CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UMCCTS PRE-DOC TL1 TRAINEES!
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The TL1 program is an NCATS/NIH-funded mentored career development program which provides both pre- and post-doctoral awardees with education and training in translational science. Trainees benefit from the mentoring, course offerings, data resources, equipment, and administrative support available here at UMass.

More specifically, the TL1 award provides an exciting opportunity for awardees to develop clinical research skills as they gain research project experience under faculty mentorship. The TL1 funding mechanism provides a research stipend along with tuition and healthcare support, hands-on experience in the field, individualized training opportunities and coursework designed to prepare trainees for a translational research career. We are pleased to announce that Carly Herbert and Pryce Michener are among the selected candidates for the UMCCTS TL1 program. Congratulations!

Carly Herbert (MD/PhD track)
Dept. of Medicine
Mentor: Apurv Soni, MD, PhD
Project Title: Optimizing Use of Rapid Antigen Diagnostics for COVID-19

Pryce Michener (MD/PhD track)
Dept. of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences
Mentor: Peter Friedmann, MD
Project Title: Implementation of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Massachusetts Jails
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. MORE INFO

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.
EVENTS

I-CORPS PROGRAM AT THE UMCCTS
KICKOFF ON FRIDAY, 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.
The NCATS Assay Guidance Manual (AGM) program is hosting a two-day workshop that will cover a broad range of critical concepts underlying assay development and implementation for high-throughput screening and lead discovery projects. This workshop is designed to disseminate critical information about the implementation of robust assay methods and is particularly relevant for researchers developing molecular probes or clinical candidates. Many of the instructors have 20 to 30 years of experience in the field of drug discovery and will share information not readily found in a classroom or published material outside of the AGM. The workshop also will cover emerging technologies and modalities in drug discovery, including the use of DNA-encoded libraries and 3-D tissue models in drug discovery.
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)

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.
FUNDING

PAR-22-101 and PAR-22-100:

CLINICAL TRIAL READINESS FOR RARE DISEASES, DISORDERS, AND SYNDROMES
(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)

INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A CAREER IN TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE?
CONSIDER APPLYING FOR A NCATS DIVERSITY OR RE-ENTRY SUPPLEMENT

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST DUE TO UMCCTS AUGUST 31ST
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. Top applicants who expressed interest will be invited to submit full proposals, which will be forwarded to NCATS/NIH for a decision on the award. Applicants from all UMass campuses and our CCTS partner institutions are welcome to apply.

Please contact Dr. Jan Nissly with questions at Jan.Nissly@umassmed.edu.

Successful Diversity & Re-Entry Supplement awardee stories can be found on the NIH website.

**DO YOU QUALIFY FOR THE DIVERSITY SUPPLEMENT?**

**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.

The Diversity Supplement aims to provide opportunities to diverse individuals from a variety of educational levels including high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, and those holding doctorates who are looking to begin or further their career in the field of clinical and translational research, including:

**A. Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis.**

The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.
B. Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

C. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as those who meet two or more of the following criteria:
   - Were or currently are homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Definition: https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento/);
   - Were or currently are in the foster care system, as defined by the Administration for Children and Families (Definition: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/focus-areas/foster-care);
   - Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years (Definition: https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines);
   - Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor’s degree (see https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018009.pdf);
   - Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants (Definition: https://www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/eligibility.html);
   - Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child (Definition: https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-eligibility-requirements).
   - Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer (https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health), or b) a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas (qualifying zip codes are included in the file). Only one of the two possibilities in #7 can be used as a criterion for the disadvantaged background definition.

D. Women from the above backgrounds (categories A, B, and C) are especially encouraged to apply.

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR THE RE-ENTRY SUPPLEMENT?

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 aim is to prepare the awardee to apply for a fellowship (F), career development award (K), research award (R), or other independent research support by the end of the supplement period.
FUNDING

**Applicant Criteria:** Suitably trained individuals with doctoral degrees who have experienced a partial or complete research career interruption of 6 months – 8 years for a reason such as the following:

- Child rearing
- An incapacitating illness or injury of the candidate, spouse, partner or a member of the immediate family
- Relocation to accommodate a spouse, partner or other close family member
- Pursuit of non-research endeavors that would permit earlier retirement of debt incurred in obtaining a doctoral degree
- Military service

Priority will be given to those who have experienced a complete research hiatus. Current involvement in clinical and/or administrative responsibilities is fine, even if NIH/NCATS funded. Individuals with T and K awards are not eligible.

**TL1 REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)**

Post-Doc Mentored Career Development Opportunity
Deadline Extended to September 1st

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.

https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/education/t-training-program/
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

https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/education/preparing-engineers-for-professional-practice-pepp/
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 and https://www.umassmed.edu/pracctis and contact Barbara Estabrook, Barbara.estabrook@umassmed.edu

AUG 17TH 2022 AT 12:00PM EDT
COLLABORATION WEBINAR

Introduction to the Recruitment Innovation Center (RIC) Recruitment & Retention Materials Content + Design Toolkit

Stephanie Mayers, MEd, Caitlin Rantala, BA, Matt Schorr, BA & Tiffany Israel, MSSW

In this webinar, the Vanderbilt Recruitment Innovation Center (RIC) Recruitment Materials Team will share their new Recruitment and Retention Materials Content + Design Toolkit. This toolkit is a resource for research teams to utilize to create
EDUCATION

participant recruitment and retention materials, as well as materials for clinician awareness/study referrals. It includes: 1) guidelines, recommendations, and resources for creating content and design for participant recruitment and retention materials; 2) links to free various Canva templates designed by the RIC; and 3) tips and tutorials for creating materials in Canva. This toolkit was created in close collaboration with the RIC Community Advisory Board and includes advice from Community Engagement Studio experts.

REGISTER

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Sept. 21st 2022
12:00pm EDT
COLLABORATION WEBINAR

MOBILIZING THE PARTICIPANT VOICE: USING MYCAP TO ENHANCE PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH

Emily Serdoz, MPA

MyCap is a mobile application integrated with REDCap that can be easily configured without programming to collect ongoing participant information and patient-reported outcomes directly from study participants. Study teams can use MyCap to support participant engagement and retention on studies ranging from complex remote/no touch trials, studies using daily medication diaries, or studies seeking to capture or monitor symptomology between in-person study visits. In this webinar, we will share new features, new use cases, and future directions for MyCap as use continues to expand to more than 800 institutions around the world.

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POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
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AND CONTROL

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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