IN THE NEWS

JUST HOW ACCURATE ARE RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS?
TWO TESTING EXPERTS EXPLAIN THE LATEST DATA

BY NATE HAFER, PHD, AND APURV SONI, MD, PHD’21
FOR THE CONVERSATION MAY 16, 2022

AS OF MAY 2022, THE U.S. IS EXPERIENCING ANOTHER UPTICK IN THE
NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES. HIGH RATES OF INFECTION IN EUROPE AND
ASIA, ALONG WITH THE CONTINUED EMERGENCE OF NEW SUB-VARIANTS,
SUCH AS OMICRON BA.4 AND BA.5, RAISE CONCERNS THAT ANOTHER SURGE
COULD BE ON THE WAY.

EVEN THOUGH DEMAND FOR COVID-19 TESTS GREATLY OVERWHELMED
SUPPLY EARLIER IN THE PANDEMIC, RAPID HOME TESTS ARE MORE
AVAILABLE TODAY. WHILE HOME TESTS PROVIDE A QUICK, ACCURATE
RESULT, THE FLIP SIDE IS THAT MANY TEST RESULTS ARE NO LONGER
REPORTED TO HEALTH AUTHORITIES. THE POWER BEHIND WIDELY
AVAILABLE OVER-THE-COUNTER TESTING IS THAT PEOPLE CAN QUICKLY AND
CONVENIENTLY KNOW THEIR INFECTION STATUS EARLY ON TO PREVENT
SPREADING THE VIRUS TO OTHERS.

READ MORE.
RESOURCES

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESEARCH INFORMATICS & QUANTITATIVE METHODS CORES HERE AT UMASS CCTS!

PRESENTATION LINK

An Update to the Research Informatics Core (RIC) and the Quantitative Methods Core (QMC)

Bruce Barton, Adrian Zai, Ugur Celik

Center for Clinical & Translational Science (CCTS) Population and Quantitative Health Science (PQHS)

EVENTS

BLUE KNIGHT SYMPOSIUM: THE POWER OF PARTNERING TO ACCELERATE PREPAREDNESS | JUNE 9, 2022

BLUE KNIGHT™ is a joint-initiative between Johnson & Johnson Innovation | JLABS and the Biomedical Advanced Research & Development Authority (BARDA), part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This year’s BLUE KNIGHT™ Symposium is focused on The Power of Partnering to Accelerate Preparedness and will convene global innovators, investors, partners and thought leaders. This global event is taking place on June 9th and some speakers include –

- Penny Heaton - Global Therapeutic Area Head of Vaccines at the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson
- Daniel Wolfe - Branch Chief of CBRN Vaccines at BARDA
- Ambika Bumb - Deputy Executive Director at the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense
- Kelly Chibale - Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Cape Town and Founder of the Drug Discovery & Development Centre (H3D)
- Rebecca Farkas - Head of Technology at CEPI

MORE INFO
EVENTS

FUNDAMENTALS OF CLINICAL RESEARCH
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS IN JUNE 2022

Bruce Barton, Ph.D. and Robert Goldberg, Ph.D.

Observational Investigations: Cross Sectional & Case-Control Studies
Tuesday, June 7th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Observational Investigations: Prospective Studies
Thursday, June 9th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Randomized Clinical Trials: Introduction and Theory
Tuesday, June 14th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Randomized Clinical Trials: Implementation and Conduct
Thursday, June 16th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Randomized Clinical Trials: Analysis and Publication
Tuesday, June 21st 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Effective Scientific Writing
Thursday, June 23rd 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Zoom Link:
https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/99382043396?pwd=dUF4NkxJMXE1RUl3dWpHU1duZ0ltZz09

Password: 524517
UMCCTS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: REGISTER NOW!
JUNE 10TH | 9AM - 5PM | VIRTUAL

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 | REGISTRATION

R CLUB NEXT MEETINGS
JUNE 14TH & 28TH, 2022

Are you an early stage investigator looking to write your first R21 or R01? Would you like input and feedback on your proposal from experienced faculty who have been there before? The UMCCTS is pleased to offer the R Club, a peer group that meets twice a month to review and plan for successful R-level grant submissions. Interested? Please email nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu to be added to our mailing list.

K CLUB
Next Meeting
June 8th & 22nd ~ 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.Leadon@umassmed.edu
EVENTS

2022 CAPCaT BIG COMPANY/LITTLE COMPANY SHOWCASE
JUNE 16, 2022

The third annual CAPCaT Big Company / Little Company Showcase will be held online on June 16th. Attendees will learn more about how they can build their own strategic corporate partnerships. MORE INFO

IMPACT ACCELERATOR PITCH-OFF
JULY 21, 2022

On July 21st, the third IMPACT Accelerator Pitch-Off will commence.

Calling all Investors, Medical Device Innovators, Biotech Entrepreneurs, and Life Sciences Industry Professionals:
Join Massachusetts life sciences community as the startups from the Cycle 3 Cohort pitch their medical device solution to a panel of judges. These startups are working with M2D2 and Hologic to advance the commercialization of their innovation through the IMPACT Accelerator Program. MORE INFO
EVENTS

BLUE KNIGHT QUICKFIRE CHALLENGE: NEXT GENERATION PREPAREDNESS SOLUTIONS | JULY 22, 2022

The QuickFire Challenge is a crowdsourcing competition that will award up to four innovators with up to $200,000 and applications are now open until July 22nd. Innovators are invited to submit their ground-breaking ideas or technologies that aim to enhance preparedness towards future known and unknown infectious disease threats.

We’ve developed a toolkit—linked here—to help you easily share this global event with your network. The toolkit includes the following tools, and we hope they are helpful:
- Overview slides for the Symposium and QuickFire Challenge
- Sample email copy and downloadable invite link
- Sample social media copy
- Creative assets for social and email

This event will give everyone in attendance the opportunity to engage with key stakeholders in the global health security space and feature spirited educational discussions that will benefit innovators, ecosystem partners and anyone looking to help to advance novel solutions. Also – it’s free to attend! MORE INFO

FUNDING

PAR-22-105, PAR-22-109 AND PAR-22-106: DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH IN HEALTH

(R01 Clinical Trial Optional)
(R21 Clinical Trial Optional)
(R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Closing dates for applications: October 2022 with ongoing cycles through February 2025 LOIs due 30 days prior (Required for R01 & R21)

These FOAs support studies to identify, develop, and/or test strategies for overcoming barriers to the adoption, adaptation, integration, scale-up, and sustainability of evidence-based interventions, broadly defined. Studies that focus on underrepresented communities or that advance dissemination and implementation research methods and measures are encouraged.

More Info (R01)
More info (R21)
More info (R03): Additional Info
FUNDING

PAR-22-184: CLINICAL TRIAL READINESS FOR RARE NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASES
(U01 CLINICAL TRIAL NOT ALLOWED)

Closing dates for applications: August 18, 2022 with ongoing cycles through February 19, 2025.

This FOA supports 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

PAR-22-101 AND PAR-22-100: CLINICAL TRIAL READINESS FOR RARE DISEASES, DISORDERS, AND SYNDROMES
(U01 CLINICAL TRIAL NOT ALLOWED)

(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
(R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Closing dates for applications: October 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.

MORE INFO (R21) MORE INFO (R03)

NOT-OD-22-106: NOTICE OF SPECIAL INTEREST (NOSI): INCREASING UPTAKE OF EVIDENCE-BASED SCREENING IN DIVERSE POPULATIONS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

(XX) (Participating ICs/FOAs and their specific interests are described in the notice.)

Applies to due dates between June 15, 2022 – May 8, 2025

This NOSI encourages applications proposing to test multilevel strategies and interventions to improve the uptake of evidence-based screening services across the lifespan and in diverse populations. Studies addressing efficacy, effectiveness, dissemination and implementation research or barriers to screening are encouraged.

MORE INFO
FUNDING

Phase 2 of the Somatic Cell Genome Editing (SCGE) program has been launched with a total budget of $225 million over the next 5 years. The goal of this phase is to accelerate the development of genome-editing therapeutic agents by facilitating IND-enabling studies, establishing pathways to regulatory approval, and disseminating successful strategies for initiating first in human clinical trials. To accomplish this, we are currently seeking applications for the following initiatives:

- **RFA-RM-22-014**: Technologies and Assays for Therapeutic Genome Editing INDs (U01)
- **RFA-RM-22-015**: IND-enabling Studies of Somatic Genome Editing Therapeutic Leads (U19)
- **RFA-RM-22-016**: Platform Clinical Trials of Somatic Genome Editing for Multiple Diseases (UG3/UH3)
- **RFA-RM-22-017**: Somatic Cell Genome Editing Translational Coordination and Dissemination Center (U24)

Key deadlines (for all initiatives):
Letter of Intent: 06/17/2022
Application Receipt Date: 07/19/2022

Interested in learning more?
SCGE will host an informational webinar on 05/04/2022. [MORE INFO](#)
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 science with special emphasis on supporting diversity candidates and those looking to re-enter the field. Therefore, we are requesting expressions of interest from individuals wishing to apply for a NCATS/NIH Diversity or Re-Entry Supplements.

Purpose: Diversity supplements aim to enhance the diversity of the biomedical research workforce by providing support for mentored research experiences for candidates from underrepresented groups.

Purpose: Re-entry supplements provide support for a mentored research experience for high-potential individuals seeking to re-enter active research careers after an interruption for family responsibilities or other qualifying circumstances. MORE INFO
EDUCATION

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
FOCUSED 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

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.
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.