



# Office of Community & Government Relations (OCGR) Update

Fall 2019

## FY20 State Budget Approved

Governor Baker recently signed the Commonwealth's FY20 \$43B operating budget for the fiscal year which began on July 1. The budget contained funding for several UMMS priorities, including:

- ◇ \$50,000 for Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (CANDO) Clinic operated by UMMS' Shriver Center
- ◇ \$255,000 for a new Worcester Trauma and Resiliency Collaborative
- ◇ \$50,000 for UMMS to study the impact of the opioid crisis on grandparents raising grandchildren

A provision which would have prohibited UMass from increasing tuition or fees was not included in the final budget approved by the Legislature and enacted by the Governor.



The budget did not include additional funding requested for MassBiologics development of a Lyme disease pre-exposure prophylaxis (Lyme PrEP). The legislature had provided \$1M for the development of a Lyme PrEP in the FY19 state budget. Mark Klempner, MD, Executive Vice Chancellor for MassBiologics, updated legislators and staff on progress in the past year and how additional funding would be used to advance

research to the clinical trial phase. UMMS will continue to advocate for funding to enable Lyme PrEP research and development.

## UMMS Advocates for Continued CTSA Funding

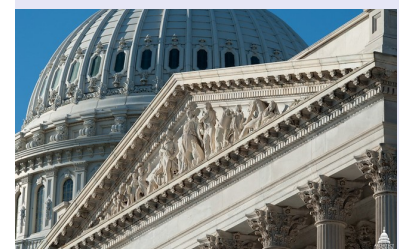
UMMS has joined a number of institutions across the country in advocating for preservation of funding for the [Clinical and Translational Science Awards \(CTSA\) Program](#). Created in 2006, the

### CTSA Clinical & Translational Science Awards Program

CTSA Program supports a national network of medical research institutions — called [hubs](#) — that work together to improve the translational research process to get more treatments to more patients more quickly. In FY18, there were 58 hubs nationwide in 27 states with four hubs in Massachusetts - UMass Medical School, Harvard Medical School, Boston University School of Medicine and Tufts University School of Medicine.

CTSAs are funded through the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences' (NCATS) appropriation within the larger NIH appropriation. In June, the US House approved FY20 increases for both NIH and NCATS, however, the House-approved appropriations bill included a provision that could result in a reduction of the CTSA funding by 3% or \$17M. In previous years when NIH and NCATS funding has increased, CTSAs have seen a commensurate increase in their funding.

UMMS along with the other Massachusetts CTSAs wrote a joint letter to members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation and are working on advocacy efforts to ensure that, at a minimum, the FY19 level of funding is preserved for FY20.



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## Student-led Community Garden Launched



A new student-led community garden was recently planted on campus. Andrew Cauley, SOM '22, and fellow second-year School of Medicine students Brennan Dagle and Alexander Schryver are making the community garden their scholarly capstone project, enabling them to continue expanding the garden and developing related educational initiatives.



Students, faculty and staff celebrate the launch of UMMS community garden

The Growing Green initiative of the Facilities Management Department built the planting beds and procured established plants with the city's Department of Public Works donating compost. The Urban Gardening Resources of Worcester ([UGROW](#)) program of the Regional Environmental Council has partnered with UMMS to provide technical support and UGROW will provide seedlings for future growing seasons.

Dietitian Barbara Olendzki, RD, MHA, associate professor of population & quantitative health sciences in the Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine, is serving as the capstone faculty advisor for Cauley, Dagle and Schryver. "The focus is on health, well-being and community engagement, which can help relieve stress and bring people together," said Olendzki. "Community gardens connect people to where food comes from, and how food can help prevent disease and treat chronic diseases."

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*"More than getting students out and gardening as a healthy habit, the garden ties into our curriculum in terms of talking about nutrition and using food as medicine and promoting healthy lifestyles."*

*Alexander Schryver SOM*

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## State-wide Hunger to Health Forum Held at UMMS



Congressman McGovern, Greater Boston Food Bank CEO D'Amato and Chancellor Collins

The Hunger to Health Collaboratory ([H2HC](#)) convened statewide health care leaders for a conversation examining the economic impact of food insecurity and hunger. The event's keynote speaker, Congressman Jim McGovern, stated that "far too often, we, as a country, have disregarded the intersectionality between nutrition, hunger, and healthcare and every day, people suffer the consequences. If we're going to end hunger, we need a health care system working with us to advance nutrition screening and intervention. Health care communities across Massachusetts will be able to build off these discussions facilitated by H2HC as key steps in the path as we move towards a hunger free state."

The half day event included a series of facilitated discussions. Participants discussed three primary topics: whole person care, community of practice, and innovation. The primary objectives were to create policy and financing solutions that promote food security advancement and disseminate these actions until everyone in Massachusetts is food secure.

Chancellor Collins commented, "At UMass Medical School, we view food insecurity and hunger as public health challenges that have far-reaching implications for the health and well-being of our communities and our most vulnerable populations. By partnering with key stakeholders, including the leading champion in Congress to eliminate hunger in Massachusetts and across the nation, Representative Jim McGovern, we have the ability—and the responsibility—to do all that we can to contribute to much-needed progress toward ending hunger and food insecurity."





# Legislators and Staff Visit UMMS



Often the best way to learn more about UMMS is to visit our campus and speak with faculty, staff and students. UMMS hosted several legislators and staff members this past spring to share with them some of the exciting initiatives and research underway on campus. Senator Anne Gobi, the new Senate co-chair of the Committee on Higher Education, visited this spring and met with Chancellor Collins. Newly elected state representative David LeBoeuf toured the campus to learn more about the school and

visited several labs to hear more about current research. Staff from Senator Elizabeth Warren’s office traveled from Washington to learn more about NIH funded research and met with Dr. John Landers and toured the iCELS. More recently, Congressman Jim McGovern’s new health care legislative assistant Drea Shropshire visited the lab of Dr. Jane Freedman and also toured the iCELS center.

## UMMS in the Community

UMMS faculty, staff and students have long played an important role in the community they call home – Worcester. In recent months, the OCGR has coordinated a number of community service initiatives.

- ◇ **North Quadrant Support Services (NQSS)** - On their first day of school, SOM 2023 students helped to prepare Worcester students for their first day of school by organizing school supplies for students in several North Quadrant schools. UMMS also granted nearly \$40,000 in mini grants to fund proposals submitted by teachers in schools in the North Quadrant. The funded programs range from field trips to specialized equipment and books that are not funded through the school budget.
- ◇ **Working for Worcester** - UMMS volunteers participated in the Working for Worcester 2019 Build Day on projects in the North Quadrant, pitching in for an annual spring cleanup and installing new playground equipment at two elementary schools.
- ◇ **Day of Service, Night of Fun** – UMMS students also participated in the annual one-day service event Day of Service, Night of Fun (DoSNoF), designed to connect UMass Medical School students with the Greater Worcester community and with each other.
- ◇ **Dress for Success** - is a program that empowers women to achieve independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the tools to help them thrive in the work environment. Annually, members of the Professional Women’s Committee at UMMS, set up a boutique to sell professional clothing to UMMS employees. The proceeds and extra clothing are given to the Dress for Success organization.
- ◇ **Local Business Fair** - an annual showcase of goods and services available locally with many of the participating organizations offering discounts to UMass employees.

### Community Engagement Committee

Many community initiatives are coordinated by the UMMS [Community Engagement Committee](#) (CEC). The CEC has a diverse membership of faculty, staff and students from across the School of Medicine, Graduate School of Nursing and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and works to promote community engagement focused on service, teaching and research in the Greater Worcester community and Central Massachusetts region.

The CEC provides guidance and support to the medical school and Greater Worcester communities to foster, advance, and strengthen community-engaged service, learning and research and promotes participation in the 2016 Greater Worcester Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).



Preparing School Supplies



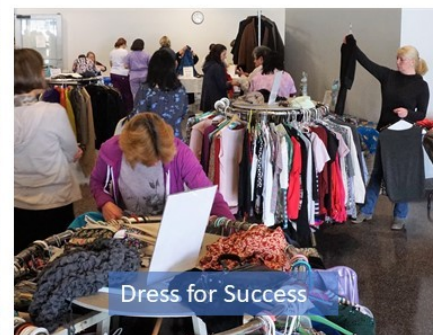
Local Business Fair



Day of Service



Working for Worcester



Dress for Success



# Back to School with UMMS Backpacks and School Supplies

**NQSS**  
North Quadrant Support Services



As part of its North Quadrant Support Services Initiative (NQSS), UMMS each year provides elementary school students with backpacks complete with school supplies. This year, UMMS distributed 770 backpacks for students at the the Union Hill, Rice Square and Grafton Street elementary schools.



## About the Office of Community and Government Relations (OCGR)

The Office of Community and Government Relations is committed to strengthening its relationships with public officials and community stakeholders, increasing visibility of the medical school throughout the region and increasing resources for the medical school's initiatives. In addition, the office:

- ◇ Advocates with elected officials and other key policymakers regarding UMMS's primary legislative and regulatory priorities;
- ◇ Encourages public officials to utilize us as a resource for informed insight on major medical, health care and research issues with which they are confronted;
- ◇ Serves as a resource for the medical school community on governmental issues;
- ◇ Identifies and strengthens partnerships with local community and neighborhood organizations; and
- ◇ Keeps public officials and the community informed of important medical school developments.

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