \$17.3 Million CTSA Grant Renewal

DID YOU KNOW?

- *How to Share Your Science*
- Join now! K-Club and K to R-Club

EVENTS

- Clinical Research Professionals Group Meeting
- PRACCTIS Inaugural Seminar
- UMass Lowell and the Moses Greeley Parker Lecture Series
- UMMS Office of Research and WPI NSF Grants Workshop
- Bridge to Success Seminar
- 2015 InteropIT Conference and Expo
- Implementation Science Research Webinar Series
- Save-the-Date! MassTERi Kick-off Event

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- UMass CHEIR-Call for Abstracts for Research Studies in Health Disparities Research on Chronic Disease Prevention
- UMass-CSI-Call for Proposals
- Pfizer CTI-Call for Proposals
- NCATS Collaborative Innovation Award
- American Cancer Society-Request for LOIs

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Receives \$17.3 Million CTSA Award Renewal

The University of Massachusetts Medical School has received a prestigious \$17.3 million, 4-year CTSA award renewal for the [UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science](#) from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health under the leadership of Principal Investigator, Katherine Luzuriaga, MD, Director of the UMCCTS, Vice Provost for Clinical and Translational Research and Global Health, and the inaugural recipient of the [UMass Memorial Health Care Chair in Biomedical Research](#).

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) was founded in 2006 to enhance clinical and translational research across the five University of Massachusetts campuses (Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, UMass Medical School) and our clinical partner, UMass Memorial Health Care. With the receipt of an NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) in 2010, and its successful renewal in 2015, the UMCCTS joined a network of 62 NIH-funded centers collaborating to transform the conduct of clinical and translational research across the U.S. Other key partners include our patients and communities, foundations, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, and members of the venture capital and philanthropic communities.

UMCCTS goals are: 1) **To accelerate the translation of basic discoveries into practical, cost effective solutions that improve human health; and 2) To develop and support the next generation of leaders**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

cont...

- NIH RFI
- Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy-Request for Applications
- The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation-2016 Clinical Scientist Development Award Competition
- Bill & Melinda Gates-Grand Challenges
 - Grand Challenges Exploration
 - New Interventions for Global Health: Vaccine Manufacturing
 - Grand Challenges Africa

in clinical and translational research. By supporting investigation that improves the science of translation and that accelerates the translation of UMass discoveries into products for clinical use, we will improve the health of citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the world.

We encourage you to browse through our website to learn more about how the UMCCTS catalyzes clinical and translational research through education and training, pilot funding programs, cores, and services.

[Click here](#) for the complete article in the August 2015 *UMass Med Now* newsletter.

dis-sem-i-nate
/di-'se-mə-,nāt/

How to Share Your Science

Adding Impact to your NIH Biosketch

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

There's really no use in reinventing the wheel. I came across a terrific blog post earlier in the week about this topic and rather than rehashing it in my own words, I'll just provide the link to it here. Thanks to colleagues Karen Gutzman and Pam Shaw, librarians at the Galter Health Sciences Library, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, for putting together a nice, succinct post on enhancing the "contributions to science" section of the new NIH Biosketch.

You can find the article here - <http://www.altmetric.com/blog/consider-ways-to-write-about-your-impact-in-the-new-nih-biosketch/>



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
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Finding Mentorship and Support in the UMCCTS K-Club

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

Since 2007, the [**Research Career Award Writing Group K-Club**](#) has been helping junior faculty in their efforts towards developing successful applications for Research Career Awards (NIH K Awards, VA Research Career Awards, CTSA K12 grants, and more). During the monthly meetings, senior faculty provide assistance in developing CVs, preparing NIH biosketches, determining career goals, and holding mock board review sessions prior to grant submissions.

To date, 39 of the 41 K-Club participants who have fully attempted a career development award have found success! This includes three perfect scores in the past three years. Doug Ziedonis, MD and Sherry Pagoto, PhD, are the current program leaders for the Club, providing guidance to the 100+ people who've attended meetings over the years.

Last week, as I was reading through my Twitter feed, a tweet came across my thread that caught my eye:

Peter Chai
@PeterRchai

Coolest part about #kclub? Hanging out with @NIH greats at @UMassMedNow @DrSherryPagoto @ToxInNewEngland and more!

RETWEETS 2 FAVORITES 4

7:44 PM - 3 Sep 2015

Reply to @PeterRchai @NIH @UMassMedNow @DrSherryPagoto @ToxInNewEngl...

Sherry Pagoto @DrSherryPagoto · Sep 3
@PeterRchai Awesome! Looking forward to hearing more about your K grant idea!

Peter Chai, MD was recently featured in a story in **UMassMedNow** (<http://www.umassmed.edu/news/news-archives/2015/08/umms-study-shows-google-glass-effective-tool-for-toxicology-consult-in-er/>) highlighting his recent research involving the use of Google Glass for toxicology consults in the Emergency Department. I decided to follow-up with Peter regarding his work and especially his praise for the K-Club.

"I recently finished the first year of a fellowship in toxicology and my mentor, Ed Boyer, told me that it was time for me to get involved in the K-Club. I was fortunate to work with senior fellows last year who had shared interests and research goals in advanced technologies and biosensors. They've all been active in the K-Club and encouraged me to do the same. Through attending, even for only a short time, I've found it's a cool way to find people who are out of the realm of your regular work. It's an opportunity to mesh with others and find support. The faculty mentors are also world class. I think UMass is great for this type of thing, providing a structured setting to bring people together; to help new investigators find mentors. It really is a great opportunity."

If you're interested in learning more about how the UMCCTS K-Club can help you in reaching your research goals, you can find information and the upcoming schedule on our website.

Join Now



Peter R. Chai, MD demonstrates the use of Google Glass in the ED.

Photo credit: Bryan Goodchild

Basic Elements and Process for a Successful Grant Application "R-Club"

Program Leaders: Robert Goldberg, PhD and Beth McCormick, PhD



We are pleased to announce the second annual offering of the K to R Club at UMMS. This seminar/working group 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 seminar series will meet on a regular basis every 2 weeks, beginning on October 28th, 2015 and will run through May 25, 2016. We will spend the first few sessions of this seminar series in a lecture type format where we will discuss peer review and the basic elements of a successful grant application; these lectures will subsequently be followed by 2 mock grant reviews, which attendees will be asked to actively participate. This will then be followed by discussions of each attendees grant application that they will be pursuing during the academic year. Persons attending this working group should have a topic they would like to pursue in greater depth and intend to submit a grant application at some time during the academic year.

This working group is intended to enhance, and not replace, mentoring by peers and senior faculty. Each of the working 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. Refreshments will be served at all sessions which will convene promptly at 4:00 and end at 5:15 p.m. The location for all sessions is AS9-2072.

Attendees will be strongly encouraged to develop proposals suitable for funding so there will be a considerable amount of writing, rewriting, and thoughtful discussion that will take place. This seminar series is specifically geared to young investigators who will be submitting grant proposals as part of their career pathway and are committed to a research career. We look forward to seeing you at our initial meeting on October 28th, 2015.

Join Now



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UMMS Human Research Protection Education Program Clinical Research Professionals Group

The Clinical Research Professionals Group (CRPG) consists of clinical research staff throughout the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS), including Principal Investigators, Study Coordinators, Research Nurses, Administrators, and others. All research staff are invited to be part of the CRPG regardless of their role or background in clinical research.

CRPG meets once per month. Meetings are a forum for presentations and discussion on a variety of topics, including:

- enhancing the protection of human subjects in research
- best practices in clinical research
- policies and procedures related to the implementation of human subjects research

If you are interested in being part of the CRPG to receive important announcements, please email HRPeducation@umassmed.edu to be added to the email distribution list.

Date	Time	Location at UMMS
Friday, September 11	9:00 – 10:00 am	Hiatt Auditorium S1-608
Monday, October 19	12:00 – 1:00 pm	Hiatt Auditorium S1-608

For questions about educational offerings or if you have a topic you would like to see the HRPP Education Program address, please email HRPeducation@umassmed.edu

The Department of Quantitative Health Sciences and
the Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine
are pleased to announce the launch of the

PRACCTIS Postdoctoral Training Program in Implementation Science

Please join us for an inaugural seminar
presentation!

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
3:30 – 4:30 PM

Albert Sherman Building, AS9-2072

**“Complex Adaptive Systems: What Are They and Why
Should I Care”**

**Presented by: Mark S. Bauer, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
Associate Director, Center for Healthcare
Organization and Implementation Research (CHOIR)
VA Boston Healthcare System**

UMass Lowell and the Moses Greeley Parker Lecture Series Present

US Health Care: Important Emerging Policy Issues

with Howard Bauchner

Sept. 21, 11:45 a.m.

Umass Lowell
Inn & Conference Center,
50 Warren St.,
Downtown Lowell
Free and Open to the Public
Light Lunch Will be Provided



Howard Bauchner, MD



University of
Massachusetts
Lowell

Learning with Purpose

Lunctime Lecture Series

Presentation by Howard Bauchner, MD, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and the JAMA Network. Bauchner became the 16th editor of JAMA in July 2011. He has published over 125 peer-reviewed papers in academic journals, mainly on clinical trials and health promotion.

The Lunctime Lectures are co-sponsored by the Moses Greeley Parker Lectures and UMass Lowell Office of Community Relations, with support from Prof. Bill Mass of the UMass Lowell Center for Industrial Competitiveness, the UMass Lowell College of Health Sciences, Lowell General Hospital and Middlesex Community College. Free and open to the public, the program begins at 11:45 a.m. with a light lunch.

Please RSVP at:
community@uml.edu or 978-934-2957



You're Invited!

NSF Grants Workshop A Joint UMMS/WPI Event

Gateway Park, 60 Prescott Street, Worcester, MA
(The Life Sciences & Bioengineering Building)

September 25, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Please join us for a day of information on NSF programs and discussions on grant opportunities and strategies with two distinguished guests:

- **Suzanne Barbour** – former Program Director of the NSF Division of Molecular & Cellular Biosciences
- **Todd Leen** – Program Director of the NSF Information and Intelligent Systems Division

In addition to the two presentations, we will have smaller breakout sessions with each of the guests.

Please RSVP by indicating the sessions you would like to attend by using the Doodle request link:
<http://doodle.com/8rvyr89cm2npzx4a>

The event will take place in the Life Sciences and Bioengineering Building on 60 Prescott Street with parking available in the Gateway Garage North located on Washburn Way which is located directly across from the back entrance of the Life Sciences and Bioengineering Building. There will be a sign outside the garage entrance indicating parking for the WPI/UMMS NSF Event with an attendant to open the gate. Parking placards, to place on your dashboard to park in the garage, will be emailed after you have registered.

NSF Grants Workshop Agenda			
Start Time	End Time	Event	Location
11:00	12:00	Suzanne Barbour (Title to be determined)	*GP1002
12:00	1:00	Group Lunch	*GP 1 st Floor Lobby
1:00	2:00	Todd Leen (Title to be determined)	*GP1002
2:00	3:00	Q&A Breakout Session on Grant Opportunities & Strategies	*GP1002 & GP4104
3:00	4:00	Q&A Breakout Session on Grant Opportunities & Strategies	*GP1002 & GP4104
4:00	6:00	Cheese and Wine Reception	*GP 1 st Floor Lobby

*GP Conference rooms are located in Gateway Park: The Life Sciences & Bioengineering Building on 60 Prescott Street in Worcester with parking in the Gateway Garage North entrance on Washburn Way.

Please contact Angela DiTerlizzi, (Angela.DiTerlizzi@umassmed.edu) for additional information.



University of
Massachusetts
Medical School

Quantitative Health Sciences



BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

12-1 pm

**Albert Sherman Center
AS9-2072 Conference Room**

The BRIDGE Research in Progress workgroup provides an informal setting for new and experienced researchers to share nascent ideas or research-in-progress and to receive just-in-time feedback. Do you have an emerging idea for a grant or manuscript? Come share your research ideas and let us help you!

SEPTEMBER PRESENTERS:

Melissa Anderson, PhD

**“Barriers and Facilitators to Deaf Trauma Survivors’
Help-Seeking: Implications for Clinical Trials Research”**

Quantitative Health Sciences faculty will participate in all sessions. This working group is available to students, residents, fellows, and junior and senior faculty throughout UMMS. All investigators interested in discussing current and emerging research ideas are welcome.

Email **BRIDGE@umassmed.edu** to sign up for a presentation slot. If you are working on a deadline, let us know so we can adjust the schedule to accommodate more urgent needs!



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Lunch will be
provided.



2015 UMMS IT Conference & Expo
FACULTY CONFERENCE ROOM & MAIN LOBBY

SEPTEMBER 30th 10AM-2PM

SPLASH OF INNOVATION

InteropIT returns September 30th, to bring you the latest breakthroughs in technology and innovation!

The 2015 InteropIT conference and expo event will take place at the UMass Medical School Main Campus Faculty Conference Room. The Expo will showcase innovative technologies, virtual reality & wearables, digital marketing and interactivity, security awareness and clinical data repository, including clinical and translation science booth.

Pre-register today to enter the raffle to win a prize!

REGISTER

Get inspired by the keynote speakers of InteropIT 2015. These extraordinary folks will enlighten, educate and share their experience.



Katherine Ruiz de Luzuriaga, MD
UMass Memorial Health Care Chair in
Biomedical Research,
Professor Molecular Medicine and Pediatrics,
Director of UMass CCTS



Dianne E. Horgan
Associate Director
Center for Mindfulness



Andrew P. Chen, MD
Assistant Professor
Neuroradiology



Edwin D. Boudreaux, PhD
Professor
Emergency Medicine



Peter R. Chai, MD
Medical Toxicology Fellow
Emergency Medicine



Stephanie Carreiro, MD
Assistant Professor
Emergency Medicine

InteropIT 2015 Conference Agenda

10:00 - 10:00

WELCOME

Greg Wolf | Chief Information Officer

10:00 - 10:10

IMPROVING SERVICE AND MEETING GROWTH THROUGH SCALABLE ARCHITECTURE

Dianne E. Horgan | Associate Director, UMass Center for Mindfulness

11:00 - 11:10

ARROGATING PEDIATRIC HIV INFECTION

Katherine Ruiz de Luzuriaga, MD | UMass Memorial Health Care Chair in Biomedical Research, Professor Molecular Medicine and Pediatrics, Director of UMass CCTS

11:45 - 11:55

COLLABORATION WITH IT ON DEVELOPING HIGHLY INTERACTIVE USER EXPERIENCE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

Edwin D. Boudreaux, PhD | Professor, Emergency Medicine

12:30 - 12:40

WEB HONORS AWARDS CEREMONY

Winners Announcement ([Learn more about the contest](#))

12:45 - 12:55

"RADIOLOGIC ANATOMY - LEVERAGING INNOVATION TO IMPROVE EDUCATION"

Andrew P. Chen, MD | Assistant Professor, Neuroradiology

1:30 - 1:45

VIRTUAL REALITY, WEARABLE DEVICES AND INGESTIBLE BIOSENSORS: INTERSECTIONS OF TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Peter R. Chai, MD | Medical Toxicology Fellow of Emergency Medicine

Stephanie Carrreiro, MD | Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine

Advanced Topics in Implementation Science



NCI Advanced Topics in Implementation Science (IS) Research Webinar Series

Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trials (SMART) & Adaptive Designs for Implementation Studies

Thursday, October 1, 1:00-2:00pm ET



Amy Kilbourne, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Director, VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI), VA Health Services Research and Development
Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan Medical School
Research Career Scientist, VA Ann Arbor Center for Clinical Management Research

Join us for our next Advanced Topics in Dissemination & Implementation Research webinar hosted by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Division of Cancer Control & Population Sciences Implementation Science Team.

On **Thursday, October 1, 2015 from 1:00-2:00 pm ET**, Dr. Amy Kilbourne will present "**Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trials (SMART) & Adaptive Designs for Implementation Studies**". In accompaniment to the preceding Advanced Topics in IS webinars on popular D&I designs October's seminar will provide an overview of SMART and adaptive designs, their application to clinical health services studies, and how they can be used to test different strategies to inform the more precise implementation of research findings into real-world practices.

The session will include approximately 35 minutes of discussion from our speaker and 25 minutes for engaged discussion and Q&A with the audience. Below are references that will provide good background and foundational knowledge for this topic—please review the article(s) and come with your questions and thoughts for discussion.

[**REGISTER TODAY!**](#)

Once you register at the link above, you will receive a confirmation email with the log-in information for the audio and web portion of the call – *please be sure to save that information so you can access the session.*

Relevant References: Recommended to be reviewed in advance of the session

1. Kilbourne et al. [Enhancing outreach for persons with serious mental illness: 12-month results from a cluster randomized trial of an adaptive implementation strategy](#). Implementation Science 2014, 9:163.
2. Curran GM, Bauer M, Mittman B, Pyne JM, Stetler C. [Effectiveness-implementation Hybrid Designs](#). Med Care. 2012 Mar; 50(3): 217-226.

Can't be there? The session will be recorded and archived on the [Research to Reality \(R2R\)](#) site along with an online discussion forum approximately one week following the session. Additionally, the full [archive of previous IS webinars](#) is available.

Please contact NCIdccpsISteam@mail.nih.gov with any questions.

Kick-off
Event!

SAVE-THE-DATE!



This MassTERi event is sponsored by the UMMS Office of Innovation and Business Development and the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

together with

Johnson & Johnson Innovation, JLABS, and Janssen Discovery Sciences we invite you to...

From Chemical to Drug- The Path to a Small Molecule IND

Best Practices When Filing Small Molecule Investigational New Drug Applications

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

11:00 – 3:30 pm

Lunch will be provided

Albert Sherman Center

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Program Overview:

Do you have a solid plan to achieve IND acceptance? Filing an Investigational New Drug (IND) application might be the next step in advancing your company's early-stage drug development program. Johnson & Johnson Innovation, JLABS, and Janssen Discovery

Sciences invite you to an in-depth look into the process of filing an IND. Whether your goal is to develop a pipeline through commercial launch or partner as early as possible, submitting an IND is a critical early milestone for every biotech company. With big Pharma and VC firms competing for the most promising compounds, startups are expected to demonstrate a clear blueprint for IND approval, and we want you to be ready.

The presentations will highlight the following:

- Janssen Research & Development – your partner of choice
- Preclinical Development strategies for pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism and toxicology
- Key CMC strategies to balance cost, time and quality tasks
- Designing First-in-Human trials to highlight the qualities of your molecule
- Regulatory strategy, IND requirements, and Pre-IND meetings

More information will be forthcoming very soon...

REQUEST FOR ABSTRACTS FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

UMASS MEDICAL SCHOOL (UMMS) for RFA-MD-15-014: NIMHD TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIVE CENTERS FOR HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH ON CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION (U54)

On behalf of Jeroan Allison, MD, MS, Professor and Vice-Chair, Quantitative Health Sciences and Milagros Rosal, PhD, Professor, Preventive and Behavioral Medicine, UMMS

The University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) in Worcester is planning to apply for a 5-year grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to establish a specialized Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center (TCC) for health disparities research focused on chronic disease prevention, with an emphasis on developing, implementing and disseminating community-based multilevel interventions. The proposed U54 will be led by Dr. Jeroan Allison and Dr. Milagros Rosal. Both are currently PIs for the UMass Center for Health Equity Intervention Research Center (CHEIR) housed at the UMMS Department of Quantitative Health Sciences. CHEIR is a collaboration between UMass Worcester and UMass Boston to develop interventions and strategies that incorporate research, community collaboration and health equity approaches to improve the health of populations and communities most impacted by health disparities.

This request is seeking brief abstracts to be used for selecting the research studies that will be invited to apply as part of the grant proposal.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: September 11, 2015 by 5:00 pm

Link to NIH FOA: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MD-15-014.html>

Link to Abstract Proposal Information: <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/cheir-u54/>

Overview of FOA

The TCC program's overarching goal is to develop and disseminate effective interventions that can be implemented in real-world settings. In the project's first year, each TCC is expected to carry out a comprehensive needs assessment in that community (including social stratification, community ecological context, cultural factors, environmental factors, health-related policies, etc.), identify barriers to access and utilization of health promotion or preventive care services, build extensive partnership within the community, and acquire baseline data on multiple chronic diseases including clinical data, biomarkers, or

other measureable outcomes as necessary. Multimodal methods should be used to triangulate findings and identify the underlying mechanisms of disparities. Based on that information and collaboration with local community partners, in years 2-5 each TCC will initiate and implement multilevel interventions at individual, family/team/group, community, or higher levels (at least three or more levels) to improve chronic disease prevention and promote health equity.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals must incorporate key requirements outlined in the FOA, as described below.

- 1. Focus on chronic diseases:** Chronic diseases/conditions are defined broadly as conditions that last one year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living or both. For the purposes of this FOA, chronic diseases/conditions that disproportionately affect health disparity populations include but are not limited to diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, kidney disease, HIV/AIDS, asthma, depression and other mental illnesses, substance abuse and addiction disorders.
- 2. Focus on the prevention of chronic diseases:** Primary and early secondary prevention activities aim to prevent disease from occurring or aim to find and treat disease early. No treatment costs will be covered.
- 3. Include multi-level interventions:** Multilevel interventions are interventions with multiple components designed to affect factors in two or more levels of the local ecology that contribute to wellness and illness, with the goal to effect changes within and between different levels. Dynamic interventions involving individual, family/team/group, community, state, or national levels may account for multidimensional influences on individual risk factors and population level macro-social factors.
- 4. Include a community partnership:** Requires strong collaborations between researchers, community organizations, health service providers, public health agencies, policymakers and other stakeholders to ensure that relevant, contextually appropriate research is conducted and, more importantly, that findings can be translated into sustainable community and system-level changes that promote health equity. Involving community stakeholders in needs assessment, project planning and design, implementation, and dissemination of results enhances their participation in research and facilitates development of workable multilevel interventions. For the purposes of this FOA, community is defined as a group of people with diverse characteristics who are linked by social ties, shared common perspectives, and engage in joint action in geographical locations.

Amount and Availability of Funding

Research projects will have budgets of approximately \$200,000 per year for a 5-year project period. We anticipate selecting 2-3 projects.

How to Submit a Proposal

Abstracts should 1-page in length and describe the specific aims, methods, and outcomes of the proposed project. A brief description of the currently available pilot data should be included. Abstracts must be accompanied by the attached application cover page, including a response to the question. An NIH-formatted biosketch must be submitted for all Principal Investigators. **Proposals must be submitted on Friday, September 11, 2015 at 5pm to Chioma Nnaji** in the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences via email (chioma.nnaji@umassmed.edu).

Review Process

All abstracts will be reviewed internally and by partnering organizations.

PIs of accepted abstracts will be notified by Monday, September 21, 2015. Following notification, PIs with accepted abstracts will receive guidance regarding timelines for preparation of a full research plan and supporting documents. Selected project PIs will work with the leadership during the application process and must adhere to all internal deadlines that are developed for writing a full research strategy, budget, and accompanying documentation.

Timeline

Deadline for Abstracts: Friday, September 11, 2015 at 5pm

Notification of Selection: Monday, September 21, 2015

1st Draft of Full Research Proposal: Monday, October 19, 2015

Final Draft of Full Research Proposal: November 15, 2015

U54 Proposal due to NIHMD: December 16, 2015

Complete details, instructions and abstract form are available at the UMCCTS website at:

<http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/cheir-u54/>



**CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
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The UMASS-Chemical Screening Initiative

Call for Proposals

Purpose of the Program

The **UMASS-Chemical Screening Initiative (UMASS-CSI)** provides investigators access to experienced professional and state-of-the-art technological resources at the Small Molecule Screening Facility (SMSF) for the discovery of exceptional chemical probes, potential diagnostic and therapeutic candidates of high-impact, as well as research tools. The program is funded by the **UMass Office of the President's Science and Technology Fund** and the **UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science**.

Executive Summary

- To permit the discovery of high-impact chemical compounds with therapeutic benefits in the academic setting
- To provide drug screening and development support to 10 meritorious projects from across the UMass system
- Facilitate external funding
- Facilitate industry-academia collaborations by demonstrating 'drug-ability' of biological targets
- Generate intellectual property for UMass

Objective of this Call for Proposals

The objective of this announcement is to invite applicants with a well-developed assay used in basic research and therapeutic development programs suitable for HTS to submit the assay for consideration by the UMASS-CSI to identify hits and probes from the SMSF compound library.

Five, **Tier 1 projects** encompassing pilot experiments would be **awarded \$7,250 each** for screening any library of choice, up to a total of 5,000 compounds (e.g., a partial diversity set and/or a combination of the LOPAC and international drug collection to name a few).

Five, **Tier 2 projects** would involve comprehensive screening of the entire 58,000 compound library. These five Tier 2 projects would be **awarded \$22,500 each**.

In both cases, the awards would cover all costs involved. These awards would cover not only assay development and high throughput screening costs but also secondary and counter screening, hit validation, compound picking, and consultation with medicinal chemists at UMass Amherst (Dr. Sergey Savinov) and the Structure-based Drug Design core at UMASS Medical for further developing these compounds into potential therapeutics.

Sangram S. Parelkar, PhD, who is the manager of the SMSF and has broad expertise in drug discovery and development, would be responsible for assay development and all aspects of screening. Paul Thompson, PhD, the SMSF Core Director, will also provide input into assay design and compound prioritization.

Please direct any questions to Drs. Thompson and/or Parelkar.

Key Dates:

- Call open: 09/15/2015
- UMASS-CSI team available for questions and project mentoring from 09/15/2015
- **Proposal Deadline: Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 5:00 pm EST**
- Awards announced on or about 11/30/2015

Complete details are available on the UMCCTS website at:

<http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/UMASS-CSI/>



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Pfizer's Centers for Therapeutic Innovation

Call for Proposals for: Biotherapeutic Targets and Small-Molecule Accelerator

Pfizer's Center's for Innovative Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) call for proposals will include 3 opportunities:

- Large molecule therapeutics
- Small molecule therapeutics
- A new focused program called the **CTI Small Molecule Accelerator (SMA)**

Pre-Proposal Deadline: Friday, October 16, 2015

All researchers and clinicians whose work meets these criteria are invited to apply. Please submit pre-proposals to Nate Hafer (nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu) by October 16, 2015.

For more information, please contact Venkat Reddy (Venkateshwar.Reddy@pfizer.com) or Nate Hafer (Nathaniel.Hafer@umassmed.edu)

If interested in applying for this funding opportunity, the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science has posted the *Call for Proposals* on our website:

<http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/>

PFIZER'S CTI REQUESTS PROPOSALS FOR BIOTHERAPEUTIC TARGETS

Pre-Proposal Deadline: October 16, 2015



CTI, or **Pfizer's Centers for Therapeutic Innovation**, is a unique program that partners with leading academic medical centers and foundations nationwide in an effort to speed the translation of novel targets to the clinic.

Advantages to Collaborating with CTI

A partnership with CTI may include collaborative use of Pfizer's technologies and compound library, publishing rights, and financial awards in the form of milestone and royalty payments for successful programs, in addition to providing appropriate funds for carrying out the collaborative work.

CTI's foundation partners include:

- Alliance for Lupus Research
- Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation
- Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
- Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Jeffrey Modell Foundation

Pre-proposal Submission Process

Submission entails a brief, non-confidential 2-3 page overview of the target, mechanism (including evidence for disease linkage), and the proposed therapeutic drug. At a high level, the pre-proposal should suggest how the therapeutic hypothesis could be tested in the clinic.

Therapeutic Areas of Interest for Fall 2015

- **Oncology:** Immuno-oncology, epigenetics, novel tumor specific cell surface antigens, and targets identified by unique insights in tumor biology
- **Inflammation and Immune disorders:** Fibrosis, NASH, Crohn's and Colitis, microbiome-epithelial interactions, and epithelial barrier protection
- **Cardiovascular and metabolic diseases:** dysfunctional cardiac metabolism, vascular inflammatory processes, and cardiac fibrosis
- **Neuroscience:** neuroinflammation, neurodegenerative disorders, remyelination, **misfolded proteins**, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, and Multiple Sclerosis
- **Rare monogenic genetic diseases**

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
- **Feasibility:** Plan for candidate development and translation into the clinic
- **Clinical Differentiation:** Develop therapeutic strategy via patient stratification, molecular signatures, biomarkers

Modalities

- **Large Molecules** (antibodies, proteins, peptides, ADCs, fusions) or **Small Molecules** (target classes include but not limited to kinases, GPCRs, ion channels, transporters, serine hydrolases and epigenetic targets)



CTI

Centers for Therapeutic Innovation
www.PfizerCTI.com

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PFIZER'S CTI REQUESTS PROPOSALS FOR SMALL-MOLECULE TARGETS

Pre-Proposal Deadline: October 16, 2015



CTI, or **Pfizer's Centers for Therapeutic Innovation**, is a unique program that partners with leading academic medical centers and foundations nationwide in an effort to speed the translation of novel targets to the clinic. CTI's goal is to identify new compounds and accelerate research from validated target to proof-of-mechanism in the clinic.

Advantages to Collaborating with CTI

A partnership with CTI may include collaborative use of Pfizer's technologies and compound library, publishing rights, and financial awards in the form of milestone and royalty payments for successful programs, in addition to providing appropriate funds for carrying out the collaborative work.

CTI's foundation partners include:

- Alliance for Lupus Research
- Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation
- Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America

Pre-proposal Submission Process

Submission entails a brief, non-confidential 2-3 page overview of the target, mechanism (including evidence for disease linkage), and the proposed therapeutic drug. At a high level, the pre-proposal should suggest how the therapeutic hypothesis could be tested in the clinic.

All researchers and clinicians whose work meets these criteria are invited to apply. **Please submit pre-proposals to Nate Hafer (nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu) by October 16, 2015.**

For more details, please Venkat Reddy (Venkateshwar.reddy@pfizer.com) or Nathaniel Hafer (nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu)

New Initiative: CTI's Small-molecule Accelerator

- In addition to the usual small-molecule request for proposals, CTI is introducing a Small Molecule Accelerator (SMA)" initiative
- The CTI SMA program is based on a select set of characterized lead-like small-molecule compounds with activity and selectivity for established targets
- The compounds within the SMA:
 - Are selective pharmacological modulators representative of a lead quality series (Details regarding small molecule inhibitors included in the SMA will be shared upon request); and
 - Are suitable for cell-based target validation assays at a minimum; some are suitable for preclinical in-vivo experiments; and may have been through in-vivo toxicology screens
- Proposals must delineate a plan to evaluate one or a small number of these compounds in a specific assay in the laboratory of the Investigator, evaluating a target-related hypothesis



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CTI Small Molecule Accelerator

List of Biological Target/Class

Biological Target	Class
CREB binding protein bromodomain inhibitor	Bromodomain
LYPLA1 inhibitor	Serine hydrolase
Neutral endopeptidase inhibitor	Metallo-protease
Selective androgen receptor modulator	Nuclear hormone receptor
GPR119 agonist	GPCR
GPR44 (CRTH2) antagonist	GPCR
KATII (Aminoadipate aminotransferase) inhibitor	Amino-transferase
NaCT	SLC
PDE1 inhibitor	PDE
PDE7 inhibitor	PDE
PDE8 inhibitor	PDE
PDE11 inhibitor	PDE
pan MARK inhibitor	Kinase

Biological Target	Class
LTK inhibitor	Kinase
TYRO3 (SKY) inhibitor	Kinase
PIK3C2A inhibitor	Kinase
PI3K/mTOR inhibitor	Kinase
MAP4K4 inhibitor	Kinase
ASK1 inhibitor	Kinase
RIP1 inhibitor	Kinase
ITK allosteric inhibitor	Kinase
V1a antagonist	GPCR
Thrombin activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor (TAFIa)	Carboxy peptidase
hPGDS inhibitor	GST
ASIC1a antagonist	Ion channel
P2X3 inhibitor	Ion channel
P2X4 inhibitor	Ion channel

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

Collaborative Innovation Award

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health has announced a **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:

- 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.
- 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.
- Such projects should advance collaboration, building on existing strengths and resources of individual CTSA hubs.
- 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



THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF BIRTHDAYS*

American Cancer Society-Jules L. Plangere Jr. Family Foundation Professor in Cancer Immunotherapy

To highlight the success and promise of cancer immunotherapy and to accelerate the application of immunotherapy to many types of cancer, we are delighted to announce the availability of an American Cancer Society-Jules L. Plangere Jr. Family Foundation Professor in Cancer Immunotherapy. This award is intended for an outstanding, mid-career investigator who has made seminal contributions to the field of cancer immunotherapy and who is an internationally recognized leader in the field. Applications are invited from highly distinguished investigators actively leading research programs and mentoring young scientists in any aspect of tumor immunology or immunotherapy. ACS Professors are also expected to be effective spokespersons for cancer research and for the Society.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from outstanding mid-career investigators who have made seminal contributions in the field of cancer immunotherapy. Furthermore, it is expected that they will continue to be leaders in their field and act as a spokesperson for the American Cancer Society. Applicants must be within 15 years of promotion to the rank of full Professor or the equivalent at a US-based, not-for-profit, non-governmental institution. For this award, department and division chairs are eligible to apply though administrative responsibilities will be evaluated during the review. Applicants directing research programs covering the full spectrum of basic, preclinical, and clinical investigations will be considered.

Award

The award will be \$80,000 per year for 5 years which can be budgeted at the recipient's discretion. No indirect dollars will be provided for this award. Contingent upon the availability of funds, an application for renewal for a second 5 year term will be considered. Only one award will be made.

Application process

Interested individuals must submit a 2-3 page Letter of Intent and curriculum vitae with a complete bibliography electronically to Dr. William Chambers, Vice President, Extramural Research, by going to the American Cancer Society electronic submission website at [proposalCENTRAL](#). The **LOI must be submitted by Wednesday, September 30, 2015**.

An external review panel will select a small number of applicants who will be invited to submit a full application by November 15, 2015. All applicants will be notified by email in

early October whether they are invited to submit a full application. The final decision regarding this award will be made in March 2016 by the Council for Extramural Grants.

For additional information, contact:

Susanna Greer, PhD

Director, Clinical Cancer Research and Immunology
Extramural Research and Training Department

404-329-7552

Susanna.greer@cancer.org

Request for Information (RFI): Strategies for Simplifying NIH's Grant Application Instructions

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) seeks input on the restructuring of the NIH grant application instructions. Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically on the submission website (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rfi/rfi.cfm?ID=47>) by:

Friday, September 25, 2015.

For more information, please visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-134.html>



Discovering new ways to treat and defeat cancer

**ALLIANCE FOR CANCER GENE THERAPY, INC. ("ACGT")
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

2015 Investigator's Award in Clinical Translation of Cell and Gene Therapy for Sarcoma

The Wendy Walk/ACGT Sarcoma Research Grant

Abstract Deadline: October 26, 2015 at 11 am EST

Invitation to Submit Application: November 13, 2015

Completed Application Deadline: January 18, 2016 at 11 am EST

Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy (ACGT) is pleased to announce its **2015 Investigator's Award in Clinical Translation of Cell and Gene Therapy for Sarcoma**.

For complete information please go to: <http://www.acgtfoundation.org/grants-and-research/research-grants/>



The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Announces 2016 Clinical Scientist Development Award Competition

Pre-proposals are being sought from junior physician-scientist faculty conducting clinical research in any disease area. It is recommended that applicants have significant research experience and strong publication records consistent with the rank of assistant professor.

The Clinical Scientist Development Award does not require institutional nomination. This competition employs a two-stage process.

Pre-proposals will be reviewed and up to 50 applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

In keeping with the wishes expressed by Doris Duke's will, experiments that use animal or primary tissue derived from animals will not be supported by this program.

For complete details, please visit the [Clinical Scientist Development Award web page](#).

Application Deadlines:

Pre-Proposals Due: October 30, 2015

Invitation to Submit Full Proposal: December 22, 2015

Full Proposals Due: February 23, 2016

Award Start Date: July 1, 2016

Grand Challenges Explorations

New Interventions for Global Health: Vaccine Manufacturing

Grand Challenges Africa

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is inviting applications that address specific challenges defined in the grant programs below. For details and application instructions, please visit the new [Grand Challenges website](#). Please note that descriptions of the challenges will soon be available on the website in Chinese, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

1) Grand Challenges Explorations is seeking innovative global health and development solutions and is now accepting proposals for its latest application round. Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations, and for-profit companies. Initial grants will be US \$100,000 each, and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to US \$1 million.

Proposals are being accepted online until **November 11, 2015** for the following challenges:

- [Novel Approaches to Characterizing and Tracking the Global Burden of Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
- [Explore New Solutions in Global Health Priority Areas](#)
- [Addressing Newborn and Infant Gut Health Through Bacteriophage-Mediated Microbiome Engineering](#)
- [Explore New Ways to Measure Delivery and Use of Digital Financial Services Data](#)

2) New Interventions for Global Health: Vaccine Manufacturing. This challenge focuses on innovations in vaccine manufacturing platforms designed to lower production cost for vaccines that target diseases of great global burden and that are among the most costly to produce with current technologies.

Letters of Intent will be accepted until **November 5, 2015**. Read more about this grant opportunity [here](#).

3) In addition, the [African Academy of Sciences](#) and the [New Partnership for African Development](#) have launched **Grand Challenges Africa in Nairobi, Kenya.** This program joins others within the Grand Challenges family of grant programs supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and its partners. Grand Challenges Africa will build on the global success of Grand Challenges programs in India, Brazil, and South Africa, as well as the strong base of Africa Grand Challenges grantees already funded by the Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, and USAID. For more information please visit [AAS](#).

We look forward to receiving innovative ideas from around the world and from all disciplines. If you have a great idea, please apply. If you know someone else who may have a great idea, please forward this message.

Furthermore, as a forum for sharing ideas, pursuing new opportunities and keeping abreast of new developments in the field of global health, [The Gates Foundation](#) together with [Grand Challenges Canada](#) has set-up a LinkedIn group. All you need to join is a free LinkedIn account - go to [Global Health Innovations](#) and click "Join"

Thank you for your commitment to solving the world's greatest health and development challenges.

The Grand Challenges Team

**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 # UL1-TR001453 in all supported journal publications.
<http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/nih-citation-requirements/>**