



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

November 13, 2017

UMASS LIFE SCIENCES MOMENT FUND 2017-2018 – REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

INTRODUCTION

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is pleased to announce a funding call for the UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund (LSMF) 2017-2018. The UMass LSMF supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed towards life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research.

PURPOSE

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

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

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

As the LSMF is a pilot program of the UMCCTS, all faculty applicants must first become members of the UMCCTS. Membership entails completion of a brief, online registration form, found here -

<https://umassmed.edu/ccts/about/membership/>

A number of benefits are associated with joining the UMCCTS which include:

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

ALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS

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

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

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

~CAMPUS SUPPORT OF PROJECTS~

UMMS funding for projects will require an equal, 1:1 match from the non-Worcester campus. A letter of support from the person providing the funds (Department Head, Chief Research Officer, etc.) is required as part of the LOI and full application. We expect that the science and budget proposed for each campus will be equal.

DEFINITIONS OF CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

NIH defines *Clinical Research* as:

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

Translational Research as:

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

OVERSIGHT

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

CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

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

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

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Letters of Intent – Due date: January 3, 2018

Describe in two (2) pages or less the work that has motivated you to apply. Include the following:

- Title of project
- Name, rank, affiliation, and email of contact PI and other key personnel
- Background and significance of the project
- Specific Aims
- Preliminary data (if any)
- Project description/approach

- Contribution of each campus partner
- Future directions and specific funding plans

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

~CAMPUS SUPPORT OF PROJECTS~

UMMS funding for projects will require an equal, 1:1 match from the non-Worcester campus. A letter of support from the person providing the funds (Department Head, Chief Research Officer, etc.) is required as part of the LOI and full application. We expect that the science and budget proposed for each campus will be equal.

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

Please email your Letter of Intent (2 pages or less) as an attachment (Word or PDF) to: ccts@umassmed.edu on or before **January 3, 2018 by 5:00 pm (EST)**

Full proposals will be due on February 20, 2018 for those selected finalists.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Request for Letters of Intent Announced	November 13, 2017
Letters of Intent Due	January 3, 2018
Letters of Intent Finalists Notified	Week of January 15, 2018
Full Proposals Due	February 20, 2018
Project Start Date	Mid-March, 2018

PARTIAL LIST OF CCTS RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR LSMF APPLICANTS

More information about these resources can be found at <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts> or by contacting Nate Hafer at nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu

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