



**CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND  
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE**

## May 2020 Newsletter

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- The National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C)

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## COVID - 19

**UMMS UPDATE** regarding human subjects research during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here: <https://umassmed.edu/ccts/covid-19/>. This website is updated frequently.

**NIH UPDATE:** For up-to-date NIH COVID-19 information, including informational videos, proposal submission and award management resources, human subjects and clinical trials guidance, animal welfare, frequently asked questions regarding flexibilities for grantees, and funding opportunities, click [here](https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus) or copy and paste this url: <https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>

**CLINICAL TRIALS DATABASE:** To search for active Covid-19 clinical trials, click [here](#).

**BARDA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (for coronavirus researchers):** To support ongoing U.S. Government COVID-19 medical countermeasure development efforts, BARDA is pleased to open their EZ BAA program and seeks abstract submissions for the following critical areas of interest: (1) AOI #4.1-A: Molecular Diagnostic Assay for SARS-CoV-2 virus on existing FDA-cleared platform; (2) AOI #4.1-B: Point-of-Care Diagnostic Assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 virus; (3) AOI #4.1-C: Diagnostic Assay for detection of COVID-19 disease; (4) AOI #4.3: COVID-19 Vaccine; and (5) AOI #4.4: Advanced Manufacturing Technologies. Please see the updated solicitation [BAA-20-100-SOL-0002](#) for more information including program manager contact info. Submissions close June 30 at 5pm EST.

**THE NATIONAL COVID COHORT COLLABORATIVE (N3C):** The National Center for Data to Health (CD2H) and NCATS are creating a centralized, secure portal for hosting row-level COVID-19 clinical data – the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C). This initiative is a partnership between the CTSA program, several HHS agencies, and the distributed clinical data networks PCORnet, OHDSI, ACT/i2b2, and TriNetX. We believe the N3C portal will enable the rapid development of analytics that clinical centers and physicians need now. To learn more, click [here](#) or copy and paste this url: <https://covid.cd2h.org/N3C>

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**UMASS CAPCaT TEAM LEADING EFFORT FOR COVID-19 TEST DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION:** The National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) is urgently soliciting proposals and can provide up to \$500M across multiple projects to rapidly produce innovative SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests that will assist the public's safe return to normal activities. Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx), is a fast-track technology development program that leverages the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Point-of-Care Technology Research Network (POCTRN). UMass Medical School and UMass Lowell Center for Advancing Point of Care Technologies (CAPCaT) is part of the POCTRN network. RADx will support novel solutions that build the U.S. capacity for SARS-CoV-2 testing up to 100-fold above what is achievable with standard approaches. RADx is structured to deliver innovative testing strategies to the public as soon as late summer 2020 and is an accelerated and comprehensive multi-pronged effort by NIH to make SARS-CoV-2 testing readily available to every American.

The application portal is now live [www.poctrn.org/radx](http://www.poctrn.org/radx) .

Please see the NIH Press Release (this <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-mobilizes-national-innovation-initiative-covid-19-diagnostics>).

NIH Director's Blog: <https://directorsblog.nih.gov/2020/04/29/rising-to-the-covid-19-challenge-rapid-acceleration-of-diagnostics-radx/>

## FUNDING

**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/>

## EDUCATION

**PISS-PROJECTS IN PROCESS SEMINAR SERIES:** The Projects in Process Seminar Series (PiPSS) is designed to give CCTS trainees and junior faculty an opportunity to present their work in a structured format and in a forum of peers and faculty, with the goal of ensuring continuous, professional feedback and cross-fertilization that is required for excellence in research. Sessions are held on Fridays beginning in **December 2019 through May 2020**. Sessions are held virtually for the remainder of the year. Join us via **ZOOM:** <https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/5682209338> or **Dial In 646.876.9923; Meeting ID 568.220.9338**.

The May 1, 2020 speaker will be:

- **11:30am Oluwabunmi Emidio** "*A Mixed Methods Study of Psychosocial Distress in Cancer Patients*"

The May 8, 2020 speakers will be:

- **11:00am Maggi Ahmed** "*The Immunological Impact on Melanocyte Transplantation Surgery*"
- **11:30am Ariel L. Beccia** "*Eating Disorders Among Sexual and Gender Minority Populations*"

**UMASS AMHERST SURVEY: CLINICIAN INPUT NEEDED:** Researchers from the Nolden Lab, Department of Food Science, UMass Amherst, are recruiting participants for a research study to identify areas and clinical groups which need different education and tools to help treat patients suffering from taste distortions. If you are a qualified clinician who (1) works within the US; *and* (2) works with patients that complain of taste problems as a result of cancer treatments, you are invited to participate in a brief online survey which will take around fifteen (15) minutes. Your participation will help to untangle disparities in taste assessing methods and terminologies, which will help identify successful and uniform taste distortion management techniques. To participate, click [here](#) or email [NoldenSensoryTeam@umass.edu](mailto:NoldenSensoryTeam@umass.edu). Upon completion of the study, you will be entered into a raffle where ten (10) \$100 Amazon gift cards will be given away!

**OCTRI COVID WORKFORCE SURVEY: HEALTHCARE PROVIDER INPUT NEEDED:** The Portland OR CTSA hub is supporting a study run by two Emergency Medicine faculty researchers who are in need of healthcare workers to take their research survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the healthcare workforce. Are you a healthcare worker that comes into contact with patients? Concerned about COVID-19's impact on the healthcare workforce? Participate in an anonymous survey at different time points to evaluate risk factors of healthcare workers contracting COVID-19. The objective is to protect healthcare workers by determining the impact of COVID-19 exposure, PPE use and reuse, time off, testing, area of practice, and working outside their usual scope. The survey takes approximately 3-8 minutes to complete. Those with and without COVID-19 tests are eligible including MDs, nursing, EMS, registration, trainees, and other groups at risk. Access the survey [here](#).

## EVENTS

**COVID-19 COMMUNITY FORUM:** Please join our third COVID-19 Community Forum sponsored by the four federally-funded Clinical and Translational Science programs in Massachusetts. **Getting to the post-pandemic era: Herd Immunity, Social Distancing, and Vaccine.** **Yonatan Grad, MD PhD**, Assistant Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Monday, May 4, 4:00-5:00PM To sign up: <https://bit.ly/2zqetAF> Questions? [rlee@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:rlee@hsph.harvard.edu)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### UMCCTS CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER NOW HIRING: THREE POSITIONS

The Clinical Research Center (CRC) is dedicated to providing efficient, reliable, and high-quality study support for UMass clinical investigators. We currently have two job openings within the CRC and are looking for excellent candidates to help complete our team.

**Regulatory Coordinator** <https://www.ummsjobs.com/job/5213/>

**Clinical Research Coordinator II** <https://www.ummsjobs.com/job/4784/>

**Senior Research Nurse** <https://www.ummsjobs.com/job/5000/>

**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](#).

## 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](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu). Sharing your success demonstrates the importance and effect of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science at UMass.

## CITE & SUBMIT

Please cite the NIH CTSA award any time you use The UMMS Center for Clinical and Translational Science resources, services and facilities or received funding through the Center. ***“The project described is supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health, through Grant UL1 TR001453, (or TL1 TR001454, or KL2 TR001455, as appropriate). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.”***

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