



December 2013 Newsletter

University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

### UMCCTS Pilot Project Program (PPP) 2014 Funding Opportunity

The **UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS)** is announcing the **2014 Pilot Project Program (PPP)** request for proposals. Individual project awards (**up to \$75,000 for 1 year; up to \$125,000 for two years**) will be made on a competitive basis to enable investigators to accelerate the translation of innovative, cutting-edge research. We are particularly interested in proposals which feature a clinical scientist working with a basic scientist and proposals with an emphasis on community-based research.

The **Principal Investigator must be a UMass Worcester faculty member**, but collaborations with faculty on any UMass campus are encouraged. You are welcome to have external or internal collaborators, but this is not a requirement.

All faculty applicants must be UMCCTS members. Membership is free, easy, and entails completion of an online membership form on the UMCCTS website, <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/signup.aspx>

The **deadline for submission of Letter of Intent** is: **Friday, December 20, 2013, by 5:00 pm EST** to [wanda.depasquale@umassmed.edu](mailto:wanda.depasquale@umassmed.edu)

**Complete details, criteria to apply, and the application process** are available at the UMCCTS website: <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/research/grantopps.aspx>

**Questions** may be directed to Dr. Nate Hafer, Director of Operations, UMCCTS [nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu) or 508-856-2511.

### **NEW!**

### UMCCTS Office of Global Health Pilot Project Program (OGH-PPP) 2014 Funding Opportunity

New this year is the announcement of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) **Office of Global Health Pilot Project Program (OGH-PPP) 2014**. The **key goal of the UMCCTS OGH-PPP** funding is to *catalyze the development of translational research projects that provide a firm scientific basis for clinical practice and public health policy in global settings*. Individual project awards (**up to \$50,000 for 1 year**) will be made on a competitive basis to enable investigators to establish clinical, educational, and laboratory infrastructure to support medical/nursing education, public health proposals or policy changes, translational research and/or to develop specific translational research projects.

The intent of the UMCCTS OGH-PPP is to promote and prioritize for funding projects that are *innovative, interdisciplinary, evidence-based, capitalize on UMMS programmatic strengths, and that have the best potential for future growth and external funding*.

The **Principal Investigator must be a UMass Worcester faculty member**, but collaborations with faculty on any UMass Campus are encouraged. You are welcome to have external or internal collaborators, but this is not a requirement.

The **deadline for submission of *Letter of Intent*** is: **Friday, December 20, 2013, by 5:00 pm EST** to [wanda.depasquale@umassmed.edu](mailto:wanda.depasquale@umassmed.edu)

**Complete details, criteria to apply, and the application process** are available at the UMCCTS website: <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/research/grantopps.aspx>

**Questions** may be directed to Jessica Chang, Program Coordinator, Office of Global Health, [jessica.chang@umassmed.edu](mailto:jessica.chang@umassmed.edu) or 508-856-2840.

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### **UMCCTS Small Conference Grants Funding Opportunity**

#### **Introduction**

The University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science (UMCCTS) is pleased to announce a funding call for **Small Conference Grants**. This funding opportunity is designed to leverage the convening capacity of the UMCCTS to create new, multidisciplinary teams to address a pressing health need. For the purpose of this award, a conference is defined as a symposium, educational program, seminar, workshop, or any other organized and formal meeting.

#### **Purpose**

The UMCCTS supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed toward life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research. This fund serves to spur inter-disciplinary 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 conferences will serve as a springboard to attract additional funding from extramural sources.

All UMass faculty (Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, Worcester) with an interest in clinical and translational science may apply. **Project awards of up to \$1,000 can be requested.**

**Proposals will be accepted on a "rolling basis" (no due date). Investigators will be notified of award approximately 2-3 weeks post submission.**

**Complete details, criteria to apply, and the application process** are available at the UMCCTS website: <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/research/grantopps.aspx>

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### **UMass CVIP Technology Development Fund for Winter FY14**

William Rosenberg, PhD, Executive Director, UMass Office of Commercial Ventures & Intellectual Property (CVIP) is pleased to announce the **11<sup>th</sup> annual solicitation for the CVIP Technology Development Fund**.

#### **Fund Objective**

The CVIP Technology Development Fund was established by CVIP in the UMass President's Office in 2004 to provide UMass researchers with supplemental funding to advance previously disclosed University technologies toward commercialization. The grant is intended to move technologies to the

proof of concept stage or to allow the investigator to take other critical steps to make the technology attractive for licensing or other forms of commercialization. The Fund is NOT intended to support basic research, but rather close the gap between the research discovery and proven technology.

### **CVIP Technology Development Fund**

CVIP will grant to selected UMass researchers **an award not to exceed \$25,000 in any one fiscal year** for the continued development of technology. Grants may be used for a variety of purposes deemed appropriate to the fund's objectives. Such uses may include additional experimentation, purchase of equipment, contracting of additional work or services, and some travel.

#### **Granting Schedule:**

Applications Due:	January 17, 2014 (noon)
Notification of Finalists:	February 17, 2014
Finalist Presentations:	March 5, 2014
Announcement of Awards:	March 19, 2014

#### **Complete details, criteria to apply, and the application process:**

<http://www.cvip-umass.org/about-cvip/cvip-technology-development-fund/>

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### **Charles A. King Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program**

Application guidelines are now available for the **2014 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program in the Basic Sciences and Clinical/Health Services Research**.

The primary goal of the Program is to prepare postdoctoral fellows in Massachusetts for academic careers as successful independent investigators. United States citizenship is not required.

Funding period from: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016. **Two-year fellowships range from \$43,500-\$51,000.**

**Application submission deadline:** Monday, December 16, 2013, 12:00 noon (US Eastern Time)

**Complete details, criteria to apply, and the application process:** [www.tmfgrants.org/King](http://www.tmfgrants.org/King)

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### **National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences BRIDGs Program**

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) is accepting applications through January 10, 2014, for the **National Institutes of Health's Bridging Interventional Development Gaps (BRIDGs) program**, part of the Common Fund.

BRIDGs enables successful applicants to access critical resources needed for the development of new therapeutic agents. Those selected can work with NIH contractors, who conduct pre-clinical research at no cost to the investigator. Studies can include synthesis, formulation, pharmacokinetics and toxicology to support research-led Investigational New Drug (IND) applications to the Food and Drug Administration.

#### **Key dates:**

ProposalCENTRAL Registration: November 1 through December 16, 2013

Pre-Application Call Deadline: December 20, 2013  
 Application Submission Deadline: January 10, 2014  
 Expected Final Decision: September 2014

**Complete details, criteria to apply, and the application process:**

[http://www.ncats.nih.gov/research/rare-diseases/bridgs/apply/apply.html?utm\\_source=Announce&utm\\_campaign=c89f68de83-BrIDGs\\_Solicitation\\_Announcement11\\_6\\_2013&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_fc1085e209-c89f68de83-53466337](http://www.ncats.nih.gov/research/rare-diseases/bridgs/apply/apply.html?utm_source=Announce&utm_campaign=c89f68de83-BrIDGs_Solicitation_Announcement11_6_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc1085e209-c89f68de83-53466337)

**EVENTS:**

**Upcoming UMCCTS Seminar Series**

Please mark your calendars in anticipation of attending the **UMCCTS Seminar Series**.

January 29, 2014	<b>2010 K12 Awardees:</b> Heena Santry, MD, MS  Sarah Cutrona, MD, MPH	<i>Overview of their research projects:</i> Acute care surgery practice patterns: impact on quality, accessibility, and the costs of care for surgical emergencies Electronic message transmission between members of a social network to improve screening for cancer: colorectal cancer screening as a model
February 13, 2014	Hong Yu, PhD	iSERF Technology
March 13, 2014	Paul Kaufman, PhD	Examining biofilms on commercial plastics
April 10, 2014	TBN	
May 22, 2014	<b>2012 PPP Awardee:</b> Julia Hua Fang, PhD	<i>Overview of her research project:</i> A new tool for studying heterogeneity of treatment effects in longitudinal translational research

All seminars are located at the **University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester campus** in the **Faculty Conference Room** (1<sup>st</sup> floor, Medical School Entrance), S1-342, **starting at 12:00 noon** with lunch served.

**UMass RNA Therapeutics Institute presents...**



**1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION ADVANCED WORKSHOP AT UMMS ON  
 "SINGLE MOLECULE IMAGE ANALYSIS"**

**December 9 – 20, 2013** (excluding weekends)

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm** (optional applied training program in the afternoon)

**Albert Sherman Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room AS4-1044**

**University of Massachusetts Medical School, 368 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01605**

**Cost:** Free

**Available seats:** 6

**Selection of participants:** Please provide a short (3 sentence) description of your applications to be considered. Please send applications to: [David.Grunwald@umassmed.edu](mailto:David.Grunwald@umassmed.edu) ASAP

**Who should attend:** Scientists, students, and PIs that currently use single molecule imaging technologies in their research, for instance FISH, low signal imaging or tracking.

This workshop approaches image analysis with an introduction on how images are made and the limits that are inherent to the image based on the microscope used. No theoretical pre-knowledge is needed to follow the course.

Upon completion of this two week workshop, participants will have a clear understanding and direct experience with both optical concepts and microscopy hardware that underlie image formation. Applicants will be able to perform and judge analysis of diffraction limited images and their time dependents.

**Questions?** David Grunwald, PhD, Assistant Professor, RNA Therapeutics Institute, UMMS  
[David.Grunwald@umassmed.edu](mailto:David.Grunwald@umassmed.edu)

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**UMass Bioinformatics Core and Program in Bioinformatics and Integrative Biology  
An Informal Discussion**

**“RETROVIRUSES ARE US: *HERV-H* AND PLURIPOTENCY”**

**Jeremy Luban, MD**

David J. Freeland Chair in AIDS Research  
Professor, Program in Molecular Medicine and  
Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Pharmacology, UMMS

**Friday, December 13, 2013**

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Albert Sherman Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 2072  
UMMS Worcester Campus**

*Host: Manuel Garber, PhD, Director, Bioinformatics Core Facility*



**Institute for Strategic Funding Development presents...**

**“TWO-DAY STRATEGIC GRANT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP”**

**December 5-6, 2013**

**8:30 am – 5:00 pm**

**Hyatt Place**

**40 Talbot Place, Medford, MA 02155**

The strategic grant writing development workshop is designed to teach the basics of grant writing for individuals seeking to enhance their grant writing abilities. It provides a comprehensive overview of effective grant development techniques, including: finding best fit funding sources, creating innovative programs, and planning for funding sustainability.

Attendees of the Strategic Grant Writing Development will learn the following: 1) Strategic Grant Research; 2) Strategic Program Planning; 3) Strategic Proposal Writing; and 4) Strategic Proposal Submittal Process.

Tuition for two-day grant writing workshop is **\$498 per person**.

Registration and complete workshop information: <http://www.isfdonline.com/>

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**~SAVE THE DATE~**

**UMass Center for Health Equity Intervention Research (CHEIR) invites you to attend...**

**Synthesis Engagement Elevation to Eliminate Disparities (SEED) Symposium**  
*An innovation gathering to generate new ideas for health equity*

**Thursday, August 28 – Friday, August 29, 2014**

**University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01655**

The Synthesis Engagement and Elevation to Eliminate Disparities (SEED) Symposium uses cutting-edge approaches to generate new findings and resources to eliminate health disparities. Sponsored by the UMass Center for Health Equity Intervention Research (CHEIR), the SEED Symposium is not a typical research conference! Participants will experience talks, visual performances, graphic arts and interactive activities.

**Call for Nominations for SEED TALKS!**

*SEED talks are about...*

*Powerful science, inspiring stories of change, and/or new ways of thinking about old problems.*

If you know someone whose ideas and achievements could excite an audience and elevate the narrative on eliminating health disparities, or if you have an exciting contribution that needs to be shared with an audience of health equity researchers and community stakeholders, go to [www.cheir.org](http://www.cheir.org) to submit a nomination for SEED Talk. **Deadline date: January 30, 2014**

**Registration opens April 2014**

**Questions?** Chioma Nnaji, MPH, MEd, CHEIR Program Director, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, Center for Health Equity Intervention Research, [chioma.nnaji@umassmed.edu](mailto:chioma.nnaji@umassmed.edu)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**UMMS Bioinformatics Core Facility Services**

The UMass Medical School Bioinformatics Core Facility services are up and running and available for investigators/researchers to utilize.

Since accounts are not automatically created, you will need to send an email to help, Cc'ing [biocore@umassmed.edu](mailto:biocore@umassmed.edu) and [alan.ritacco@umassmed.edu](mailto:alan.ritacco@umassmed.edu) so the Bioinformatics Core can create your accounts in the HPCC and biocore servers.

You can access **Galaxy** from: <http://galaxyweb.umassmed.edu>

Right now the following genomes are installed:

**Supported genomes:**

Human: hg19, hg18

Mouse: mm10

Zebrafish: danrer7  
D.melongaster: dm3  
Macaque: rhemac3  
C\_elegans: ce10, ce6  
S. cerevisiae: sacCer2

The Bioinformatics Core will install other versions upon request.

You can use **R**: to directly work on your files at your UNIX home directory from the web interface to R: <http://rstudio.umassmed.edu>

**Assistance or Questions?** [Biocore@umassmed.edu](mailto:Biocore@umassmed.edu)

## NEWS:

### Research Career and Writing Group (“K-Club” writing group)

The **Research Career Writing Group** (“K-Club” writing group), established in 2007, is co-lead by Drs. Doug Ziedonis and Sherry Pagoto. The group meets monthly to provide information and feedback on academic career development and on preparing a Research Career Award application (NIH K Awards, VA Research Career Awards, CTSA K12 Awards, etc.). Most faculty who participate and apply for a research career award have been very successful in getting funded (>80% success rate).

**Interested in joining?** To become a member, please contact Ms. Denise Barrett, Executive Assistant to Dr. Ziedonis, at [denise.barrett@umassmemorial.org](mailto:denise.barrett@umassmemorial.org)

K-Club website: <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/K-Club/index.aspx>

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### UMCCTS Request for Volunteers for Educational Forum

#### To UMCCTS Members at the UMass Worcester Campus:

The UMass Center for Clinical & Translational Science (UMCCTS) is looking to expand educational opportunities to assist faculty in the transition from a mentored research career to that of an independent investigator. The primary focus is to craft an educational forum to successfully compete for NIH R-series awards and the K to R transition. We are looking for a few experienced faculty interested in leading this effort. We have training materials from similar programs at other institutions, so volunteers wouldn't necessarily need to create a new program from scratch. If you are interested in leading or participating in this new initiative, please contact Drs. John Keaney ([john.keaney@umassmed.edu](mailto:john.keaney@umassmed.edu)) or Nate Hafer ([nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu)).

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***Please remember to cite the CTSA Grant # UL1TR000161 in all supported journal publications.***

***Visit our website for all the latest news, funding announcements, seminars, educational training, sign-up for membership, etc., <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts>***