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## UMCCTS Newsletter, April 2022

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# CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



## IN THE NEWS

**ALL OF US: RELEASE OF NEARLY 100,000 WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCES SETS STAGE FOR NEW DISCOVERIES**

POSTED ON MARCH 29TH, 2022 BY JOSHUA DENNY, M.D., M.S., AND LAWRENCE TABAK, D.D.S., PH.D.

NEARLY FOUR YEARS AGO, NIH OPENED NATIONAL ENROLLMENT FOR THE ALL OF US RESEARCH PROGRAM. THIS HISTORIC PROGRAM IS BUILDING A VITAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY WITHIN THE U.S. OF AT LEAST 1 MILLION PARTICIPANT PARTNERS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS. ITS UNIFYING GOAL IS TO ADVANCE PRECISION MEDICINE, AN EMERGING FORM OF HEALTH...

[READ MORE](#)

## WHAT'S NEW?

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# CCTS NEWS

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR K23 AWARD, DR. HEMOND!

Dr. Christopher Hemond, a KL2 scholar in the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS), recently received a K23 award.

According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), the K23 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award's goal "...is to support the career development of individuals with a clinical doctoral degree, who have the potential to develop into productive, clinical investigators, and who have made a commitment to focus their research endeavors on patient-oriented research."



*I am grateful for the generous support from the CCTS KL2 program, which provided resources, guidance, and structured mentorship to accelerate my clinical research training and expertise as related to MRI analysis and neuroinformatics in multiple sclerosis (MS). By protecting research time in parallel with clinical practice, the KL2 allows for an ideal clinical research environment to develop and expand on translational and transformative ideas.*

*My K23 will springboard off the infrastructure and results garnered from the KL2, as I continue to collaborate with colleagues both near and far to develop and improve MRI-based, translational biomarkers of chronic inflammation in MS. We hope that these biomarkers will be soon be used as novel treatment targets in the quest to halt neurodegenerative processes.*

## RESOURCES

You may be interested in this a new initiative at Moderna to provide materials (mRNA and LNPs) to academics interested in exploring new epitopes for mRNA vaccines.

If interested, please go to this website and enter your information. [MORE INFORMATION](#)





# RESOURCES

## RESEARCH INFORMATICS CORE

TriNetX is a powerful self-service search engine that enables researchers to rapidly identify the aggregate number of potential patients within the UMass network or across TriNetX's global health research network.

You may search clinical data from 1.8 million de-identified patients at UMass Memorial or 212 million de-identified patients nationwide.

Furthermore, you may explore multiple clinical data types, including demographics, diagnoses, procedures, vitals, medications, labs, and to a limited extent, other data such as genomics and clinical notes.

Because all data in TriNetX is de-identified, you do not need IRB approval to use it. Therefore, it is an ideal self-service solution to assess the feasibility of a study.

Although there is no need to learn how to code to use TriNetX, we do recommend you take the time and watch the tutorials available on the TriNetX support center after you sign up for an account.

After you get access to TriNetX, please go to: <http://support.TriNetX.com> to view their training modules. The Research Informatics Core supports TriNetX at UMass.

### REGISTER FOR ACCESS

The Research Informatics Core is sponsored by CCTS and PQHS, and partially funded by Grant # UL1-TR001453 .







# EVENTS

UMassAmherst

School of Public Health  
& Health Sciences

## DEAN'S SEMINAR SERIES

APRIL 7TH & APRIL 15TH

Caitlin Dreisbach, PhD, RN  
Postdoctoral Research Scientist at the Data Science  
Institute at Columbia University

"Data-Powered Women's Health: Intersection of the  
Microbiome, Nutrition, & Data Science."

April 7, 2022 @ 12:30 PM



Join us Thursday, April 7, at 12:30 pm for a special Dean's Seminar Series event featuring Caitlin Dreisbach, PhD, RN. Dreisbach will deliver a talk titled "Data-Powered Women's Health: Intersection of the Microbiome, Nutrition, & Data Science."

In her talk, Dr. Dreisbach will discuss the potential of data science methods to improve our understanding of the microbiome and its association with pregnancy outcomes. [RSVP here.](#)



Dr. Sarah Gonzalez-Nahm  
Assistant Professor of Nutrition

"Maternal and Infant Nutrition: Risk Mitigation and  
System Supports"

April 15, 2022 @ 3:00 PM

Join us April 15, 2022 from 3:00-4:00 pm, as the School of Public Health and Health Sciences welcomes Assistant Professor of Nutrition Sarah Gonzalez-Nahm for the next talk in our Spring 2022 Dean's Seminar Series.

Optimal nutrition during the first 1000 days has been associated with a lower risk for child obesity and chronic disease. Dr. Gonzalez-Nahm's work includes epidemiological and system-level research related to maternal diet, infant feeding, and child health. This talk will review recent and in-progress research on 1) the role of maternal diet in mitigating health outcomes from exposure to chronic stressors and 2) system-level barriers and facilitators to breastfeeding. This seminar will be held in a fully remote format. Please RSVP here to receive the [Zoom link.](#)



## EVENTS

### UMCCTS: NURSES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

SAVE THE DATES: APRIL 28TH & MAY 3RD

Karen Giuliano, PhD, RN, FAAN, MBA

*Large Volume IV "Smart" Pumps: Evidence to Guide Practice & Patient Safety*

April 28th 11-12 PM

The Nurses Special Interest Group, part of the UMCCTS, is hosting this webinar series and encourages nurse scientists, clinicians and individuals from all UMCCTS campuses and disciplines to attend.



Dr. Giuliano will present on the topic of Large Volume IV Smart Pumps on April 28th. Infusion pumps, specifically large volume IV smart pumps, are ubiquitous within the acute care environment. While IV smart pumps are intended to improve patient outcomes and safety, evidence demonstrates that safe and effective use of IV smart pumps is influenced by numerous factors. Important factors to consider include the end-user, the work environment, the type of IV smart pump, compliance with manufacturer system setup, and organization factors.

Zoom Link:

[https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/96410436229?](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/96410436229?pwd=aWUvdXJKNWhNcDNzR0w2eEdsY2d4QT09)  
 pwd=aWUvdXJKNWhNcDNzR0w2eEdsY2d4QT09

Password: 663776

Carrie- Ellen Briere

*From Bedside to Bench and Back Again: A Nurse Scientist's Career Trajectory in Translational Research*

May 3rd 11-12 PM

Dr. Briere is a neonatal nurse who focuses on the biology of human milk and its involvement with infant health, growth, and development. Her career began at the bedside supporting families to meet their human milk feeding goals and has grown to focus on the biological components of milk which are beneficial to infant health. In this presentation Dr. Briere will talk about expanding her research expertise to include basic science analyses and the importance of nurses in the research laboratory.





## EVENTS

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP: COMMUNICATING STATISTICAL/NUMERICAL INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY**

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM EDT | VIA ZOOM

Do you often work with highly technical, numerical and/or statistical information but struggle with how to communicate it effectively to non-experts? Do you find that your audiences often misunderstand or misuse numerical or statistical information in their decision-making? In this workshop, we will explore and practice concrete steps you can take as a communicator to improve your communication of numerical or statistical information with diverse audiences.



EZRA MARKOWITZ, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Environmental Decision-Making in the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His research and teaching focus on the intersection of decision-making, persuasive communication, public engagement with science, and environmental sustainability. He is particularly interested and an expert in the practical application of behavioral science to improve individuals' and communities' environmental decision-making.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### **POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCES: OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE**

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM



Presented by:

Dr. Rachel Shelton, ScD, MPH

Zoom link:

<https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/95013364343?pwd=Yi9Xc2Z3anFxeTFJcHZjY1VOQUVKQT09>

Password: 717383



## EVENTS

### UMCCTS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

JUNE 10TH | 9AM - 5 PM | VIRTUAL

UMASS CENTER FOR CLINICAL &  
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

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UMCCTS  
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

SAVE THE DATE

June 10, 2022 | Virtual  
9AM-5PM






The UMass Center for Clinical & Translational Science will host their annual Research Symposium featuring an overview of the in-house research being conducted on COVID, digital health, and cancer. [AGENDA](#)



## K CLUB

### Next Meeting

April 13th & 27th ~ 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.ed](mailto:Robyn.Leonard@umassmed.ed)



## EVENTS



## UMCCTS PROJECTS IN PROCESS SEMINAR SERIES (PIPSS)

FRIDAYS, JANUARY 7TH- MAY 6TH, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM



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?](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/99081667635?pwd=RE9MUGIOTG9uNzloRWxJYTJOazdwUT09)

[pwd=RE9MUGIOTG9uNzloRWxJYTJOazdwUT09](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/99081667635?pwd=RE9MUGIOTG9uNzloRWxJYTJOazdwUT09)

**Password:** 396027

Presenters	Title	Presentation Date
John Harris	Integrated Biomarker Core	April 8th
Christopher Hemond	Clinical Implications of "Smoldering" Paramagnetic Rim Lesions in Multiple Sclerosis	April 8th
Kate Pivovarova	Using Organizational Linkage Intervention to Enhance Collaborations between Recovery Courts and Community Based Medications for Opioid Use Disorders Providers	April 15th
Esther Boama-Nyarko	<i>Examining mental health treatment in perinatal women involved in MCPAP for Moms vs PRISM: Challenges and Considerations</i>	April 15th
Sohye Kim	TBA	April 22nd
Meagan Sabatino	Changes in Healthcare Utilization During the First Two Years of Massachusetts Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations	April 22nd
Michelle Trivedi	TBA	April 29th
Deborah Mack	TBA	April 29th
Kamaris Merritt	In-utero Cannabis Exposure in Preterm Infants and Risk of Chronic Lung Disease	April 29th



# FUNDING

## UMASS LOWELL SENSOR CHALLENGE

APPLY BY APRIL 13TH



The University of Massachusetts Lowell is seeking promising new start-up companies, entrepreneurs, engineers, and scientists who are developing novel sensor-based products. Domain areas include wearables, healthcare, energy, water, packaged good, and others.

Selected startups will pitch their product to potential customers, strategic investors, and partners. Winners will receive vouchers worth thousands that can help them gain office space, access to makerspace, and core research facility usage at UMass Lowell.

Learn more and apply by April 13th [here](#) .

### **NOT-NS-22-083: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PUBLISH A FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CLINICAL TRIAL READINESS FOR RARE NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASES**

ESTIMATED POST DATE: APRIL 15, 2022

ESTIMATED APPLICATION DUE DATE: AUGUST 18, 2022

This forecasted FOA will support clinical studies that address critical needs for clinical trial readiness in rare neurological and neuromuscular diseases. These studies should result in clinically validated biomarkers and clinical outcome assessment measures appropriate for use in upcoming clinical trials, enhancing the quality and increasing the likelihood of success of clinical trials in these rare diseases. [MORE INFO](#)



# FUNDING

## **RFA-OD-22-005: RADX-UP - SOCIAL, ETHICAL, AND BEHAVIORAL IMPLICATIONS (SEBI) RESEARCH ON DISPARITIES IN COVID-19 TESTING AMONG UNDERSERVED AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: MAY 2, 2022

The goals of this RADx-UP FOA are to conduct social, ethical, and behavioral implications (SEBI) research to understand and reduce barriers to COVID-19 testing, as well as COVID-19 disparities that arise from barriers to testing among underserved and vulnerable populations. (U01 Clinical Trial Optional) [MORE INFORMATION](#)

## **RFA-OD-22-006: RADX-UP COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH ON RAPID SARS-COV-2 TESTING AMONG UNDERSERVED AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: MAY 2, 2022

This FOA aims to implement and rigorously evaluate SARS-CoV-2 rapid testing strategies in communities experiencing COVID-19 health disparities. Two-year Rapid Testing Research Projects will evaluate (1) rapid testing interventions to prevent and control COVID-19 transmission among underserved and vulnerable populations and (2) partnership-driven research to implement and evaluate rapid testing and reduce COVID-19 disparities. (U01 Clinical Trial Optional) [MORE INFORMATION](#)

## **PAR-22-089: DEVELOPMENT OF BIOMARKERS OR BIOMARKER SIGNATURES FOR NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS** | CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: MAY 7, 2025

This FOA promotes the discovery and/or early evaluation of strong candidate biomarkers and biomarker signatures that can be used as tools to facilitate the clinical development of neurotherapeutics and their use in clinical practice. The goal of this initiative is to deliver candidate biomarkers or biomarker signatures that are ready for definitive analytical and clinical validation studies. (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional)

[MORE INFORMATION](#)





# FUNDING

## PAR-22-101: CLINICAL TRIAL READINESS FOR RARE DISEASES, DISORDERS, AND SYNDROMES

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS:

MAY 17, 2022 WITH ONGOING CYCLES THROUGH OCTOBER 17, 2024

These FOAs support clinical projects addressing critical needs for clinical trial readiness in rare diseases. The initiative seeks applications that enable efficient and effective movement of candidate therapeutics or diagnostics towards clinical trials, develop and test rigorous biomarkers and clinical outcome assessment measures, and/or define the presentation and course of a rare disease. (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) [MORE INFO](#)


## PAR-22-100: CLINICAL TRIAL READINESS FOR RARE DISEASES, DISORDERS, AND SYNDROMES

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS:

MAY 17, 2022 WITH ONGOING CYCLES THROUGH OCTOBER 17, 2024

These FOAs support clinical projects addressing critical needs for clinical trial readiness in rare diseases. The initiative seeks applications that enable efficient and effective movement of candidate therapeutics or diagnostics towards clinical trials, develop and test rigorous biomarkers and clinical outcome assessment measures, and/or define the presentation and course of a rare disease. (R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) [MORE INFO](#)

### 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



## TRANSDISCIPLINARY 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](mailto:rebecca.gigliello@umassmed.edu).

Applications will be reviewed and appointments will be made on a rolling basis. Send completed applications on or before June 1, 2022 by 5:00 pm EST to: [Rebecca.Gigliello@umassmed.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Gigliello@umassmed.edu)



**UMass Chan**  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

# EDUCATION



## TL1 & KL2 REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

### MENTORED CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) aims to develop and support the next generation of leaders in clinical and translational research. The TL1 program provides pre- and post- doctoral trainees with an overview of clinical and translational research, and the K program offers scholars who have already completed an MD or PhD program with training, mentorship and research opportunities needed to launch a career as an independent investigator. The scholars and trainees also benefit from the training programs, equipment, databases, mentors, administrative support, and pilot funding opportunities available here at UMass.

For More Information [click here](#).

## POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

### FOCUSING ON HEALTH EQUITY IN CANCER PREVENTION AND 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](#) and [Website](#) or contact Barbara Estabrook, [Barbara.estabrook@umassmed.edu](mailto:Barbara.estabrook@umassmed.edu)

# EDUCATION



## **ECIRTIFICATION 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](#).





# CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



## **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.*

## **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

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



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