



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

October 2019 Newsletter

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The National Center for Advancing Translational Science has released a [CTSA Program Request for Information \(RFI\)](#), and your input is valuable. This request is for feedback on how the [CTSA Program](#) might be strengthened to meet its broad scientific mission of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of clinical research and translational science. The CTSA Program supports a national network of medical research institutions, their partners and collaborators – all working together to speed the translation of research discoveries into improved patient care by tackling system-wide problems in clinical and translational research that no single team can overcome.

Possible areas for comment include but are not limited to: (1) barriers and solutions to improve the use of basic research findings to inform clinical care; (2) workforce development; and (3) community engagement, health disparities, and dissemination.

The request closes on **October 25, 2019**. Everyone is encouraged to share pertinent feedback directly with Nate Hafer, CCTS Director of Operations, at Nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu.

FUNDING

CCTS SPARK Program (Small Pilot and Research Knowledge)

CCTS Small Conference Grants

FOA from the Joint Program Committee-6/Combat Casualty Care Research Program and National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute: [December 2](#)

CCTS SPARK PROGRAM: Rolling application deadline. This program's priorities are to support studies that impact clinical care and research methodologies, support students/trainees, and provide access to funds to generate pilot and preliminary data for external grant submissions. For more information, click on this link: <https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/spark-program/>

CCTS SMALL CONFERENCE GRANTS: Rolling application deadline. This funding facilitates the development of faculty-to-faculty networks within the University system. Click on this link for more information: <https://umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/small-conference-grants/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT: The Department of Defense Joint Program Committee-6 (JPC-6), Combat Casualty Care Research Program (CCCRP) has collaborated with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) to promote a new initiative by publishing a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). This FOA will establish a trans-agency program to support collaborations between hematologists/vascular experts, neuroscientists, and blood-brain barrier (BBB) tissue chip developers for high risk/high reward research to create enhanced/modified platforms that more closely model the human BBB. The first application due date is **December 2, 2019**. Click [here](#) to submit an application.

EDUCATION

I-CORPS@NCATS Regional Short Course: Five Week Course: Beginning [October 25](#)
K Club: Ongoing

I-CORPS@NCATS Regional Short Course: What is the business case for your translational science? This federally-funded innovation and commercialization training provides biomedical scientists, clinician scientists and engineers with a new approach to accelerate the translation of discoveries from the lab into clinical practice. The five-week course begins with an in-person kick off workshop to be held on **October 25, 2019** in the Albert Sherman Center. To learn more about this five-week course and to register, click [here](#).

K CLUB: Meets **every other Wednesday** from **4:00pm to 5:00pm** in **S2-121** to provide information and feedback on Research Career Award applications (NIH K Awards, VA Research Career Awards, CTSA K grants, etc). Participants receive feedback on their biosketch, training plans, research plan, specific aims, and a wealth of other information.

For more information, visit: <https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/education/k-club>

EVENTS

FREE Lunch and Learn: Launching Clinical Trials at Hyper-Speed: [October 2](#)
PMM In-House Seminar Series featuring Andrei Korostelev, PhD: [October 21](#)
4th New England Cryo-EM Symposium: [October 30](#)
PMM In-House Seminar Series featuring David Bartel, PhD: [November 5](#)
Barracuda Bowl 2019: [November 6](#)
Clinical Investigator Training Course: [November 12-14](#)

FREE LUNCH AND LEARN: LAUNCHING CLINICAL TRIALS AT HYPER-SPEED: Is your startup hitting road blocks while trying to launch clinical trials? Register to attend M2D2's FREE Lunch & Learn series: Launching Clinical Trials at Hyper-Speed! The class will be held on **October 2** from 11:30am to 1:00pm at 110 Canal Street, 4th Floor, Lowell MA. Register [here](#).

IN-HOUSE SEMINAR SERIES: Program in Molecular Medicine In-House Seminar Series presents "*How the Ribosome Accurately Builds Proteins: Visualizing Translation by Cryo-EM*" by Andrei Korostelev, PhD. **Monday, October 21, 2019** at 12:00pm. Molecular Medicine Seminar Room, 3rd Floor Biotech II. Hosted by Roger J. Davis, PhD.

4th NEW ENGLAND CRYO-EM SYMPOSIUM: Hosted by UMMS, please join us in the 2nd floor Albert Sherman Center Auditorium on **Wednesday, October 30, 2019** for this one-day event beginning with registration/breakfast at 8:30am, followed by sessions beginning at 10am. The sessions will focus on practical aspects related to Cryo-EM techniques. To register and for more information, click the link: <https://www.umassmed.edu/bmp/cryo-em-symposium/>.

IN-HOUSE SEMINAR SERIES (SAVE THE DATE): Program in Molecular Medicine IGP Student Sponsored Molecular Medicine Distinguished Lecture presents David Bartel, PhD, Professor of Biology MIT; Member, Whitehead Institute, Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute. **Tuesday, November 5, 2019** at 12:00pm in the Albert Sherman Center (AS2-2102). More information will be forthcoming.

BARRACUDA BOWL 2019: M2D2 and Mintz Levin present the 2019 Barracuda Bowl! **November 6, 2019** from 4:30pm to 8:00pm at Mintz, 1 Financial Center, Boston MA 02111. Pitch your med-tech innovation to a panel of investors and answer their questions on your technologies, development, and financial projection. Apply by **October 16** – [download the entry form here](#) and become part of a "Shark Tank" style pitch-off event! Get your free tickets to the event [here](#)! Apply to pitch [here](#).

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR TRAINING COURSE: The Regulatory Education for Industry (REI) presents the Clinical Investigator Training Course being held on **November 12-14, 2019** at the Hotel at the University of Maryland, College Park MD. Topics include clinical trial design and analysis, safety and efficacy requirements, ethical considerations, FDA regulatory requirements and more. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

CTSA Regulatory Expertise
Diamond Portal Allows CTSA Members to Access
HRPP QA/QI
National Center for Data to health (CD2H)

Recruitment and Retention Toolkit

UMCCTS Intake Portal

CTSA REGULATORY EXPERTISE: Three North Carolina Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program hubs have collaborated to create a platform for sharing regulatory expertise and best practices. The Regulatory Guidance for Academic Research of Drugs and Devices (ReGARDD) Program provides researchers with regulatory guidance, education, and consultative support, to ultimately help them move promising products and novel discoveries to clinical trials.

ReGARDD, which is coordinated by Duke University, the Wake Forest School of Medicine, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill hubs with partner RTI International, officially launched in 2015 and has been developing since. The program builds upon the existing services and knowledge of the North Carolina CTSA Program Regulatory Groups and the Research Triangle Park (RTP).

Read the full story [here](#). Visit the ReGARDD website [here](#).

DIAMOND PORTAL: To address the need for consistent training assessment and measures of competency, the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research (MICHR) has collaborated with the Ohio State University, Rochester University, and Tufts University to launch the DIAMOND Portal. It is a pioneering digital collection that serves as a sustainable, federated database for members of clinical and translational research study teams to share and access training and assessment resources. For more information, visit <https://www.michr.umich.edu/news/2018/10/15/new-diamond-portal-allows-ctsa-members-to-access-share-training-and-assessment-materials>

HRPP QA/QI: The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Program is a component of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science. The program is independent of the IRB and helps study teams and investigators by conducting routine post-approval monitoring of on-going research to evaluate adherence with institutional requirements and federal regulations. If there are review findings, the QA/QI manager shares those findings with investigators and study teams, and provides direct education on the findings, including how to avoid making similar errors in the future. In order to support improvement at an institutional level, the QA/QI manager shares aggregated data from reviews with the HRPP leadership and the Research Community to identify trends and target areas for education. The program also makes [self-evaluation tools](#) available to investigators and study teams seeking to perform their own assessments. To learn more about HRPP QA/QI HRP-142, visit: <https://www.umassmed.edu/globalassets/ccts/ccts-media/irb/updated-sops-2015/hrp-142-hrpp-qa-qi-program-final.pdf>.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR DATA TO HEALTH (CD2H): The goal of CD2H is to make data more meaningful, open and accessible. The CD2H supports a vibrant and evolving collaborative informative ecosystem for the CTSA program and beyond. The CD2H harnesses and expands an ecosystem for translational scientists to discover and share their software, data and other research resources within the CTSA program network. The CD2H also creates a social coding environment for translational science institutions, leveraging the community-driven DREAM challenges as a mechanism to stimulate innovation. To learn more, click [here](#).

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TOOLKIT: The Trial Innovation Network accepts toolkit submissions from CTSAs and reputable community health partners and provides them as a free resource to the research community. The materials on this site are designed primarily for CTSA program staffs. These resources are intended to provide a variety of information that includes best practices and evidence-based recruitment and retention strategies. Full information can be found at <https://trialinnovationnetwork.org/recruitment-retention-toolkit/?key-element=1681>

UMCCTS INTAKE PORTAL: The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science has implemented an intake/service request portal. Currently the portal is being utilized by the Office of Clinical Research for intake of all agreements and amendments. OnCore updates/corrections and Certificates of Confidentiality. The portal can be accessed on their newly updated website at <https://www.umassmed.edu/ocr/>

SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORY

Have you had *your research published* that cites the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science? Has *your patent been filed* on technology developed using Center funding or resources? Did your pilot project receive external grant funding? Share it with us at ccts@umassmed.edu. Sharing your success demonstrates the importance and effect of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science at UMass.

Newsletter Submissions: *To be included in the CCTS Monthly Newsletter, please send announcements, including a link, to ccts@umassmed.edu. The newsletter is published the first week of each month.*

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CITE in all presentations and journal publications:
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