The Massachusetts Consortium for Cardiopulmonary Implementation Science Scholars (MCCISS) is an institutional K12 training program funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. The program spans three organizations: University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS), the UMMS-Baystate Health campus, and the Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA CHOIR). The MCCISS program trains junior faculty at any of the three organizations and fellows transitioning to faculty, as implementation scientists. Scholars pursue implementation research in prevention, management and/or treatment of heart, lung, blood and sleep diseases, such as coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, venous thromboembolism, and sleep apnea.

The program uses a combination of didactic curriculum, mentored research opportunities, and additional enrichment activities.

What is Implementation Science?

Implementation Science is an emerging health sciences discipline that:

- Addresses the need for new research about effective organizational change and best incorporate evidence-based practice into routine clinical and public health practice.
- Requires a unique and diverse set of methodologies and skill sets.
- Uses an interdisciplinary team science approaches in collaboration with stakeholders representing practice settings and organizations aiming to adopt evidence-based approaches.

A critical component for the future of implementation science is a well-trained scientific workforce. MCCISS seeks to fill this workforce gap.
Stakeholder engagement:
This program supports implementation science projects conducted in collaboration with clinical, community or public health stakeholders. Examples of such partners include UMass Memorial Health Care, Baystate Health, the Veterans Health Administration, and community-based organizations that are a part of the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance or the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester.

The MCCISS program provides scholars with:
- up to $75,000 in annual salary plus fringe benefits,
- $30,000 per year in research and education funds,
- $1,500 to travel to NHLBI for trainee meeting.

The program does not support indirect costs nor provide salary support for the mentor.

To be eligible for the MCCISS Program, a candidate must:
1) Have earned a research or health professional doctoral degree (MD, DO, PhD, ScD, DVM, PharmD or equivalent.)
2) Have a current full-time appointment or commitment for a full-time appointment (demonstrated via letter of support) at UMMS, UMMS-Baystate, or at least 5/8ths appointment or commitment to a 5/8ths appointment (demonstrated via letter of support from the Hospital Director) at the Bedford VA or the Boston VA.
3) Demonstrate a commitment to a career as an independent investigator in implementation science in an area related to cardiopulmonary disease prevention, treatment or management.
4) Provide evidence of departmental support of a minimum of 75% protected time for 2 years.
5) Not have previously been the PI on an R01, or equivalent large grant (e.g.: VA IIR) nor have a pending application for any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K01, K07, K08, K22, K23) that duplicates any provisions of the K12 program. Appointed scholars may apply for PHS individual mentored K awards; if successful, the K12 appointment would be terminated.
6) Be a US citizen, non-citizen national, or permanent resident.

Application process:

Webinar: Thursday November 8, 2018, 3 to 4 pm eastern time via zoom
Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/5088563570
Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16468769923,5088563570# or +16699006833,5088563570#
Or Telephone:
    Dial:
    +1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)
    +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)
    Meeting ID: 508 856 3570
    International numbers available: https://zoom.us/u/bgKKbdGa
Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16468769923,5088563570# or +16699006833,5088563570#
This webinar will cover questions and answers about the MCCISS program and the application process. Potential candidates are encouraged to bring questions related to the development of specific implementation science projects. The webinar will be audiorecorded for those who are unable to attend.

**Contact person at each campus:**
Inquiries about the MCCISS program can be directed to:

**UMass Medical School**
Stephenie C. Lemon, Ph.D. at Stephenie.Lemon@umassmed.edu
Thomas K. Houston, MD, MPH at Thomas.Houston@umassmed.edu

**Baystate Medical Center**
Peter Lindenauer, MD at Peter.Lindenauer@baystatehealth.org

**VHA CHOIR**
Renda Wiener, MD, MPH at Renda.Wiener@va.gov

**Letter of intent:**
We request a non-binding letter of intent, due at 5 pm, Monday, December 10, 2018. The letter should not exceed 2 pages, and should briefly describe the applicant’s eligibility status, research focus areas and mentors. Letters of intent will be reviewed by MCCISS program leadership to ensure an appropriate fit with the program.
Full applications must include:

1. Abstract of the project (1 page)
2. Specific Aims (1 page)
3. Candidate and Training Information (12 pages total), including:
   a. Candidate background, career goals and objectives
   b. Career development/training activities during the training period
   c. Research project strategy
4. Literature cited (no page limit)
5. Training in responsible conduct of research (1 page)
6. Biographical sketch (5 pages)
7. Description of institutional environment (1 page)
8. Protection of human subjects and inclusion of children, women and racial/ethnic minorities, following PHS guidelines. (no page limit)
9. Budget (NIH PHS 398 form pages 4 & 5 which includes budget justification)
10. Letter of support signed by the candidate’s department or program chair which includes:
    a. the department’s commitment to mentoring the candidate as an independent researcher,
    b. assurance that the candidate will not have any administrative or other commitments that exceed 25% effort,
    c. assurance that the department will provide the requisite funds for salary support and research supplies for the candidate not covered by the K12.

Department chair letters for fellows must indicate clear support to hire the scholar as an assistant professor or instructor.

11. Mentor statements describing the mentorship team’s relationship with and commitment to the applicant scholar. This should include:
    a. statement of support for the applicant’s training plan,
    b. description of the anticipated level of mentoring for the applicant, including frequency and type of contact,
    c. description of the coordination among the full mentoring team,
    d. how the proposed project fits with the mentor’s ongoing program of research and research/practice resources.

Specific source(s) of available grant or institutional support for the proposed project should be described.

12. Two letters of reference that attest to the candidate’s commitment to and potential for development as an independent implementation scientist.

Application due date:
Applications are due by 5PM on Monday, February 25, 2019. Applications should be emailed as a single PDF file to Barbara Estabrook, MSPH at Barbara.Estabrook@umassmed.edu

Decision and start date:
Scholar selections will be made in early April, 2019. Scholar appointments begin September 1, 2019.