



News and Events

October 2012

From the University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science

New Pilot Program “The Next Hundred Million” Pilot Projects - Funding Announcement

The University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) and MassBiologics of the University of Massachusetts Medical School are pleased to announce a funding announcement for “The Next Hundred Million” Pilot Projects (NHMPP). The NHMPP will serve as a dedicated pool of funding to spur innovative collaborations between UMMS, MassBiologics of UMMS and investigators across the UMass System with the goal of enhancing the translation of discoveries for clinical use.

Projects must include at least one investigator from MassBiologics of UMMS and a faculty investigator from at least one UMass campus. **Individual project awards (up to \$100,000 for 1 year; up to \$150,000 for two years) will be made on a competitive basis** to enable investigators to accelerate the translation of innovative cutting-edge research.

Letters of Intent will be due **Friday, October 5, 2012 by 5:00 PM (EST)**. For complete information, instructions, and eligibility:

[http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CTS/Research/NHMPP%20 2012 RFA.pdf](http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CTS/Research/NHMPP%202012_RFA.pdf)

**UMCCTS and Pfizer’s Center for Therapeutic Innovation
2nd Annual CTI Request for Proposals**

The UMCCTS is excited to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this year’s round of funding from Pfizer’s Center for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI). CTI is an innovative Pfizer program that partners with leading academic medical centers nationwide to accelerate research and development of discoveries from target identification to proof of mechanism in a Phase 1 clinical trial. The goal of a funded CTI program is to establish proof of mechanism in the clinic for a new therapeutic that may be licensed to Pfizer and commercialized to treat patients with unmet medical needs.

For the 2012 RFP, CTI is focused on the development of protein therapeutics in three main disease areas:

- Autoimmunity (especially Systemic Lupus Erythematosus / Lupus Nephritis)
- Renal Disease (kidney injury / Lupus Glomerulonephritis, IgA Nephropathy)
- Cardiovascular (Congestive Heart Failure, Post-Myocardial Infarction and Acute Coronary Syndrome)

A 2-page, **non-confidential** pre-proposal in the required format must be submitted to Nate Hafer, Nathaniel.Hafer@umassmed.edu on or before **October 19, 2012 by 5:00 PM (EST)**. All researchers, clinicians and post-docs may apply.

To learn more about the CTI program and obtain a copy of the pre-proposal submission form, please go to the UMCCTS website at: <http://www.umassmed.edu/Content.aspx?id=160832>

Interested scientists should contact Dr. Nate Hafer at nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu or 508-856-2511 regarding any questions about the Pfizer CTI program or the upcoming event on campus.

**Massachusetts Life Sciences Center
Massachusetts Neuroscience Consortium Now Accepting Applications**

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is pleased to announce the launch of the first Request for Proposals (RFP) funded by seven global biopharmaceutical companies that comprise the Massachusetts Neuroscience Consortium (the "Consortium"). The Consortium will fund pre-clinical neuroscience research at Massachusetts academic and research institutions. The **total available project funding is \$1,750,000.**

Proposals are being solicited within the **primary focus areas** of **Alzheimer's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Neuropathic Pain, and Parkinson's Disease.** All proposals must be anchored in recognizing human disease genetics and pathophysiology, or within pathways of known relevance to human disease, and should be translational, rather than exploratory.

The MLSC will administer the program. **Interested applicants must apply via the MLSC's website:** www.masslifesciences.com/neuroscience.html

The deadline for 2-page Pre-Proposal applications is November 16, 2012 at noon (EST).

Applicants that are invited to proceed to the next stage will be required to submit a Full Proposal which will be due on January 15, 2013. Consortium Members will then determine which applicants will be finalists and invited to present to Consortium Members and the Consortium's Scientific Advisory Board on February 19, 2013.

If you have questions about the program after you have reviewed the materials on the website, please send an email to: neuroscience@masslifesciences.com or call Beth Nicklas at 781-373-7715.

~ OCTOBER 2012 LAUNCH ~

**Massachusetts Life Sciences Center
Cooperative Research Matching Grant Program – Round 3**

Board members from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center approved a **\$2 million initiative** to run another round of its industry R&D cooperative research grants.

Please note that the intent of this program is "to increase industry partnerships with research institutions in Massachusetts that will lead to the commercialization of translational research". Proposals will be assessed in terms on their potential for helping the company get to commercialization.

It is anticipated that 4 new awards of \$500,000 each will be made. The program will be launched in October. Beth Nicklas, VP for Academic and Research Programs at MLSC will be managing this initiative.

Check out the MLSC website for future announcement and application instructions:
<http://www.masslifesciences.com/>

Selection criteria:

- Advances promising new therapies, treatments or cures (i.e., scientific merit, qualifications of PI, adequacy of approach and methodology)
- Spurs economic development and job creation in Massachusetts
- Accelerates translational research via industry-academic collaboration
- Strengthens Massachusetts life sciences ecosystem

CVIP UMass Startup Initiative

The Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property (CVIP) in the President's Office have 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 please contact Dr. Bill Rosenberg, Executive Director CVIP at wrosenberg@umassp.edu or Nate Hafer at nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu**

3rd 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 and conference logistics and registration, visit the conference website:

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

Please note that travel awards up to \$750 are available to trainees, fellow and junior faculty on a competitive basis for abstract and poster presentations.

2nd Annual UMass CCTS Community Engagement and Research Section's Symposium

"Challenging Issues in Community Health: The Role of Research"

Friday, November 30, 2012

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center, Shrewsbury, MA

To **REGISTER** and for **POSTER ABSTRACT** information, click on the registration button found on website: www.umassmed.edu/ccts/Community. There is no charge for this event, but registration is required.

Poster Abstract DEADLINE: October 15, 2012

Registration DEADLINE: November 1, 2012

The Research Symposium features:

- A Keynote Address by Elmer Freeman, MSW, Executive Director, Center for Community Health Education Research & Service, Inc.
- Posters and networking for researchers and community partners
- Four Breakout Sessions

Contact Phil Merriam or Amy Borg for more information c/o: Communityengagement@umassmed.edu

**University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science (UMCCTS)
Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research
Department of Quantitative Health Sciences**

“Towards a More Rigorous Approach to Personalized Medicine”

Guest Speaker:

Frank E. Harrell, Jr., PhD

Professor and Chair, Department of Biostatistics
Vanderbilt University, School of Medicine, Nashville, TN
UMCCTS External Advisory Board Member

Monday, October 15, 2012

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Amphitheater III

University Campus, Worcester

For more information or questions, contact: Paula.Nims@umassmed.edu

~ November is Diabetes Awareness Month ~

Conquering Diseases Programs – Clinical Research, “Ask the Experts” Brown Bag Lunch Series

“What we know and don’t know about the worldwide diabetes epidemic”

David M. Harlan, M.D.

Chief, Diabetes, UMass Memorial Medical Center; Co-Director, UMass Memorial Diabetes Center of Excellence; Professor of Medicine, UMass Medical School

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

12:00 – 12:30 PM

Conquering Diseases Community Resource Center

1st Floor Ambulatory Care Center

University Campus, Worcester

RSVP to Marybeth.Curnen@umassmed.edu or call 508-856-2557

Patients and families welcome

Sponsored by:

The Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
University of Massachusetts at Lowell, Center for Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace
Boston Worker’s Alliance

Co-sponsored by:

Massachusetts Public Health Association
Public Health Programs, School of Medicine, Tufts University
Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, Tufts University

***Support for the Obesity and Work Research was made possible with funding from the
University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science***

**“The Link Between Obesity and Work in the Low Wage Workforce”
A groundbreaking study, a dynamic convening**

**Tuesday, November 13, 2012
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
52 Roland Street, Boston, MA**

Please join us for a morning of inquiry and exploration as:

- Academic and community-based researchers present the findings from a landmark study of low wage workers and their perceptions of the impact of work on weight gain.
- Public policymakers, academic researchers, employers and employees discuss their own research, programs, and experiences – and explore ways to incorporate the lessons from the study into initiatives, interventions and public policy.

**8:30 Breakfast
9:00 – 10:30 Presentations / Report Release and Panel
10:45 – 12:00 Small group discussions and report back**

**For more information or to RSVP contact Marcy Goldstein-Gelb at 617-825-7233 X15 or by email:
marcy.gelb@masscosh.org**

Congratulations to our UMCCTS Clinical Research (K12) Scholar!

2008 Scholar – Wendy Marsh, MD, MS – 2012 NARSAD Young Investigator Grantee

Dr. Wendy Marsh, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, UMMS, has been awarded the 2012 NARSAD Young Investigator Grant for 2 years to study vitamin D supplementation in bipolar depression.

To view the NARSAD article, please go to <http://bbrfoundation.org/sites/bbrf.civicactions.net/files/file-downloads/2012-NARSAD-Young-Investigators-List.pdf> (page 28).

**Office of Orphan Products Development (OPD) – Funding Opportunity
Clinical Studies of Safety and Effectiveness of Orphan Products Research Project Grant (R01) – RFA-FD-13-001**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-FD-13-001.html>

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