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Congratulations to our new 2022 TL1 Awardees

TL1 Trainees 2022

Stephen Diggs, PhD
Post Doctoral Associate
RNA Therapeutics Institute
Mentors: Andrei Korostelev, Ph.D. and Nikolaus Grigorieff, Ph.D.
Project Title: Elucidating the molecular basis of ALS using high-resolution in situ cryo-EM

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

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

Laël Ngangmeni, MBS
MD/PhD Student
Dept. of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences
Mentor: Kristin Mattocks, PhD, MPH
Project Title: Racial/Ethnic Differences in Provider Referrals and Perceptions of Prenatal Care among Pregnant Veterans
Discover all the CRC has to offer! Especially use of the space and assistance from staff for research studies.

The Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) at UMass Chan Medical School is home to the **Center for Clinical Research (CRC)**. Conveniently located just off the main lobby on the first floor of the Ambulatory Care Center, the CRC first opened in 2010. CRC research nurse manager, Bethany Trainor, RN, BSN, CCRP joined the CCTS in June of 2020 with nearly 20 years of experience in clinical trial research. She manages a staff of 10, including two full-time clinical research nurses, 3 full-time Clinical Research Coordinators, and 5 per diem clinical research nurses, all of whom are available to assist with the full range of activities required for efficient and compliant clinical research support.

The CRC currently supports 58 studies and 30 principal investigators from 10 departments who are conducting a broad range of adult and pediatric clinical trials. These include trials testing novel vaccines for COVID, respiratory syncytial virus, Epstein Barr virus, as well as medications and gene therapies for Diabetes, Multiple Sclerosis, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Vitiligo, Fragile X syndrome, Autism, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and Alzheimer's.
CRC facilities for investigative team use include a phlebotomy room, exam rooms (including negative pressure rooms) with exam tables or recliners for lengthy visits, and clinical research team touchdown space. The CRC also has an in-unit BSL-2 laboratory equipped with centrifuges, refrigerated centrifuge, -20 degree C freezer, -80 degree C freezer, 4 degree C refrigerator (short term storage), and dry ice. The lab has a portal for the pneumatic tube system linked to the hospital Rapid Response Lab, and there is daily FedEx pickup for shipping specimens.

Rooms can be rented hourly with rates tiered by funding source. Research study nurses conduct procedures such as EKG’s, IV placement, and phlebotomy, and administer study drugs. Clinical research coordinators can provide full or partial study coordination, as needed, including regulatory submissions, study participant recruitment and scheduling, simple laboratory processing, and data entry.

John Harris, MD, PhD professor and Chair of Dermatology, founding director of the Vitiligo Clinic and Research Center, and founding director of the Autoimmune Therapeutics Institute, is a dermatologist and physician-scientist, caring for patients in a vitiligo specialty clinic. He is currently working with the CRC and had this to say, “My research team has engaged with the CRC and its support staff for close to 10 years, and they have been critical for the successful implementation of our clinical and translational research strategies. We have rented rooms for our studies that recruit patients for trials and tissue acquisition, as well as employed administrators and nursing staff to help in patient scheduling, recruiting, blood draws, IRB management, and other trial work. Their knowledge and experience are stellar as they remove barriers to patient-centered research, helping to design and plan studies while brainstorming ways to make them more efficient and effective. The ability to engage the CRC for part-time effort allows us to initiate short-term studies with rapid turnover without having to recruit long-term staff. The CRC is a fantastic, accessible resource right here on campus to support various aspects of human research.”

Brenda Wong, MD, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) Program, UMass Memorial Hospital has offered this insight regarding use of staff and services at the CRC, “The availability of CRC services (exam rooms, staff, etc) have facilitated the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) program to conduct its clinical trials to meet the needs of the patients with DMD. The DMD program is very appreciative of the CRC staff. The willingness of the CRC staff to assist at all times has been invaluable towards team work to effectively and efficiently deliver clinical trials to the patients.”

Full information on CRC space, services, and costs can be obtained by completing the request form in the Translational Research Accelerator (TRAcS) Portal on the UMCCTS web site (https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/request-services). UMCCTS Tissue Bank and Biorepository services (https://www.umassmed.edu/tissue-and-tumor-bank) are available for those requiring more extensive clinical trials specimen processing. If you have any questions, please contact us at clinicaltrialsunit@umassmed.edu.
Kudos to Carly & Pryce!
Both Carly Herbert and Pryce Michener were recently selected for a speaker presentation at the NCATS (National Center for Advancing Translational Science) TL1 William Schnaper Visiting Scientist Fall Minisymposium entitled:

**Circumventing Road Blocks in Clinical and Translational Science**
This minisymposium takes place on December 13, 2022. *Further details below in the EVENTS section.*

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Carly Herbert, MD/PhD Candidate
Department of Medicine - Digital Medicine Program

Title of Carly’s abstract - *Design and Implementation of a Digital Site-less Clinical Study of Serial Rapid Antigen Testing to Identify Asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infection: Challenges and Lessons Learned*

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Pryce Michener, MD/PhD Candidate
Clinical and Population Health Research

Title of Pryce’s Abstract - *Barriers and Facilitators to Methadone Induction for Emergency Department Patients with Opioid Use Disorder: A Qualitative Study*
Events

TL1 Mini-Symposium:

**Circumventing Road Blocks in Clinical and Translational Science**

Registration is now open for the second virtual TL1 Visiting Scientist (William Schnaper Visiting Scientist Program) Mini-Symposium. We invite you to join us and hear from our TL1 trainees. The goal of the virtual mini-symposium is to highlight fellows’ stories of innovation, creativity, adaptability, and including the development of new research questions and adaptation of ongoing research.

This event is hosted by Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS) TL1 Translation Biomedical Science (TBS) Program and co-sponsored by the Center for Leading Innovation & Collaboration (CLIC) and the William Schnaper Visiting Scientist Program (WSVS) Working Group.

**Date:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022  
**Time:** 1:00-3:00pm ET  
**Registration:** [https://georgetown.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GddD2C-HSnOXeHMzXiMxQ](https://georgetown.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GddD2C-HSnOXeHMzXiMxQ)

All TL1 pre and postdoctoral fellows, staff, and TL1 Directors are encouraged to attend and support the T’s who will be presenting. For more details on who will be presenting please see the flyer attached.

Please contact Emily Bujold at eab159@georgetown.edu with any questions.

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**Effective Communication of Risk and Uncertainty With Non-Experts**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST**  
**Via Zoom (Registration is Required!)**

Participants will learn about challenges and opportunities with respect to effective communication of risk and uncertainty, including conveyance of probabilistic information, distinguishing between absolute and relative risk, and understanding how peoples’ perceptions of uncertainty may depend on what is at stake. The focus will be on how to communicate risk and uncertainty more effectively with non-experts, including the use of visual techniques and analogies to improve understanding and
Justin Gross, PhD is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as well as a core faculty member of the UMass Amherst Computational Social Science Institute (CSSI). His research interests include political ideologies, communication in mass and social media, public opinion, and the intersection of identity and political beliefs. He works on methodological problems in measurement, text analysis, and network analysis, and is especially interested in methods that put statistical and computational tools to use in service of our ability to achieve rich qualitative insights. He has taught statistical methods for over fifteen years and written about quantitative reasoning in journals and the popular press.

Click Here to Register

Real-time captioning will be provided

This is the second workshop in a 3-part series on Science Communication. The workshops are related but stand alone. You can join any or all of them, and do not need to have attended earlier sessions to take part fully in a later workshop. Watch for dates and details!

https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/community

Grant Writing Support
R Club

Next Meetings

November 8th & 22nd, 2022 ~ 11:00 AM -12:00 PM ~ Virtual, Zoom

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.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/5682209338?pwd=dHRmWnBnWHBZZ1I0c3B4M05Pc3BTdz09
Password: 809084

K Award Writing Group

Next Meetings

November 9th & 23rd, 2022 ~ 4:00-5:00 PM ~ Virtual, Zoom

The K Award Writing Group supports junior faculty in the development of K-level “Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award” applications. According to NIH, the award 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 Award Group meets bi-weekly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 4-5 pm via Zoom. Attendance at K Award Group meetings can be for information purposes and/or 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 the K Award Group, please email Robyn.Leonard@umassmed.edu.

More Info
The PRACCTIS program (Prevention and Control of Cancer: Training for Change in Individuals and Systems) at UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts, is now accepting applications for postdoctoral scholars. Funding is available starting now and in August 2023 for fellowships in three specialty areas: Cancer Prevention and Control [https://bit.ly/3rzvPmt]; Health Communication [https://bit.ly/3Meqc6W] and Tobacco and Digital Health Research [https://bit.ly/3D9NBuB]. 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. Emphasis is on promoting change in individuals, providers and systems. Our faculty mentors are leaders in health equity and low resource settings, health behavior change, health informatics, systems change and health policy, health communications, population health sciences, implementation science, 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. PRACCTIS is a T32 training program funded by NCI. For more information contact Barbara Estabrook, Barbara.estabrook@umassmed.edu

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is proud to announce the RADx® Tech for Maternal Health Challenge.
RADx® Tech for Maternal Health Challenge

The competition will award up to $8 million in prizes to teams or businesses that develop medtech solutions to improve postpartum health outcomes in areas where access to maternal care services is limited. Apply by 11/11/22

NOT-EB-22-009:
Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for NIBIB Trailblazer Award for New and Early Stage Investigators (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)

Estimated Post Date: November 15, 2022
Estimated Application Due Date: February 16, 2023

The forecasted FOA will solicit applications for research to pursue research programs of high interest to the NIH that integrate engineering and the
Join the challenge to develop, train, and test models to aid in predicting the susceptibility to and likelihood of developing PASC/Long COVID in patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Long COVID, can affect anyone, including children, and it can develop in people who had asymptomatic, mild, or severe COVID-19. To complement the National Institutes of Health (NIH) other Long COVID research initiatives, like Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER), the RADx-Radical (RADx-rad) program at the NIH is launching the Long COVID Computational Challenge (L3C). NIH designed this challenge to support creative data-driven solutions that meaningfully advance the current understanding of the risks of developing PASC/Long COVID. The total prize for this Challenge will be up to $500,000.

Submissions Due: December 15

RFA-AG-23-034:

Mechanism-Focused Research to Promote Adherence to Healthful
Behaviors to Prevent Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) and AD-Related Dementias (ADRD) (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Required)

Closing Date for Applications: January 20, 2023

Using the R61/R33 Exploratory/Developmental Phased Award activity code, this FOA invites applications for behavior change trials addressing psychological and interpersonal mechanisms driving adherence to behaviors or lifestyle changes relevant to prevention of cognitive decline, Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), and Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and AD-related dementias (ADRD).

RFA-AI-22-055:

Maintaining Immunity After Immunization (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Closing date for applications: January 13, 2023

This FOA promotes research to improve understanding of how vaccines against infectious agents lead to durable protective immunity. This initiative will support studies that define components and mechanisms of the immune system that determine such durability. Applications must propose use of human cells/tissues to decipher the human response elicited through vaccination, though animal studies may also be included.

NOT-OD-22-216 and NOT-OD-22-217:

Notices of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for
Development of Resources and Technologies for Enhancing Rigor, Reproducibility, and Translatability of Animal Models in Biomedical Research

(R24, R01)

Estimated FOA Publication Date: November 4, 2022
First Estimated Application Due Date: January 6, 2023

Links for More Info:

RFA-EB-22-002:

HEAL Initiative: Translational Development of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Devices
(R18 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Closing date for applications: June 17, 2025

This opportunity targets development of clinical-grade prototypes intended for use as safe, effective, and non-addictive device-based technologies and approaches to treat pain. Awarded activities will facilitate the translation of new devices up to the stage of readiness for first in human (FIH) clinical trials by overcoming key challenges identified during preliminary proof-of-concept studies.

Education & Training
Predoctoral TL1 Request for Applications (RFA)
Mentored Career Development Opportunity

Applications are due by 5pm ET on December 1, 2022

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science TL1 Training Program (PI: Dr. Kate Lapane) is seeking predoctoral applicants for our NCATS/NIH-funded fellowship program. Applications are due by 5pm ET on December 1, 2022.

Applicant Eligibility: Applicants must show evidence of high academic performance in the sciences and commitment to a career as an independent researcher.

- Pre-doctoral candidates must first be accepted into a UMass Chan Medical School doctoral program and be willing to complete the required 10-17 credit curriculum.

- By the time of the award, the individual must be a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (i.e., possess a currently valid Permanent Resident Card USCIS Form I-551, or other legal verification of such status).

- Applicants must be a member of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS). Apply for membership (no cost) online at: https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/about/membership/.

- Individuals from underrepresented ethnic/racial groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply (see https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html).
CITE & SUBMIT

Please cite the NIH CTSA award any time you use The UMass 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 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.

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