



---

From the University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science

---

**“Ask the Expert” Brown Bag Lunch – The Myths and Facts about Cancer Clinical Trials**

Please join us on **Wednesday, June 20 from 12:00-12:30PM**, for the Clinical Research “Ask the Expert” Brown Bag Lunch. Andrew M. Evens, DO, MS will present, **“The Myths and Facts about Cancer Clinical Trials”**. Dr. Evens is the Medical Director of the Cancer Research Office at the UMass Memorial Cancer Center of Excellence. The presentation will take place in the Conquering Diseases Community Resource Center, 1st floor of the Ambulatory Care Center, University Campus, Worcester. RSVP to [Marybeth.curnen@umassmed.edu](mailto:Marybeth.curnen@umassmed.edu) or call 508-856-2557. Patients and families are welcome to attend!

---

***A reminder from Sheila Noone, Assistant Vice Provost for Clinical Research, about supports and guidance available to CCTS members and UMass faculty:***

The clinical trials suite in the **Clinical Research Center** can assist in the planning, initiation and conduct of your clinical trial. Currently serving 24 investigators across 14 divisions/departments, the ambulatory suite is a participant-friendly unit with 6 exam rooms, 3 infusion areas for study visits; lab services for spinning, packaging & shipping are available; a -80 freezer for short-term storage, as well as comfortable areas for study meetings and monitor visits. Fees for CRC services are dependent on your funding mechanism. For a tour of the CRC’s trial suite and to learn more about services, **please call Celia Hartigan, Nurse Manager at x63676 or x62800.**

**Follow this link for further info:**

<http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/research/clinical/CRCService%20AgreementJune%202012%20dotx.pdf>

**The Community Resource Specialist** in the **Clinical Research Center**, **Marybeth Curnen**, is a wonderful resource for visitors and patients in the UMass Memorial system who are seeking information about clinical research and trials available at UMass or other research centers. With a comfortable visitor-friendly area for exploring options on computers or through a guided search, the area also displays flyers and recruitment materials for interested visitors. **Please call Marybeth for further information at x62557.** Guidance for advertising your clinical studies is available on the clinical research website:

[http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/research/clinical/ADVERTISING%20CLINICALRESEARCH%20STUDIES\\_June2012.pdf](http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/research/clinical/ADVERTISING%20CLINICALRESEARCH%20STUDIES_June2012.pdf)

---

**The Affordable Care Act: A National Experiment**

**June 19, 2012**

**Tufts University, Boston**

**Free Registration at:** <http://goo.gl/2Vi4M>

The purpose of this conference is to frame the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA) as one of the largest translational health policy experiments in our nation’s history. NIH Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs) are charged with promoting translational research across the entire spectrum from bench-to-bedside (“T1 research”) through implementation in widespread practice and policy (“T3/T4 research”), aiming to advance the translation of medical science into impact on public policy and health. This conference intends to highlight the

importance of the ACA and its innovations and resultant data, for informing healthcare improvement.

---

### **Italian Trade Commission/UMass Networking Reception at BIO 2012**

**Tuesday, June 19, 2012 from 7:00 - 10:00 PM**

**Federal Reserve Bank Building**

**600 Atlantic Ave Boston, MA**

Please come meet the Italian Delegation at BIO and join us for a networking reception and dinner, promoted by the Italian Ministry of Economic Development. RSVP at:

<http://italyumassbio2012.eventbrite.com/>

---

### **Fifth Annual CTSA Consortium Community Engagement Conference**

**Methods, Metrics and Outcomes: Evaluating the Success of Community Engaged Research**

**August 23 – 24, 2012**

**Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center**

**Bethesda, MD**

Conference goals are to demonstrate feasible and replicable methods and metrics developed by and with communities that have improved individual and community health, particularly within underserved communities; facilitate the application of these methodologies and metrics to diverse local settings; and share tools for assessing and improving the effectiveness of community engagement in improving individual and community health outcomes.

---

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Clinical Research for Rare Diseases**

The Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network (RDCRN) and the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) are sponsoring the *3rd Conference on Clinical Research for Rare Diseases (CCRRD)* on **Tuesday October 2, 2012 in Rockville, Maryland**. This unique conference will focus on research methodology for rare diseases and should be of particular interest to trainees and junior faculty engaged in research in rare diseases. For more information about the conference, including details about the program, applying for travel awards, and conference logistics and registration, visit the conference website:

<https://rarediseasesnetwork.epi.usf.edu/conference/>

---

### **Discovering New Therapeutic Uses for Existing Molecules**

NCATS has just announced a new pilot program to explore new therapeutic uses for existing molecules. Eight participating companies have provided their compounds and related data, which were determined by the NIH to meet specific eligibility criteria. For example, each compound must have advanced to clinical studies but been unsuccessful in its original therapeutic indication or not pursued for business reasons. Preliminary information about the **58 compounds**, including mechanism of action, route of administration, and any limitations in use based on safety and tolerability, are available at <http://ncats.nih.gov/therapeutics-directory.html>. Researchers who are interested in NCATS' Therapeutics Discovery funding must submit a pre-application in response to the NIH Funding Opportunity Announcement at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-203.html> by Aug. 14, 2012.

**Investigators interested in applying for this program should contact Nate Hafer at [nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu) or 508-856-2511 for complete details.**

---

---

## CVIP UMass Start-Up Initiative

The Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property (CVIP) in the President's Office has instituted the UMass Startup Initiative (UMSI) to foster the creation of startups at UMass. This program augments other funding initiatives which currently include the CVIP Technology Development Award and the UMass Co-Investment Equity Fund. The UMSI will make **five thousand dollar (\$5,000) grants available** to the UMass campuses to prepare business plans that address the commercial potential of inventions disclosed to CVIP. The business plan will be prepared by an external consultant with relevant commercial experience working closely with the key investigator of the disclosed invention. CVIP will assist with the selection of the consultant. The business plans will be used by CVIP to determine the feasibility of a startup and after that determination CVIP will assist in seeking management and then investment for the new companies. Initially the awards will be available on a request basis. All applicants will be asked to submit a brief application describing the technology, its commercial application and the rationale for creating a startup. Selection of the awardees will be made by CVIP with the assistance of an external advisory group.

**For full details and application instructions click on:**

[http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CTS/Included\\_Content/CVIP\\_UMass\\_StartUp\\_Initiative.pdf](http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CTS/Included_Content/CVIP_UMass_StartUp_Initiative.pdf)

**Please contact Drs. Bill Rosenberg, Executive Director, CVIP at [wrosenberg@umassp.edu](mailto:wrosenberg@umassp.edu) or Nate Hafer at [nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu) for questions/assistance.**

---

## New Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Funding Opportunities

1. [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\) Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options](#): up to \$500K/yr x 3 yrs. LOI deadlines 6/15/12, 10/15/12, 2/15/13, for projects that address critical decisions that patients, their caregivers and clinicians face with too little information. Approximately 54 projects totaling up to \$48 million in total costs may be funded under this PFA.
2. [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\) Improving Healthcare Systems](#): up to \$500K/yr x 3 yrs. LOI deadlines 6/15/12, 10/15/12, 2/15/13, for projects that address critical decisions that face health care systems, the patients and caregivers who rely on them, and the clinicians who work within them. Approximately 27 projects totaling up to \$24 million may be funded under this PFA.
3. [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\) Communication and Dissemination Research](#): up to \$500K/yr x 3 yrs. LOI deadlines 6/15/12, 10/15/12, 2/15/13, for projects that address critical elements in the communication and dissemination process among patients, their caregivers and clinicians. Approximately 14 projects totaling up to \$12 million in total costs may be funded under this PFA.
4. [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\) Addressing Disparities](#): up to \$500K/yr x 3 yrs. LOI deadlines 6/15/12, 10/15/12, 2/15/13, for projects that will inform the choice of strategies to eliminate disparities. Approximately 14 projects totaling up to \$12 million in total costs may be funded under this PFA.

---

***Please remember to cite the UMCCTS grant UL1RR031982 and UL1TR000161 in all journal publications.***

---