IN THE NEWS

Pilot Project Program (PPP) Awards

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The UMass Center for Clinical & Translational Science (UMCCTS) is pleased to announce the 2022 Pilot Projects Program (PPP) awardees. The goal of the PPP program is to accelerate the translation of basic discoveries into practical, cost-effective solutions that improve human health. This competitive award grants PPP project teams up to $50,000 for 1 year to accelerate the translation of innovative discoveries.

This round of PPP applications yielded a total of 28 Letters of Intent (LOIs), of which 14 were invited to the full proposal stage, and the UMCCTS Review Committee chose 5 projects as our PPP awardees. We are proud to report a variety of collaborators from across our UMass Campuses such as UMass Amherst, as well as additional partners from institutions such as the University of Michigan. Congratulations to the UMCCTS Pilot Project Program (PPP) awardees!

The PPP Call for Proposal is released a few times a year, typically in the fall and spring. We hope investigators from all our UMass campuses and our partners will consider submitting a proposal for this funding opportunity in the future.
## PILOT PROJECTS PROGRAM (PPP)

### Developing a Targeted mRNA-Encapsulated Lipid Nanoparticle for Restoring Ciliogenesis & Treatment of Polycystic Kidney Disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prabhan Atukorale, PhD Assistant Professor</th>
<th>Co-PI</th>
<th>Dept. of Biomedical Engineering, UMass Amherst</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sumed Nandadasa, PhD Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Co-PI</td>
<td>Dept. of Pediatrics, UMass Chan Medical School</td>
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### Storytelling to Reduce Gap in Anticoagulation Use in African Americans with Atrial Fibrillation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alok Kapoor, MD Associate Professor</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Department of Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeron Allison, MD, MS Chair and Professor</td>
<td>Co-I</td>
<td>Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS), UMass Chan Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milagros Rosal, PhD Professor and Vice Provost</td>
<td>Co-I</td>
<td>Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS), UMass Chan Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geoffrey Barnes, MD Associate Professor</td>
<td>Co-I</td>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
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### Clinical Translation of an Innovative Leukemia Stem Cell Assay for Detection, Prognostication, and Precision Management of Blood Cancers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shyam Patel, MD, PhD Assistant Professor</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Department of Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Gerber, MD Professor and Chief of Hematology/Clinical Oncology</td>
<td>Co-PI, Mentor</td>
<td>Department of Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Woda, MD Professor and Chief of Hematopathology</td>
<td>Co-PI</td>
<td>Department of Pathology, UMass Chan Medical School</td>
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### Healthy at Home: Feasibility Trial of Home-Based Management of Patients with COPD Using Digital Technology

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<tr>
<th>Apurv Soni MD, PhD Assistant Professor</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Department of Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School</th>
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<tr>
<td>Laurel O’Connor, MD Assistant Professor</td>
<td>MPI</td>
<td>Department of Emergency Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John P. Broach MD, MPH, MBA, FACEP Associate Professor</td>
<td>MPI</td>
<td>Department of Emergency Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School</td>
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### Cross-Reactive T Cell Epitopes for Development of Pan-Coronavirus Subunit Vaccines

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<tr>
<th>Lawrence Stern, PhD Professor</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Department of Pathology, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology, UMass Chan Medical School</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Dawn Co, MD Assistant Professor</td>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Mauricio Calvo-Calle, PhD Instructor</td>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Pathology, UMass Chan Medical School</td>
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RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM RECORDING
The agenda and the link to the video are also archived and accessible from eScholarship@UMassChan at:

RECORDING

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

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

Bruce Barton, Adrian Zai, Ugur Celik

PRESENTATION
K CLUB

Next Meeting - July 13th & July 27th, 2022
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.

R CLUB

R Club is taking summer vacation until September. That said, Rob Goldberg and Beth McCormick are available to review and meet 1-1 if you need feedback.

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.
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.

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!
I-CORPS PROGRAM AT THE UMCCTS KICKOFF
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Does your latest discovery have commercial value? Would a potential "customer" of your research welcome your technology, protocol, or intervention?

The I-Corps Program at the UMCCTS, a UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) initiative, is designed to support the translation of biomedical research by providing early-stage education and strategic guidance to faculty, staff and students during the ideation phase of technology development. Designed specifically for the biomedical researcher at UMass, it guides interdisciplinary teams through a hands-on process of understanding the market for their technology utilizing a proven customer discovery methodology.

The kickoff will be Fri. Sept 30th, mid course check in Fri. Oct 14th, and course finale Fri. Oct 28th. More information to come shortly.
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)

MORE KEY GRANT INFO

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
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.

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 post-doctoral trainees with an overview of clinical and translational research. The trainees benefit from the training programs, equipment, databases, mentors, administrative support, and pilot funding opportunities available here at UMass.
PREPARING ENGINEERS FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (PEPP): INTERDISCIPLINARY SENIOR DESIGN PROJECTS

Purpose
Undergraduate engineering majors at UMass Amherst, UMass Dartmouth, and UMass Lowell complete a senior design project (two semester course) as a capstone to their degree. The purpose of this course is to give students skills in carrying out a project in a multidisciplinary team for a designated client, just as practicing engineers. This project requires the integration of skills developed throughout their undergraduate studies to solve the problems defined in the project.

Project Definition
To provide realism to this course, we invite UMass Chan Faculty to provide problem statements for the students to solve in this course. The problem statement will identify a pressing health care/laboratory problem, and if a project is selected, the faculty sponsor will be invited to help mentor the student team over the two semesters.

Key Dates
Problem Statement Due Date: Mon August 15, 2022
Project Selection: Mon August 29, 2022
Course Begins: September 2022
Course Ends: May 2023

Email completed project proposals and questions to:
Nate Hafer, UMCCTS Director of Operations,
nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu
EDUCATION

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: [https://bit.ly/31srJ66](https://bit.ly/31srJ66) and [https://www.umassmed.edu/pracctis](https://www.umassmed.edu/pracctis) and 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 CIRTifcation 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.
Continued: ECIRtification Human Research Protections Training Program

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.

**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 impact 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.