



NEWS:

~SAVE THE DATES~

New this year, the **5th Annual UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Research Retreat** and the **18th Annual UMass Basic Research/Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Retreat** will be held on consecutive days with overlapping sessions on **May 20 and 21, 2014** at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Albert Sherman Center, Worcester, MA.

Please hold these dates in anticipation of attendance. Registration, agenda, speakers, and all other information will be available very shortly on the UMCCTS website.

Registration will open on April 1, 2014.

Congratulations!

2013 UMCCTS and MassBiologics of UMMS “Next Hundred Million Pilot Project” Awardees

UMass Campus	MassBiologics of UMMS	Project Title
<p>Teresa J. Broering, PhD (Co-PI) Voluntary Assistant Professor Department of Medicine, UMMS Director of Immunology AbVitro, Inc.</p> <p>Tod J. Merkel, PhD Laboratory of Respiratory and Special Pathogens Division of Bacterial, Parasitic and Allergenic Products, CBER, FDA</p>	<p>Keith A. Reimann, DVM (Co-PI) Professor of Medicine</p>	<p>Defining the Key Immune Features of Sterilizing Immunity to <i>Bordetella Pertussis</i> for Improved Vaccine Design</p>
<p>Paul Dubin, PhD (PI) Professor Department of Chemistry, UMass Amherst</p> <p>Daniel Seeman, BS PhD Candidate Department of Chemistry, UMass Amherst</p>	<p>Rachel Behan Wollacott, PhD R&D Scientist II, Process Development</p> <p>Sadettin S. Ozturk, PhD Associate Deputy Director, Process and Analytical Development</p>	<p>Non-chromatographic Methods for Monoclonal Antibody Purification</p>
<p>Guangping Gao, PhD (PI) Professor Microbiology and Physiology Systems Director, Gene Therapy Center & Vector Core, UMMS</p>	<p>Yang Wang, MD, PhD Assistant Professor of Medicine</p> <p>William D. Thomas, Jr., PhD Deputy Director, Process Development Assistant Professor of Medicine</p>	<p>Development of a rAAV Scalable Manufacturing Platform for Therapeutic Antibody Production</p>

Congratulations!
2014 UMCCTS Clinical Research Scholar (K12) Awardee, Melissa L. Anderson

UMMS Investigator	K12 Mentor	Project Title
Melissa L. Anderson, PhD Postdoctoral Fellow, Treatment and Addiction in the Deaf Community Instructor, Department of Psychiatry	Douglas Ziedonis, MD, MPH Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry	Treatment of Trauma and Addiction in the Deaf Community

UMCCTS Research Career and Writing Group (“K-Club”)

The **UMCCTS Research Career Writing Group (“K-Club”)** 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

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

DID YOU KNOW?

**UMCCTS Conquering Diseases program announces...
The unveiling of the new research volunteer and biorepository websites!**

<https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/index.html>

<http://www.umassmed.edu/conqueringdiseases/index.aspx>

What will these websites do for you?

- Promote your studies
- Recruit participants for your studies
- Educate potential study volunteers about types of clinical trials
- Locate Biorepository specimens for your studies

Would you like help promoting your study? We can post your study description to the website!

<https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/find-studies.html>

Click on the link below to submit your study to our website:

https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/clinical_study_request_form.aspx

Do you need help recruiting study participants?

We invite you to take advantage of our clinical volunteer database filled with people who are eager to participate in UMass clinical trials.

<https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/for-researchers.html>

Do you need human samples (plasma, RNA or DNA) for your research?

We can provide you with blood specimens from our de-identified collection of samples from subjects with exact diagnosis and medical history.

<http://www.umassmed.edu/conqueringdiseases/researchers/samples/index.aspx>

Check it out and let us know how we can help!

The Conquering Diseases Team

Craig Lilly, MD – Director and PI
Michelle Maynard – Clinical Coordinator
Thomas Mayer, PhD – Biorepository Director
Sarah Rulnick, MPH – Project Manager

Conquering Diseases Program

University of Massachusetts Medical School
55 Lake Avenue North
Ambulatory Care Center, Room AC1-036B
Worcester, MA 01655
508-856-2557 (office)

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 and 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

EVENTS:

Upcoming 2014 UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Seminar Series

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

February 13, 2014	Hong Yu, PhD	Intelligent Search, Relation Extraction and Research for Functional Biology (iSERF™ technology)
March 13, 2014	<i>2013 LSMF Awardee:</i> Paul D. Kaufman, PhD	Examining biofilms on commercial plastics
April 10, 2014	<i>2013 PPP Awardee:</i> Jeffrey Bailey, MD, PhD	Overview of research project on Endemic Burkitt Lymphoma

May 22, 2014

2012 PPP Awardee:
Julia Hua Fang, PhD

Overview of research project:
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** (1st floor, Medical School Entrance), S1-342, **starting at 12:00 noon** with lunch served.

**UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science
Seminar Series**

“INTELLIGENT SEARCH, RELATION EXTRACTION AND RESEARCH FOR FUNCTIONAL BIOLOGY”

Hong Yu, PhD

Professor, Health Informatics and Implementation Science
Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, UMMS

Thursday, February 13, 2014

12:00 – 1:00 pm

**Faculty Conference Room S1-342
UMMS Worcester Campus**

Lunch will be served.

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

**“FROM THE GENOME ANALYZERS TO YOUR WORKSPACE: WHAT IT TAKES TO GENERATE AND
TRANSFER NEXT-GEN SEQUENCING DATA”**

Ellen L.W. Kittler, PhD

and

Maria L. Zapp, PhD

Directors of the UMass Deep Sequencing Core and
UMMS-HHMI PacBio Core Enterprise

Friday, February 14, 2014

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Albert Sherman Center, 4th Floor Conference Room AS4-2072
UMMS Worcester Campus**

Host: Manuel Garber, PhD, Director, Bioinformatics Core, UMMS

**UMCCTS Community Engagement & Research
Webinar Series**

The UMCCTS Community Engagement & Research invites researchers and community members interested in community engaged research to join in two upcoming webinars. It is free and open to all!

**March 11, 2014
2:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Using Qualitative & Quantitative
Research Methods to Answer Your
Research Questions**



Elena T. Carbone, DrPh, RD, LDN

Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director of Nutrition
Director of Community Engaged Research Program (CERP) at Commonwealth Honors College
University of Massachusetts Amherst

**April 29, 2014
Noon – 1:00 pm**

**Culturally Responsive Recruitment
and Retention in Community
Research**



Milagros C. Rosal, PhD

Professor of Medicine, Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine
Co-Director, UMass Center for Health Equity Intervention Research (CHEIR)
Co-Director, UMass Worcester Prevention Research Center
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Visit the Community Engagement & Research website to Register: www.umassmed.edu/ccts/community
Please register for each individually.

~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.

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

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

2014 UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund and UMass Science and Technology Initiatives Fund Request for Letters of Intent

INTRODUCTION

The University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is pleased to announce a funding call for the **UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund (LSMF) 2014**. The UMass LSMF supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed towards life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research.

As in past years, the LSMF will be coordinated more closely with the **UMass President's Office Science and Technology (S&T) Initiatives Fund**.

UMASS LIFE SCIENCES MOMENT FUND (LSMF)

The UMass LSMF supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed toward life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research. Current and future projects supported by this fund are envisioned to advance the therapeutic, device, intervention, etc., under study along the translational pipeline. The fund serves to spur inter-campus collaboration and strengthen the University's research portfolio in clinical and translational research. To support this mission, projects must include at least one investigator from the UMMS Worcester campus and a collaborator from at least one of the other UMass campuses. 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.

Applicants interested in the UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund can read the full funding announcement: http://umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CCTS/Research/LSMF/LSMF2014_RFA.pdf

UMASS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T) INITIATIVES FUND

The UMass S&T Fund is a tool to catalyze research collaborations among UMass campuses and with other partners to create impact and economic engagement at many levels. It will provide resources to support well-established faculty who have a proven track record of securing external funding and who are positioned to attract major research and development funding opportunities for the University as part of an overall strategy to grow and strengthen the University's R&D enterprise. The intent of the program is to focus on areas of strategic importance to campus research and to the state and its Innovation Economy (e.g., clean energy, life sciences, IT and "big data," cyber security, advanced manufacturing, medical devices and the like). Key criteria also include catalyzing partnerships with other UMass campuses, other research institutions and Massachusetts industry.

Applicants interested in the S&T Initiatives Fund can read the full funding announcement: <http://www.massachusetts.edu/aasair/stapprovprocess.html>

LSMF / S&T Review Process

Proposals for projects that are inter-campus, directed toward life sciences, and include at least one investigator from the UMMS Worcester campus may be eligible for either the Life Sciences Moment Fund or the S&T Fund. Applicants **SHOULD NOT** submit the same proposal to both funds. Instead, if you have questions about which fund is most appropriate for your proposal please contact Doug Banks (dbanks@umassp.edu) or Nate Hafer (nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu). As part of an integrated Review Process, proposals may be shared across grant programs based on appropriateness of mission and availability of funds.

Deadline for all LOIs submissions: Friday, February 28, 2014 by 5:00 pm (EST)

Submission Instructions (read carefully):

For all UMass Campus (Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, Worcester) submissions for the LSMF

Please email your Letter of Intent (2 pages or less) as an attachment (Word or PDF) to: Wanda DePasquale wanda.depasquale@umassmed.edu

For UMMS Worcester Campus submission for the S&T

Please email your Letter of Intent (2 pages or less) as an attachment (Word or PDF) to: UMMS Office of Research Funding, deniseM.degabriele-lindberg@umassmed.edu

For UMass Campuses (Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, or Lowell) submissions for the S&T

Please email your Letter of Intent (2 pages or less) as an attachment (Word or PDF) to your **UMass *Campus Research Office** (*contact your individual Campus Research Office for individual's name/email for submission)

UMCCTS Community Engagement and Research Section Call for Proposals for Pilot Projects

The **Community Engagement and Research Section** of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science is issuing a **call for proposals for pilot projects in community translational research**. **Anticipated funding of up to two \$12,000 awards** (pending availability of funds).

These awards focus on community engaged research, defined as “the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting well-being of those people” (CDC, 1997). Proposals must be submitted by faculty from any UMass campus working in partnership with any community organization in an area of translational research focused on the improvement of health in real world communities. The funds must involve research and cannot be used simply to deliver services. The intent for this initiative is to provide initial data for the development of larger and more comprehensive applications to NIH or other funding agencies. Proposals that focus on basic science will not be considered responsive to this request for proposals.

The research can include:

- an assessment of new methodologies, including those aimed at dissemination;
- an observational study;
- a needs assessment;
- a pilot study that uses qualitative and/or quantitative data; or
- an initiative that is a spin-off of an existing larger research initiative if the additional funding addresses unique study aims

Proposal Deadline: Tuesday, April 1, 2014 by 5:00 pm and sent to communityengagement@umassmed.edu

Click on the link below for the complete announcement, criteria to apply, application form:

[http://umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CCTS/Community/UMass%20CCTS%20Community%20Engagement%20Pilot%20Project%20RFP%202014%20FINAL\(1\).pdf](http://umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CCTS/Community/UMass%20CCTS%20Community%20Engagement%20Pilot%20Project%20RFP%202014%20FINAL(1).pdf)

Direct any questions to: communityengagement@umassmed.edu or call one of the Section Co-Manager, Amy Borg (508-856-4685) or Phil Merriam (508-856-5848)

UMass Amherst Innovation Challenge – Upcoming Competitions

The **UMass Amherst Innovation Challenge** is offering **two competitions** this spring. These are open to all UMass students and recent graduates.

Mini Plan

The **Mini Plan** is a round for teams who have fine-tuned their business idea and are interested in qualifying for a slot in the \$50K+ final competition.

Teams would need to register their entry by **February 12, 2014** at: www.umass.edu/innovation

Here is a link to a finger-tip guide to the competition: <http://www.umass.edu/innovation/announcements/spring-2014-mini-plan-guidelines>

Minute Pitch

The **Minute Pitch** is an idea competition for students looking to get their entrepreneurial feet wet! It has gone virtual this spring.

Teams should submit entries **February 13 to March 10, 2014** and can find the link at: www.umass.edu/innovation

Here is a link to a finger-tip guide to the competition:

<http://www.umass.edu/innovation/announcements/umass-ic-minutepitch-competition-goes-virtual-for-spring-2014>

Questions? Please contact Heather Demers via email at demers@ecs.umass.edu

Pfizer's Centers for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) and JDRF Request for Translational Proposals for Biotherapeutic Targets

JDRF (the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research) and Pfizer CTI are pleased to announce a call for proposals in the diabetes space with the goal of translating and accelerating novel, promising diabetes research from validated target to proof-of-mechanism in the clinic.

- CTI-JDRF are specifically looking for early-stage, **large-molecule** projects related to diabetic nephropathy, immune tolerance and beta cell health.
- A short, non-confidential 2-3 page pre-proposal is due to Nate Hafer (nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu) by **February 14, 2014**.
- Projects will be selected by a CTI-JDRF Joint Steering Committee and may receive up to \$250,000 in funding per year for two years.

Please go to the UMCCTS website for complete details

http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CCTS/News/UMASS_CTJ%20JDRF_Proposal%202014.pdf

Contact Nate Hafer (Nathaniel.Hafer@umassmed.edu) with any questions.

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/grantapps.aspx>

**UMass Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2)
Third Annual New Venture Competition 2014**

M2D2 is pleased to announce the M2D2 New Venture Competition 2014 to showcase the innovative developments of early-stage medical device companies.

Companies will compete for **\$50,000** of services from M2D2, Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP, and Smith & Nephew, Inc. M2D2 is hosting a medical device start-up competition that will find the best new medical device ventures – and award thousands of dollars worth of services.

Full contact details and more information including Call for Application announcement, Entry Application and, Important Dates and Timelines can be found at:

<http://www.uml.edu/Research/Centers/M2D2/medicalchallenge.aspx>

Entry Fees – Apply early to receive discounted application fees:

By January 15, 2014: No charge

By January 31, 2014: \$25

By February 10, 2014: \$50

Questions: Contact Mary Ann Picard by email at m2d2@uml.edu or by phone at 978-934-3403.

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>