

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2023



CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



News

Jamie Faro Receives K01 Award

(with a little help from our K Award Writing Group)



Jamie Faro, PhD., Assistant Professor, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School has received a 4-year K01 award funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Her project focuses on reducing cardiovascular disease risk in cancer survivors, a population at particularly high risk. Physical activity can reduce this risk, and referrals to physical activity programs addressing survivors' choices are highly recommended from providers in cancer survivorship, though rarely implemented. In her project, she proposes to

develop ActivityChoice, a clinic-based implementation program, using patient narrative decision aids to support choices to a group in-person, group virtual, or self-monitored digital health physical activity program. (See image example below depicting her proposed program.)

Jamie notes that support from the CCTS K Award Writing Group contributed to the acceptance of her grant submission. She states, "I entered the K-Club as a postdoc with no idea how to write an NIH Biosketch, let alone an entire grant. I have been supported through an initial and resubmission for my career development award by the amazing faculty of the group. Their expertise and insight, coupled with the resources provided by the K-Club, have been invaluable to my career growth and acquisition of this career development award."

ActivityChoice Decision Aid and eReferral Tool

Decision Aid for Physical Activity Program Choices for Cancer Survivors

What is a decision aid and why do I need it?
Patient decision aids are tools that help people become involved in decision making by making explicit the decision that needs to be made, providing information about the options and outcomes, and by clarifying personal values.

Who is it for?
This decision aid is designed for all cancer survivors who receive care at UMass Memorial.

Why is this important to me?
For people during and following cancer treatment, research shows lower amounts of exercise can still help with the following cancer treatment-related symptoms:

Cancer-related fatigue

Health-related quality of life

Physical function

Anxiety

Depression

Sleep

Lymphedema?

Bone health?

eRefer

Your Email Address:

Project List:

LIVESTRONG+Fitbit/App
Fit Cancer +Fitbit/App
FitbitApp
LIVESTRONG
Fit Cancer

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Events



UMCCTS
**Projects in Process
Seminar Series, PiPSS**

Fridays, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
January 6th through May 19th



Fridays, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
January 6th through May 19, 2023 | Virtual

As part of the T, K, MSCI, and Millennium programs, the annual Projects in Process Seminar Series (PiPSS) will take place January through May 2023 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/98536008463?pwd=QkpDMzJhdDVkSUFNWjRQaERVcDE1QT09>

Password: 013592

Presenter	Program	Presentation Title	Date
Nate Hafer & Sally Gore	CCTS	Discussion of CCTS & Library Resources	January 6th
Lael Ngangmeni	TL1 Trainee	"Improving Women Veterans' Experience of Obstetric Care"	January 6th
Jan Nissly	CCTS	Networking	January 13th
Pryce Michener	TL1 Trainee	"Barriers and Facilitators to Methadone Induction for Emergency Department Patients with Opioid Use Disorder: A Qualitative Study"	January 13th
Beth Trainor	Clinical Research Center (CRC)	CRC Resources	January 20th
Deborah Mack	TL1 Trainee	"Defining Life-Limiting Illness in the Nursing Home Population "	January 20th
Alex Wilkins	MSCI	"Adapting Motivational Enhancement Therapy for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community"	January 27th
Esther Boama-Nyarko	TL1 Trainee	"Examining Treatment Rates Among Perinatal Women with Depression"	January 27th

UMCCTS Summer 2023 Undergrad Clinical Research Internship Program

UMCCTS offers a full-time, 10-week Summer Undergraduate Clinical Research Internship Program at UMass Chan Worcester in collaboration with the UMass campuses around the commonwealth.

We are seeking clinical research teams based at UMass Chan Worcester who would like to host and mentor an advanced level undergraduate student who is considering a career as a Clinical Research Professional.

Mentoring team applications are due by January 13, 2023.

[Click here for more information](#)

If you know any undergraduate students at any of the UMass campuses who might be interested in clinical research, please help spread the word.

Students considering a health-focused career who are interested in working in the field of clinical and translational research upon graduation should apply for this unique opportunity at the UMass Chan Medical School Campus in Worcester, MA.

INFORMATION SESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR:

January 12th (11-12 PM), 17th (1-2 PM), 20th (3-4 PM), 25th (12-1 PM) February 8th (3-4 PM) & 9th (1-2 PM)

[SIGN-UP HERE](#)

Intern applications are now being accepted with a deadline of February 15, 2023 (February 3, 2023 for priority consideration).

[MORE INFO HERE](#)

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 uptake of information.



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

January 10th & 24th, 2023 ~ 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

January 11th & 25th, 2023 ~ 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 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 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 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 the K Award Group, please email Robyn.Leonard@umassmed.edu.

[More Info](#)

Funding

RFA-PM-23-002 and RFA-PM-23-001:

**Small Grants to Enhance the Use of the All of Us Research Programs Data
(R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)**

and

**Enhancing the Use of the All of Us Research Programs Data
(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)**

Posted Date: December 23, 2022

Application Due Date: March 1, 2023

The All of Us Research Program (All of Us) within the Office of the Director (OD) encourages investigators to apply for grant applications that will advance research in high-priority mission areas. R03 supports use of standard methods and approaches to analyze currently available data within the All of Us Research Programs Researcher Workbench. R21 supports development of new methods, models, and tools and their use in analyzing data in the Researcher Workbench.

[More Info R03](#)

[More Info R21](#)



National Institute of
Allergy and
Infectious Diseases

Funding Opportunity NOT-AI-23-001

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Advance Rapid Point-of-Care Hepatitis C Virus Diagnosis](#)

For more, check NIAID [Opportunities](#) and [Announcements](#).

You can follow us on [Twitter: @NIAIDFunding](#).

PAR-24-022:

Trailblazer Award for New and Early Stage Investigators

(R21 Clinical Trial Optional)

Posted Date: November 18, 2022

**Application Due Date: February 16, 2023 ongoing
through October 16, 2025
(Reissue of PAR-20-084)**

Award is an opportunity for NIH-defined New and Early Stage Investigators to pursue research programs that integrate engineering and the physical sciences with the life and/or biomedical sciences. Project may be exploratory, developmental, proof of concept, or high risk-high impact. No preliminary data are required.

[More Info](#)

PAR-23-025 & PAR-23-026:

Ancillary Studies to Ongoing Clinical Projects (R01/R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: November 21, 2022

Application Due Dates: April 6, 2023 ongoing through December 5, 2025

FOA solicits applications proposing time-sensitive ancillary studies related to the NIAMS mission in conjunction with privately or publicly funded, active, ongoing clinical parent projects (clinical trials or other active clinical studies).

[More Info R01](#)

[More Info R21](#)

PRACCTIS Program

(Prevention and Control of Cancer: Training for Change
in Individuals and Systems)

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

PAR-23-039 and PAR-23-040:

**Development of Resources
and Technologies for Enhancing Rigor, Reproducibility, and**

Translatability of Animal Models in Biomedical Research

Development of Resources and Technologies for Enhancing Rigor, Reproducibility, and Translatability of Animal Models in Biomedical Research
(R24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed / R01)

Posted Date: October 28, 2022

Application Due Dates: February 24, 2023 and cycles through May 2025

FOA seeks hypothesis driven research projects aiming to enhance the rigor, reproducibility, and translatability of animal research through the development and implementation of technologies, tools, and resources that have significant impact across a broad range of research areas using animal models.

[R24 More Info](#)

[R01 More Info](#)

RFA-EB-22-002:

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

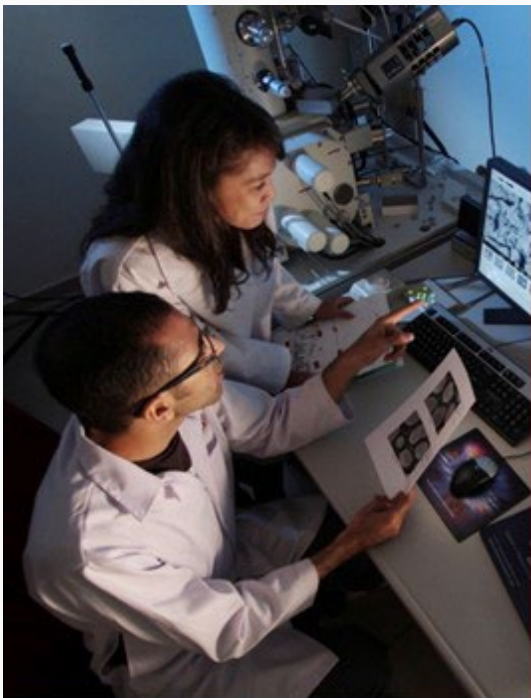
Closing date for applications: June 17, 2025

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.

[More Info](#)

Education & Training



UMCCTS

KL2 Request for Application (RFA)

Mentored Career Development Opportunity
Rolling Deadline



UMass Chan

KL2 Diversity Applicants
Request for Application (RFA)

Mentored Career Development Opportunity

The KL2 program offers scholars with earned doctoral degrees the training, mentorship and research opportunities needed to develop a career as an independent investigator. KL2 scholars also benefit from the training programs, networking opportunities, administrative support, access to core services and pilot funding opportunities available at UMass Chan.

(UMCCTS) aims to develop, support, and enhance the diversity of the next generation of leaders in clinical and translational science.

Current and incoming UMass Chan junior faculty members from underrepresented populations who have interest in developing an independent career in clinical and translational research are encouraged to apply.

[Access KL2 Website Here](#)

Course in Clinical Trials Spring, 2023

Are you ready to take your molecule or intervention to the next phase of research?

The University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMCMS) Graduate School of Biomedical Science is offering a course in Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials (CTS 609) in the Spring Semester 2023 (January 17-May 5). This course is open to all UMCMS research and clinical faculty, staff, students, as well as researchers external to UMCMS. Description:

The course is intended for the research scientist. The goal is to sharpen the methodological skills required in designing experimental studies for clinical investigators. The course will cover theoretical and practical methods in designing and implementing clinical trials, emphasizing design implications, developing individual study protocols, and addressing questions of importance in a feasible manner. The course emphasizes the design of intervention studies to achieve specific research objectives by selecting appropriate study samples, endpoints, and trial designs. It will cover not only the basics of clinical trials, including reviews/critiques of major clinical trials, but also new developments in trial design (e.g., stepped wedge designs, adaptive designs, integrated Phase I/II and II/III designs), randomization strategies

(e.g., covariate-adjusted randomizations), and trial conduct (e.g., risk-based monitoring, consent processes, difficult environments).

Dates: January 18 through May 3, 2023, no class on March 15 – Spring Break

Times: Wednesdays, 8:00 – 10:00 AM for live lectures, article reviews, and discussions

Location: Zoom

Information on how to register for the course can be found at <https://www.umassmed.edu/gsbs/academic-student-affairs/registration/>.

Lecturer: Dr. Bruce Barton, Professor in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, is a biostatistician with over 45 years of experience in randomized clinical trials and has served as the Principal Investigator/Director of Data Coordinating Centers for 38 major clinical trials across all phases. Interested researchers should contact Dr. Barton (bruce.barton@umassmed.edu) for further information about the course content.

Join Us! Clinical Research Professionals Group (CRPG) Meetings

Want to know stay up-to-date about changes to regulations, research systems, and research related institutional policies around the campus?

Want to learn about the various core services that can assist you and your department in your projects and trials?

Interested in educational resources, trainings, and professional certifications?

Join us for the monthly Clinical Research Professionals Group (CRPG) meetings to hear about these topics and more!

More info, meeting schedule, and past meetings can be found on the [CCTS CRPG SharePoint](#) page.

Want to join the CRPG Distribution Group?

[Submit a TRAcS request 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 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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