Umass Researchers Take At-Home COVID-19 Testing to the Streets in Community Enrollment Events

By Susan E.W. Spencer and Bryan Goodchild

Convenient, rapid and affordable COVID-19 testing technology is getting a widespread community try-out through the COVID-19 Test US program, part of the National Institutes of Health Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics Initiative, or RADx Initiative. Underway since spring 2020, RADx has expanded innovation and increased availability of tests, while ensuring the reach of testing to underserved populations. Several times a week, Umass Medical School researchers offer Worcester-area residents the opportunity to enroll in some of the half-dozen or so studies conducted for COVID-19 Test US.

Full Article
The countdown is on to October 12, 2021, and the roll-out of the UMass Chan IRB’s new Research Management System (RMS) eIRB! This improved electronic submission system is a cloud-based service that provides access not just to IRB modules but also to those for Grants & Agreements. RMS does require users to access the system with their single sign-on credentials, so make sure to have those in place and to enter your umassmed email into your user profile in Legacy eIRB today! Click here for more information.

EVENTS

CREATIVE SCIENTIST WORKSHOP
REMOTE TRIALS: FUTURE OR FIASCO?
NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Register now for a unique exploration of the strengths, opportunities, and challenges presented by remote trials. This free virtual workshop will feature keynote addresses by speakers from throughout the CTSA network and beyond in the morning followed by interactive "trial makeovers" in the afternoon. Click here for more information.

K CLUB

Next Meeting
Oct. 12, 2021 ~ 4:00-5:00 PM ~ Virtual, Zoom

K Club supports junior faculty in the development of K-level "Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award" applications. According to NIH, the award is intended to provide either progressive training or further experience in research related to biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences. The mentored approach provides the knowledge required for the K-Awardee to progress into an independent researcher over the award period.

K Club meets bi-weekly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 4-5 pm via Zoom. Attendance at K Club meetings can be for information purposes and/or for review of your application. The group meets to outline the K-Award writing process and to review material being submitted by/to the group for input. To register to attend K Club, please email Robyn.Leonard@umassmed.edu.
EVENTS

GERONTOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES
OCTOBER 4TH & 25TH

Monday, October 4, 2021
Joyce Wang, PhD Postdoctoral Fellow Brown University on “Hospice Utilization in Assisted Living Communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic” 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. W-3-125 and via Zoom

Monday, October 25, 2021
Yiyang Yuan, PhD Candidate University of Massachusetts Medical School “Physical Frailty and Cognitive Impairment in Older U.S. Nursing Home Residents” 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. W-3-125 and via Zoom

Zoom: https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/97564667292 Meeting ID: 975 6466 7292 Passcode: 1234

BARRACUDA BOWL PITCH OFF WITH MINTZ & M2D2
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 • 4 - 6:30PM ET • ONLINE
APPLY BY OCTOBER 28TH

Pitch your medtech innovation to a panel of investors, and answer their questions on your technology, development, and financial projection.

Do you have innovative medical device or biotech solution that will help improve healthcare? We want to hear them! Apply by October 28th. Download the entry form here and become part of a ‘Shark Tank’ style pitch-off event! More information

Plus, this year, Barracuda Bowl applicants may be considered for BLUE KNIGHT™ residency. BLUE KNIGHT is a collaboration between Johnson & Johnson Innovation - JLABS (JLABS) and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). Questions? M2D2 - maryann_picard@uml.edu - 978.934.3403

OCTOBER 2021
FUNDING

LIMITED COMPETITION: CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE AWARD (CTSA) PROGRAM: COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION AWARD (U01 CLINICAL TRIAL OPTIONAL)

The Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program Collaborative Innovation Award (CCIA) supports collaborative research activities that develop innovative solutions that will improve the efficiency, quality and impact of turning laboratory, clinic and community observations into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public. This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) will support investigators from three or more CTSA Program hub institutions (see below under Eligible Individuals) to either: 1) form new collaborations, or to 2) significantly expand the scientific scope of existing collaborations, or to 3) engage new collaborators in pre-existing collaborations to solve a translational science problem no one hub can solve alone, or disseminate a solution to a translational science problem developed at one hub to other hubs, in so doing testing its robustness to different hub environments and structures and adapting it for further dissemination within outside the CTSA Program consortium if appropriate. More information

NCI OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARD

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites grant applications for the Outstanding Investigator Award (R35) in any area of cancer research.

The objective of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA) is to provide long-term support to accomplished investigators with outstanding records of cancer research productivity who propose to conduct exceptional research. The OIA is intended to allow investigators the opportunity to take greater risks, be more adventurous in their lines of inquiry, or take the time to develop new techniques. The OIA would allow an Institution to submit applications nominating established Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PDs/PIs) for the NCI OIA.

It is expected that the OIA would provide extended funding stability and encourage investigators to embark on projects of unusual potential in cancer research. The research projects should break new ground or extend previous discoveries toward new directions or applications that may lead to a breakthrough that will advance biomedical, behavioral, or clinical cancer research. More Information
FUNDING

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT PS17-1704:
COMPREHENSIVE HIGH-IMPACT HIV PREVENTION PROJECTS FOR
YOUNG MEN OF COLOR WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN AND YOUNG
TRANSGENDER PERSONS OF COLOR

NOVEMBER 19, 2021

The purpose of this program is to implement comprehensive HIV prevention programs to reduce morbidity, mortality, and related health disparities among young men of color who have sex with men (YMSM of color), young transgender persons of color (YTG of color) and their partners who are at high risk of acquiring HIV. In accordance with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States: Updated to 2020 and CDC’s High-Impact HIV Prevention (HIP) approach, this FOA focuses on HIV in the nation by reducing new infections, increasing access to care, and promoting health equity. These goals will be achieved by enhancing CBOs’ capacities to increase HIV testing, link HIV-positive persons to HIV medical care, increase referrals to Partner Services (PS), provide prevention and essential support services for HIV-positive persons and persons at high risk of acquiring HIV who are unaware of their HIV status, and increase program monitoring and accountability. Standard performance measures for HIV prevention programs that are consistent with the focus of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States: Updated to 2020 on improving performance and accountability are included in this FOA. More Information

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.”
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.