



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

February 2016 Volume 2, Issue 2

NEWS

UMMS Receives Translational Science Training Grant

Article by Ellie Castano from UMass Med Now, February 16, 2016



UMass Medical School has received a grant to develop a training program for the next generation of scientists. The four-year, \$1.5 million grant from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences will fund a clinical and translational science program for pre-doctoral and early post-doctoral fellows across the entire translational spectrum.

The goal for the new program is to attract highly qualified pre- and post-doctoral candidates from national and local pools and build a diverse trainee population.

The new program will leverage the existing collaborative relationships between UMMS departments, centers and institutes to provide trainees with strong mentoring teams, rigorous academic training tailored to individual research interests and technical skills necessary for their success as independent investigators and contributors to team science. Post-doctoral trainees will complete the master's in clinical investigation, while pre-doctoral trainees will complete the clinical and translational science concentration. [Read Complete Article](#)



UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

6th Annual Research Retreat

Call for Poster Abstracts!

The **6th Annual UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Research Retreat** will be held on **Friday, May 20, 2016** at the **Albert Sherman Center**, University of MA Medical School.

UMCCTS is requesting a call for poster abstracts to be presented during the **Poster Session of the Retreat (12:00-2:00 pm)**.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to present your poster to a large audience (400+) of attendees from all 5 UMass campuses!

Poster space is limited so please submit your poster abstract today!

New Requirement for Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Training for Clinical Trials Conducted at UMass Worcester

Date: February 4, 2016

To: Research Community

From: Katherine Luzuriaga, MD, Vice Provost, Clinical and Translational Research

Margaret Koziel, MD, Assistant Vice Provost, Clinical and Translational Research and Organizational Official, UMMS Human Research Protection Program

UMMS is committed to protecting the rights and well being of all human subjects and to maintaining the highest quality research. Good Clinical Practice (GCP) refers to an international ethical and scientific quality standard for designing, conducting, recording and reporting trials involving human subjects. Adherence to GCP protects study subjects, maintains institutional compliance, and enhances data validity.

Good Clinical Practice training will become a requirement for all investigators and staff involved in clinical trials. Beginning **May 1, 2016**, GCP training will be required to support all **new** clinical trial IRB submissions. Training for investigators and staff submitting clinical trial continuing reviews will be required as of **May 1, 2017**.

Training will be conducted through the online Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). Please [click here](#) for more detailed information.



Sharing Expertise: UMCCTS Launches a New Webinar Series on Team Science

Sally Gore, MS, MSLIS

Research Evaluation Analyst, UMCCTS

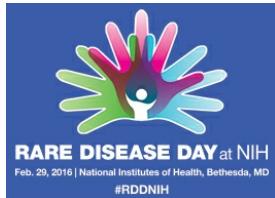
Technology today offers so many easy and convenient ways to share knowledge and expertise. Last month, we decided to harness both technology and the collective wisdom of UMCCTS members and launched a new webinar series focused on aspects related to Team Science.

The National Cancer Institute defines team science as, "a collaborative effort to address a scientific challenge that leverages the strengths and expertise of professionals trained in different fields" ([National Cancer Institute, Team Science Toolkit](#)). With this new series, we hope to bring together individuals from all 5 UMass campuses to speak about their experiences being a part of multidisciplinary teams. Addressing questions such as, "How do you define a successful team?" and discussing issues that arise around communication, cohesiveness, leadership, conflict resolution, etc., we want the Team Science Webinar Series to become a resource for learning, discussing, and perhaps even finding collaborators for multidisciplinary, team-based research.

We kicked off the series with two interesting talks about team science in the area of mHealth research. Sherry Pagoto, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine, Department of Medicine, UMMS, and Co-Founder of the UMass Center for mHealth and Social Media touched on factors related to doing mHealth research within academic teams. Ed Boudreaux, PhD, Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at UMMS, spoke about doing similar work with corporate partners and/or team members. We had a nice online turnout for the live presentation and materials from the webinar, along with an archived link, can be found on the [Team Science Webinar Series website](#).

This month, we welcome **Robert Milner, PhD**, Associate Vice Provost, Professional Development and Professor, Department of Neurology, UMMS who will present, on **"Myths and Realities of Mentoring."** You can find more information under the "Events" section of this newsletter or [click here](#) to register. We hope you'll take part in this new endeavor as an audience participant or future speaker.

Those interested in presenting at an upcoming Team Science Webinar series, please contact [Nate Hafer, PhD](#), Director of Operations, UMCCTS, for more information.



Rare Disease Day at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Rare Disease Day at NIH aims to raise awareness about rare diseases, affected patients, and research collaborations addressing rare disease challenges. Sponsored by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center, this free event features presentations, posters and exhibits, an art show, and tours.

Rare Disease Day at NIH will take place on **February 29, 2016** from **8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** in the **NIH Clinical Center's Masur Auditorium (Building 10)** on **NIH's main campus**.

Rare Disease Day at NIH is appropriate for patients and patient advocates, health care providers, researchers, industry representatives, and government employees. The event features presentations from NIH leadership, leading scientists, government representatives, patient advocacy groups, and caregivers. [Learn More](#)

NIH Twitter Chat on Rare Diseases

The NIH, NCATS and other experts will host a *pre-event Twitter chat* on **February 22, 2016** from **2:00-3:00 pm (EST)** to answer questions and discuss the latest rare diseases research advancements. Join Drs. Collins and Austin for the discussion, and use **#NIHChat** to participate in the conversation. [Learn More](#)

Cures Within Reach

Deadlines dates have been extended!



Cures Within Reach invites you to be part of a worldwide initiative that will drive more treatments to more patients quickly.

We challenge and encourage you and your peers to post your repurposing proposals and ideas to **CureAccelerator** so that we can prove to the world that developing repurposing treatments is a critical piece of the healthcare puzzle.

Rare Diseases: Deadline extended to **February 29** in recognition of Rare Disease Day.

We are also extending the deadline for our **100 Projects in 100 Days** initiative to **February 29** to give researchers a little more time to participate.

[Register and Post Your Projects Today!](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



Registration opens April 1!

The **6th Annual UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Research Retreat** will take place on **Friday, May 20, 2016**, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm, at the Albert Sherman Center, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester. A [Call for Poster Abstracts](#) has just been issued - deadline March 31, 2016.

REGISTER NOW!

The **5th Annual Community Engagement Symposium**, a component of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science, will take place on **Friday, March 25, 2016** at the Albert Sherman Center, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester.

Deadline to register is March 11th.

[Register now for this exciting symposium!](#)

Special Population Resource Center Launched!

An exciting new component of the UMCCTS is the **Special Population Resource Center (SPRC)**, whose mission is to increase the participation of diverse populations in research, specifically research that contributes to advancing community health.



Co-led by academic and community members, SPRC is providing services to translational researchers and community members in Central Massachusetts. Through our Special Population Consultation Services, we will support researchers on how to improve their research design for ensuring participation of diverse populations. This includes advice on recruitment and retention protocols, and identifying potentially appropriate community partners based on populations of interest. Our Cultural Competency Training Services will engage community members in training research staff on implementing culturally appropriate approaches during the informed consent process. We also have a Community and Patient Participation Service, which will host research-focused events in the community to strengthen responses to critical research needs and participate in research at UMMS.

For more information on SPRC, contact Chioma Nnaji at 508-856-2858 or chioma.nnaji@umassmed.edu



UMMS Research Computing/Information Technology

NEW! Schrodinger Software Suite Training Workshops

The University of MA Medical School Research Computing/Information Technology is proud to offer the following Schrodinger Software Suite Workshops:

- **March 3, 2016** - "*Introduction to PyMOL*" and "*Introduction to Antibody Modeling with BioLuminate*"
- **March 7, 2016** - "*Principles of Structure-base Drug Design*"
- **March 8, 2016** - "*Introduction to Molecular Dynamics with Desmond*"

These courses are free, but [registration is required](#) (40 seats available per session). [Learn More](#)

NIH Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory

Grand Rounds Weekly Webinar Series

Supported by the Common Fund at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the **NIH Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory** aims to improve the way clinical trials are conducted by creating a new infrastructure for collaborative research with healthcare systems. The ultimate goal is to ensure that healthcare providers and patients can make decisions based on the best available clinical evidence.



Transformative
Transforming the way clinical trials are conducted.

[Learn more >](#)

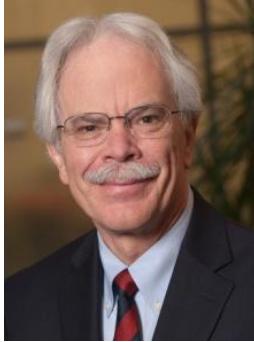
The Collaboratory also supports the design and rapid execution of pragmatic clinical trial Demonstration Projects that address questions of major public health importance and engage healthcare delivery systems in research partnerships. These projects help to establish best practices and provide proof of concept for innovative designs in pragmatic clinical research.

Seven Cores/Working Groups, each focused on a specific topic, support all of the Demonstration Projects and initiatives across the Collaboratory. Data, tools, and resources produced by the Collaboratory are made available to the greater research community to promote partnerships with healthcare systems and propel a transformation in how clinical research is conducted. Dissemination efforts include the Collaboratory's Knowledge Repository, Living Textbook, and weekly **Grand Rounds** webinar series. [Learn More](#)

EVENTS

Join us for our UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Team Science Webinar Series!

UMCCTS Team Science Webinar Series



Robert Milner, PhD

Associate Vice Provost, Professional Development
Professor, Department of Neurology
University of MA Medical School

"Myths and Realities of Mentoring"

Monday, February 22, 2016
1:00 - 2:00 pm
Webinar

The goal of this presentation is to dispel the myths of mentoring and replace with realistic and practical steps to identifying mentors and sustaining a mentoring relationship. The principles of good communication and defined expectations that are essential for effective mentoring also apply to the interactions within scientific teams. [Register now](#) for this exciting webinar!

For past UMCCTS Team Science Webinar Series presentations - please [click here](#)

Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) **Upcoming Educational Opportunities**



Clinical Research Professionals Group (CRPG) Meetings:

Monday, March 14, 2016
3:00 - 4:00 pm
Hiatt Auditorium, S1-608, UMMS, Worcester

Wednesday, April 13, 2016
12:30 - 1:30 pm
Lazare Auditorium, S1-607, UMMS, Worcester

[Learn More](#)

"Introduction to the Academic Researcher's Guide: Tips for Navigating the Pre-Award Process"

Friday, February 19, 2016
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Webinar

NC TraCS is pleased to announce our new CAGAT initiative. NC TraCS Institute's (home of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill CTSA) Community-Academic Grants Administration Translation (CAGAT) is an initiative designed to help improve the grants management infrastructure for community-academic partnered research through the collaborative development of guides and webinars.

This webinar will provide an introduction to the Academic Researcher's Guide, a resource for academic researchers and their project managers interested in gaining a greater understanding of the pre- and post-award process when conducting federally-funded, community-engaged research.



Manolis Kellis, PhD

Professor,

MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab
Institute Member, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

"From Genomics to Therapeutics: Dissecting Non-coding Variants Underlying GWAS and Cancer"

Friday, February 26, 2016

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Albert Sherman Center, 6th floor conference room AS6-2072

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Host: Manuel Garber, PhD, Director, Bioinformatics Core, UMMS

NCI Advanced Topics in Implementation Science Webinar Series "CBPR and Community Engaged Research: Facilitating Implementation Science Outcomes"

Monday, February 29, 2016

3:00 - 4:00 pm

Webinar



Nina Wallerstein, DrPh, MPH
Professor, Dept. Family and Community Medicine
Director, Center for Participatory Research
University of New Mexico



Bonnie Duran, DrPh
Associate Professor,
Schools of Social Work & Public Health and
Indigenous Wellness Research Institute
University of Washington

The presentation will report on results of a national cross-site study to test a CBPR model and assess the relationship between participatory research practices and implementation science and other CBPR and health outcomes. Drs. Wallerstein and Duran will showcase continuing NIH-funded research to measure and assess metrics of engagement and associations with outcomes with implications for dissemination and implementation. [Register](#)





IGP Graduate Student Sponsored Molecular Medicine Distinguished Lecture

Phillip A. Sharp, PhD

Institute Professor,

Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

"The Synthesis and Function of Non-coding RNAs"

Thursday, March 10, 2016

12:15 pm

Amphitheater I, S2-102, UMass Medical School

Hosts: IGP Graduate Students, Program in Molecular Medicine

Light refreshments will be served.

Northeast American Association for Clinical Chemistry

Announces the first

Annual Northeast AACC Meeting

May 26 and 27, 2016



University of Massachusetts Lowell Inn & Conference Center

50 Warren Street, Lowell, MA 01852

Please save the date! Additional information will be available soon.

Registration: [Dr. Roy Peake](#)

Abstract Submission: [Dr. Joel A. Lefferts](#)

Sponsorship and other conference business: [Dr. Mahdi Garelnabi](#)



Wake Forest School of Medicine Primate Signature Program Symposium

"The Application of Nonhuman Primates to Problems in Pediatric Medicine"

Thursday, March 31, 2016

8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Biotech Place Auditorium

Winston-Salem, NC

The Wake Forest Clinical and Translational Science Institute is a newly named CTSA grantee having a Signature Primate Program as one of our primary outreach components. The Program's mission is to provide pilot funds, monkeys, expertise, and infrastructure to help CTSA Consortium hubs use primates

in translational research. We are especially targeting those hubs that do not have ready access to a major primate research facility. Wake Forest has had a primate resource since 1961, with specific expertise in guiding investigators in the development and application of nonhuman primates to diseases of human relevance. Perhaps most germane, our CTSA award provides us with funds sufficient to support nonhuman primate proof of concept studies for CTSA Consortium investigators. Three of the studies supported in the first year include: 1) testing a new pediatric anesthetic; 2) developing novel PET radio-ligands; and 3) assessing SIV/HIV neutralizing antibody activity in the African green monkey.

Our scientific outreach also includes an annual symposium focused on the use of monkeys in translational research. **Although registration is required, the symposium is free.** Furthermore, we are prepared to help defray local housing expenses for those hub members wishing to attend.

[Register Now](#)



February 2016 Events

FUNDING and TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



New Funding Opportunity!

UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund (LSMF) 2016

Request for Letters of Intent

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science is pleased to announce a funding call for the **UMass Sciences Moment Fund (LSMF) 2016**. The LSMF supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed toward life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research. Current and future projects supported by this fund are envisioned to advance the therapeutic, device, intervention, etc., under study along the translational pipeline. This fund serves to spur inter-campus collaboration, and strengthen the University's research portfolio in clinical and translational research. To support this mission, projects must include at least one investigator from the UMass Worcester campus and a collaborator from at least one of the other UMass campuses. 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.

Deadline date for submission: Friday, March 4, 2016 [Learn More](#)

Pfizer's Centers for Therapeutic Innovation Proposals for Biotherapeutic Targets

Pfizer's Centers for Therapeutic Innovation, or CTI, is a unique program that collaborates with leading academic medical centers, the NIH, and foundations to speed the translation of novel targets to the clinic. CTI is looking for strong project rationale; ability to address unmet medical needs; link between target pathway and human disease; feasibility; and novel drug targets in these therapeutic areas, oncology; inflammation and immune disorders; cardiovascular and metabolic diseases; neuroscience; and rare monogenic genetic diseases.

Deadline for pre-proposal submission: Friday, February 26, 2016. [Learn More](#)



Office of Global Health Spring 2016 Travel Award Request for Proposals

The UMMS Office of Global Health (OGH) coordinates activities and administers grants that enhance and expand UMMS programs in global health improvement and disease prevention. OGH invites the submissions of travel awards focused on the development or expansion of global health training or research projects.

Applications are due Friday, March 11, 2016 [Learn More](#)

Child Health Acceleration through Multisite Planning (CHAMP)

Call for Applications

Child Health research Acceleration through Multisite Planning (CHAMP) is designed to support investigator-initiated child health and lifespan research that requires multisite involvement to achieve special population recruitment goals. CHAMP is a catalyst that offers team-building conferences for research teams in critical early phases of project development.

CHAMP is pleased to announce a first call for applications.

Initial deadline for applications:

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

[Click here](#) for complete details and application instructions.

Please contact [Nate Hafer, PhD](#), Director of Operations, UMCCTS, if you are interested in either the CHAMP Program or the NCATS diversity and/or re-entry research supplements prior to submitting your application.

Breast Cancer Alliance (BCA) - Exceptional Project Grants Request for Letters of Intent



BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE

Limited Submission Opportunity

The mission of the Breast Cancer Alliance (BCA) is to improve survival rates and quality of life for those impacted by breast cancer through better prevention, early detection, treatment and cure. To promote these goals, we invest in innovative research, breast surgery fellowships, regional education, dignified support and screening for the underserved. The [Exceptional Project Grant](#) recognizes creative, unique and innovative research.

The University of Massachusetts Medical School may submit a maximum of three letters of intent (LOIs).

The BCA invites clinical doctors and research scientists at any stage of their careers whose primary focus is breast cancer to apply.

LOIs are due on April 1, 2016

Full Applications are due on or before July 22, 2016

Internal UMMS applications are due by March 2, 2016. Please submit using the UMMS [Limited Submission Application portal](#) on the Office of Research website. [Questions?](#)

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