



CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



News

ANNOUNCING OUR 2022 FALL/WINTER PPP AWARDEES



Pilot Project Program (PPP) Awards



The four project teams (Top row from L to R): *Evan Bradley, MD, PhD; John P. Haran, MD, PhD; Vanni Bucci, PhD; Lisa A. Lewis, PhD; Li Li, PhD; Sanjay Ram, MBBS*

(Bottom row from L to R): *Ekaterina Pivovarova, PhD; Bruce Barton, PhD; Peter Friedmann, MD, MPH; Adrian Zai MD, PhD, MPH; Kimiyoshi Kobayashi MD, MBA; Richard T. Ellison, III, MD; Robert C. Steppacher, Jr., MD*

Congratulations to these four teams whose pilot projects were selected. For more information on the teams and a description of their projects, click below.

Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research T32 Training Program

UMass Chan Medical School has a cardiovascular T32 training grant entitled "Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research" under the direction and senior leadership of Drs. Catarina Kiefe and Kevin Donahue. The program represents a unique opportunity for the institution to promote the entire spectrum (T0 – T5) of cardiovascular research on our campus.

****Request for *Post-Doctoral* Trainee Applications****

Applicant Eligibility:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_11/11.3.2_eligibility.htm

and

****Request for *Pre-Doctoral* Trainee Applications****

Applicant Eligibility:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_11/11.3.2_eligibility.htm

Submission Deadline Date:

Applications will be reviewed and appointments will be made on a rolling basis. Send completed applications on or before June 1, 2023 by 5:00 pm EST to: Rebecca.Gigliello@umassmed.edu

[More Info and Application Links](#)

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 19th 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

February 3, 2023



**Dr. Bruce Barton, Dr. Adrian Zai
& Ugur Celik**

**Quantitative Methods Core,
Biomedical Informatics Core & TriNetX**

Presenter	Program	Presentation Title	Date
Bruce Barton, Adrian Zai, Ugur Celik	CORE	Quantitative Methods Core & Biomedical Informatics Core & TriNetX	Feb 3rd
Jamie Faro	Implementation Science K12	"ActivityLink: Implementation of Clinic-Delivered Electronic Physical Activity Referrals for Cancer Survivors"	Feb 10th
Alper Kucukural	CORE	Bioinformatics Core: DSuite: Automated Data Processing and Management	Feb 10th
Break: No Presentations			Feb 17th
Meagan Sabatino	Cancer Prevention T32	TBD	Feb 24th
Donghee Lee	Cancer Prevention T32	TBD	Feb 24th

NURSES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Speaker Series



The Nurses Special Interest Group, part of the UMCCTS, is hosting this webinar series and encourages nurse scientists, clinicians and individuals from all UMCCTS campuses and disciplines to attend.

*The webinar being held on February 14th, will be presented by
Ian A. Lane, RN, PhD Student*

"Recommendations for Measuring Gender Identity in Clinical Nursing Research"

**February 14, 2023
12:00-1:00 PM | Virtual**

Mr. Lane's research interests focus on pain experiences and pain disparities in sexual and gender minority emerging adults (SGM-EA). As a predoctoral investigator, he will use mixed methods to understand the experiences and self-management strategies of SGM-EA with migraine. SGM-EA are at 58% greater odds of migraine compared to cis-gender, heterosexual individuals. Connecting his previous work as a statistical analyst in Psychiatry with his current dissertation work, Mr Lane worked as a project coordinator and data analyst on a UMass-led longitudinal survey from 2017-2022 designed to assess the social engagement of 279 emerging adults (ages 16-25) struggling with mental health conditions, called the Sequences of Employment and Education (SEED) Study. This project included questions related to participants' gender identity. In addition, it asked these questions about gender at every follow-up timepoint for a total of 20 months. These results will be presented in this discussion, to guide best practices for nurse researchers considering how to formulate their gender identity demographics survey questions.

Zoom Link: <https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/93136748345?pwd=MGkwRlMxcjFqTTgrTHlob2dDVkptUT09>

Passcode: 438243

Grant Writing Support



R Club

Next Meetings

February 7th & 21st, 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

February 8th & 22nd, 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](#).

Novel Assays to Address Translational Gaps in Treatment Development

(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional)

Posted Date: January 13, 2023

Application Due Dates: February 21, 2023 and cycles through June 20, 2025

The goal of this initiative is to identify neurophysiological measures as potential assays for mental health treatment development research. This FOA will support efforts to optimize and evaluate measures of neurophysiological processes that are disrupted within or across mental disorders in both healthy humans and in another species relevant to the therapeutic development pipeline.

[More Info Here](#)

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



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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