IN THE NEWS

THE CONVERSATION

RAPID TESTS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN CURBING COVID-19 INFECTIONS – ESPECIALLY AS PEOPLE GATHER FOR THE HOLIDAYS

OUR OWN DR. NATE HAFTER EXPLAINS HOW COVID ANTIGEN TESTS CAN HELP KEEP US STAY SAFER THIS WINTER.

FULL ARTICLE
A major goal of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is to accelerate the translation of basic discoveries into practical, cost effective solutions that improve human health. The PPP provides individual project awards (up to $50,000 for 1 year) on a competitive basis.

As a result, the UMCCTS’s Pilot Projects Program (PPP) will fund 7 projects starting in December 2021. Five of the seven projects will include collaborations between UMass Chan Medical School and institutions such as UMass Memorial Healthcare, UMass Amherst, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

Congratulations on a successful PPP application!
We look forward to the next evolution of your research.

"Automatic Wild-field Optical Imaging for Transplant Organ Viability Assessment"

Dr. Yu Chen
Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering, UMass Amherst

Dr. Babak Movahedi
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Surgery, UMass Chan Medical School

Dr. Haichong Zhang
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biomedical Engineering
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
CCTS NEWS

"STING Agonism for the Treatment of COVID-19"

Dr. Kate Fitzgerald
Professor, Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School

Dr. Fiachra Humphries
Instructor, Dept. of Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School

"Correction of Defective Splicing in Fragile X Syndrome with Therapeutic Potential"

Dr. Joel Richter
Professor, Program in Molecular Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School

"Isolated Single Islet Studies to Define the Factors Underlying the Heterogeneity of Islet and Peri-Islet Lymphocytic Infiltration in Human Type 1 Diabetes"

Dr. David Harlan
Professor, Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School

Dr. Yihao Zheng
Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

Dr. Sally Kent
Professor of Medicine, Diabetes Division, Diabetes Center for Excellence, UMass Chan Medical School

Dr. Sambra Redick
Senior Research Scientist, Program in Molecular Medicine, Diabetes Center of Excellence UMass Chan Medical School

"Dissecting Optical Coherence Tomography Features to Predict Risk of Future Advanced Age-related Macular Degeneration"

Dr. Tianxiao Huan
Assistant Professor, Ophthamology and Visual Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School

Dr. Johanna Seddon
Professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School

Dr. Yu Chen
Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering, UMass Amherst
CCTS NEWS

"A Deep Learning-Based Real-Time Vascular Anatomy Assessment Tool for Emergency Stroke Interventions"

Dr. Anna Kuhn
Assistant Professor, Radiology, UMass Chan Medical School

Dr. Mohammed Salman Shazeeb
Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, UMass Chan Medical School

Dr. Clifford Lindsay
Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, UMass Chan Medical School

"Tinnitus Characterization Using Reverse Correlation With Applications to Retraining Therapies"

Dr. Adam Lammert
Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering, WPI

Dr. Divya Chari
Assistant Professor, Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery, UMass Chan Medical School

CCTS SURVEY

UMCCTS Spring Retreat Survey

After a two-year hiatus, UMCCTS would like to resume holding our annual spring retreat. Our aim is to deliver a retreat that our attendees find both interesting and valuable. Will you please take a moment to share your preferences by answering a few simple questions.

Click here for the survey.
EVENTS

FOCUS GROUPS ON HOW TO BETTER INTERACT WITH DEAF PATIENTS/PARTICIPANTS

Our research team is hosting a series of Zoom focus groups to help us design trainings for hearing healthcare professionals and researchers about how to better interact with Deaf patients/participants.

You can find more information about these focus groups in the attached flyer or in this recruitment video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TH6_4DMGtKI&t=18s

If you would like to participate, please complete this brief survey to see if you qualify.

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**K CLUB**

Next Meeting
Jan. 12th & 26nd ~ 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.
As part of the T.K., MSCI., and Millennium programs, the annual Projects in Process Seminar Series (PiPSS) will take place January through May 2022 on Friday mornings via Zoom. We look forward to hearing about our scholars/trainees progress on their research projects.

We encourage scholars, mentors and faculty to join us at as many PiPSS presentations as possible. This is a great opportunity for scholars to get to know others interested in or who hold research positions. In addition, presentations on CCTS core resources will also be included.

**Zoom Link:** https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/99081667635?pwd=RE9MUGl0TG9uNZIoRWxJYTJOazdwUT09

**Password:** 396027

### January 14th

**Dan Amante**

DM-BOOST: a Diabetes Mellitus program using Behavioral economics to Optimize Outreach and Self-management support with Technology

**Zachary Dyer**

Measuring the Neighborhood-Level Effects of Structural Racism

### January 28th

**Jordy Mehawej**

Transcending the Geographical Barrier: Design and Preliminary Findings from the mHealth component of the RURAL Study

**Grace Ryan**

Working with Pediatric and Family Practice Providers to Increase Youth COVID-19 Vaccination: Formative Research and Intervention Development
EVENTS

UMCCTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION CORE
JANUARY 13TH & 20TH 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Building Community-Academic Research Partnerships

Presenters:
Bettye Anderson Frederic, RN, MSN
Kathleen Szegda, PhD, MS, MPH
Sarah Goff, MD, PhD

Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts Medical School - Baystate

This workshop offers attendees pragmatic approaches to building and sustaining mutually beneficial community-academic research partnerships that apply health equity and anti-racism lenses to the shared work.

Your registration confirmation will include the zoom link for the sessions.

RIGOR & NIH REVIEW
JANUARY 14TH 12:00-1:00 PM

Presented by: Devon C. Crawford, Ph.D.
Scientific Program Manager, Office of Research Quality
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:
https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/91558591480?pwd=bUplVzkrVGJxc3daZjFoelG1aXFnd209
Password: 343236
FUNDING

CLARIFICATION AND GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS PREPARING APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING 2022

NOT-OD-22-046: Clarification and Guidance for Applicants Preparing Applications for the Spring 2022 Due Dates During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Released 12/27/21)

The notice extends the guidance previously provided (NOT-OD-21-180) for applicants preparing applications for the August/October 2022 Council round, beginning with the January 25, 2022 due date.

PAR-22-053: CLINICAL TRIAL READINESS FOR FUNCTIONAL NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS (U01 CLINICAL TRIAL OPTIONAL)

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: FEBRUARY 5, 2022 WITH ONGOING CYCLES THROUGH NOVEMBER 6, 2024

This FOA invites researchers to submit prospective clinical projects that address critical needs for clinical trial readiness in Functional Neurological Disorders (FNDs). Projects appropriate for this FOA include the validation of biomarkers, endpoints and clinical outcome assessments (COA) that are fit-for-purpose and have a defined context of use for clinical trials. MORE INFO

RFA-MH-22-125: ENHANCED INTERPERSONAL FOCUSED STRATEGIES FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS (R34 CLINICAL TRIAL REQUIRED)

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: FEBRUARY 18, 2022

This initiative encourages research focused on development of and testing the effectiveness of intervention approaches that utilize enhanced interpersonal strategies to strengthen and compliment efforts in suicide prevention. MORE INFORMATION

RFA-AT-22-001: NIH HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS RESEARCH COLLABORATORY - PRAGMATIC AND IMPLEMENTATION TRIALS OF EMBEDDED INTERVENTIONS (UG3/UH3, CLINICAL TRIALS OPTIONAL)

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: JUNE 17, 2022

The overall goal of this initiative is to support the "real world" assessment of health care strategies and clinical practices and procedures in health care systems (HCS) that lead to improved care for underserved populations, who have suffered a disproportionate disease burden in the US. MORE INFORMATION
FUNDING

PAR-22-069: HIGH IMPACT, INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE IN NIDDK RESEARCH AREAS (RC2 CLINICAL TRIAL OPTIONAL)
CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: ONGOING THROUGH OCT. 30, 2025

This FOA seeks novel, interdisciplinary approaches in areas that address specific knowledge gaps, scientific opportunities, new technologies, data generation, or research methods designed to accelerate scientific progress in the understanding, treatment, and prevention of diseases within the mission of the NIDDK. MORE INFORMATION

PAR-22-031: DRUG DISCOVERY FOR NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS (R01 CLINICAL TRIAL NOT ALLOWED)
CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: ONGOING THROUGH JAN. 7, 2025

This FOA supports the discovery of novel compounds for the prevention and treatment of nervous system disorders. NIMH and NIA wish to stimulate research in: 1) Identification, design, synthesis, and preclinical testing of compounds of candidate therapeutics; 2) Initial hit-to-lead chemistry to improve activity of compounds against the target of interest; 3) Later stage lead optimization to improve efficacy and pharmacokinetics; and 4) Initial drug metabolism and pharmacokinetic (DMPK). 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.”
EDUCATION

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
FOCUSBING ON HEALTH EQUITY IN CANCER PREVENTION & CONTROL

PRACCTIS, an NCI-funded T32 program at UMMS is now accepting applications for postdoctoral scholars to start in August 2022. We train independent researchers to address critical prevention and control care delivery issues across the cancer continuum, including primary prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship, with emphasis on promoting change in individuals, providers and systems. We are seeking a postdoctoral trainee to further our emphasis on addressing health equity in cancer prevention and control. Our faculty mentors are leaders in health equity and low resource settings, health behavior change, implementation science, health informatics, systems change and health policy, health communications, population health sciences, and prevention and intervention research. Applicants must plan to pursue an independent research career focused on cancer prevention and control, have earned a doctoral degree (PhD, ScD, MD, DO, etc.), and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. For more information: contact Barbara Estabrook, Barbara.estabrook@umassmed.edu

ECIRTFICATION HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTIONS

Training Program:
Now available through UMCCTS Community Engagement and Collaboration Core

The UMMS IRB will now accept completion of the CIRTification program as an alternative to the CITI Program for community members who collaborate on UMMS research projects. CIRTification is a web-based human research protections training program tailored for community research partners. CIRTification Online was designed as an alternative to the CITI training program with community research partners in mind and focuses on the unique roles and responsibilities that community partners hold in health research projects. This program is specifically and only for community members that do not have an eIRB account who will work on UMMS studies. This training program takes about three hours to complete and includes audio, text and interactive activities around research involvement. Community partners will receive a certificate of completion for this training. This program has received positive feedback from local users. CIRTification was developed and is administered by the University of Illinois Chicago Center for Clinical and Translational Science. The program is available to UMMS through the UMCCTS Community Engagement and Collaboration Core (CECC) in collaboration with the IRB.

Details for researchers and learners are available here.
EDUCATION

TRANS DISCIPLINARY TRAINING IN CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH
T32 TRAINING PROGRAM

In collaboration with the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS) has established a NHLBI-funded T32 program with the aim of producing a new generation of investigators who have the enthusiasm, knowledge, and skills to make meaningful contributions to cardiovascular research across the translational spectrum. Directed by Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD (PQHS) and Kevin Donahue, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), the program is truly transdisciplinary, with investigators working together to expand knowledge beyond discipline-based concepts, theories, and methods.

UMass Chan Medical School offers an outstanding environment for this training, with exceptional depth and breadth of well-funded cardiovascular research, experienced and involved mentors, and extensive resources for training in the full spectrum of cardiovascular research from laboratory- to population-based.

Program Activities
The program offers 4 pre-doctoral fellowship slots, 4 post-doctoral fellowship slots, and 8 short-term summer training slots for medical students per grant year.

In addition to an intensive mentored research experience, trainees will participate in didactics, seminars, journal clubs, and scientific and grant writing workshops to develop the essential skills needed to be successful investigators. Post-doctoral T32 trainees may have a maximum of 20% effort dedicated to clinical responsibilities while funded through the T32.

For Eligibility Information and to Apply
Contact the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences at 508-856-8999 or email to rebecca.gigliello@umassmed.edu.
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.

KATHERINE LUZURIAGA, MD
PI AND DIRECTOR, UMCCTS

TERENCE R. FLOTTE, MD
CO-DIRECTOR, UMCCTS