OUR NEW MONTHLY INFORMATIONAL SERIES
Sponsored by the Office of Clinical Research (OCR)

CONTENTS

PG. 2  News
PG. 3  Events
PG. 10  Grant Writing
PG. 11  Education
PG. 15  Funding
ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MONTHLY INFORMATIONAL SERIES
SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF CLINICAL RESEARCH (OCR)

The Office of Clinical Research (OCR), a part of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS), recently hosted an in-person session titled “Orientation to Clinical Research at UMass Chan” to a group of 45 staff and faculty members. This presentation was the first of a monthly series intended to provide a high-level overview of the resources and systems that are in use and available at UMass Chan, as well guide staff on issues such as account access and institutional policies around the conduct of clinical research.

Information about future sessions can be found on the CCTS SharePoint

Pictured at left are four of the presenters. (L-R) Eric Stratton, Sr. Clinical Research Project Manager; Heather Strom Tessier, IRB Education Specialist; Ann Han, Clinical Research Navigator and August Ashbaker, Clinical Research Operations

IT Analyst Paul Langlois, ASIO, Research Technology also presented)

Attendance is open to all clinical research staff throughout all departments of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, including Principal Investigators, Study Coordinators, Research Nurses, Administrators, and others, regardless of their background or experience in clinical research.

These sessions will also provide an opportunity to meet some of the OCR staff and learn more about the OCR and IRB, as well as to meet some of colleagues from other departments who are also working in research. Further, the information presented will prove useful for new staff in the onboarding process as well as experienced staff who may want a refresher as to these resources.
ANNOUNCING OUR NEW CORE

The Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences is pleased to announce the formation of the Qualitative Research Core, which will join the Quantitative Methods Core.

The Qualitative Core will be led by Dr. Kristin Mattocks, Professor of PQHS and Associate Dean for Veterans Affairs, and will include expertise from other qualitative researchers within PQHS.

The overarching goals of the Qualitative Research Core are:

1. To assist UMass Chan investigators with the design, implementation, and analysis of qualitative research;
2. To provide assistance to UMass Chan investigators in preparing qualitative grant submissions and manuscripts;
3. To foster an interest in qualitative research among UMass Chan investigators through timely qualitative methods seminars;
4. To develop, as needed, additional qualitative research methods courses, including courses focused on ethnography and general qualitative research methodology.

To schedule a consult with Dr. Mattocks for your qualitative research needs, sign-up here: Book time with Mattocks, Kristin

Other questions? Please contact Dr. Mattocks directly
Kristin.mattocks@umassmed.edu
GREAT NEWS!

Thinking of submitting an article to the Journal of Clinical and Translational Science? The Lamar Soutter Library has recently announced an agreement with Cambridge University Press (CUP), waiving article processing charges (APCs) for open access articles that meet the following criteria:

- Have a corresponding author affiliated with UMass Chan Medical School.
- Be original research that falls under a type of eligible article. These include research articles, review articles, rapid communications, brief reports, and case reports.
- Be accepted for publication by an CUP journal covered by the agreement.
- Be accepted for publication on or after January 1, 2023.

More details can be found here.

CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT FOR THE PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM

The deadline to submit the LOI is March 24, 2023.

More details here
EVENTS

SPECIAL SEMINAR
“Improving Cancer Health Equity in Rural Settings through Participatory Implementation Science”

Melinda, M. Davis, Ph.D., M.C.R.
Associate Professor of Family Medicine, School of Medicine
Associate Professor, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health Interim Director, Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network Co-Director, Community & Collaboration Core, Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute

March 22nd, 2023
Noon to 1 pm

Streamed Remotely via Zoom. Register in advance for this webinar: https://umassmed.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hrdGUagDQuqwEHBBniA_cQ

Sponsored by: UMass Ambulatory Research Consortium, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Department of Medicine and the iDAPT Developing Cancer Center (funded by NCI, Award #P50CA2449)
Tufts CTSI’s “Health Care Activism, Community Health, and Patient-Centered Research” Course

Beginning March 7, 2023
Tufts CTSI is offering a 1-credit course “Health Care Activism, Community Health, and Patient-Centered Research” this spring.

The course meets March 7 through April 18.
Course attendance is virtual and registration is open to all.

Stakeholder engagement is increasingly recognized as essential to healthcare research. It can make research more patient-centered, relevant, and useful. This course provides important context and insights into the different ways patients and communities get involved in health care research. It also supports comparison and contrast of approaches and methodologies to give course attendees a broader view of the diverse, complex, and vital work involved in engagement.

This introductory course covers three approaches to stakeholder and community engagement in health-related research. We refer to these approaches as traditions, since each draws from one or more distinct academic discipline(s) and was developed in its own era of civic reform:

- Patient-centered research in which researchers initiate engagement with members of the public to make health research more relevant and useful
- Community-based health research in which researchers and communities partner to co-create research that can address community needs
- Health care activism in which members of the public organize to influence health research.

Leading the course are Thomas W. Concannon, PhD and Marisha E. Palm, MSc, PhD.

To learn more about the course and enroll, click here. If you have any questions about the course, please email Dr. Palm.
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
EVENTS

We would like to formally invite CTSA trainees to attend the Scholar SIG’s first seminar “The Hidden Curriculum of Scientific Meetings” by Dr. Vicki Ellingrod on March 14, 2023 at 3 pm CST/4 pm EST.

Registration link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc97tIMy6-OyVM2k0W31EFewg-Si5rQYDn82UVSrK5FPmKvbw/viewform

Deadline to register: March 10, 2023

Scholar SIG Leaders
Chair | Adriana Morales Gomez (moralesgomez.adriana@mayo.edu)
Vice-Chair | Minerva Orellana (orellana.minerva@mayo.edu)
Secretary | Angita Jain (jain.angita@mayo.edu)

Data Visualization for Effective Science Communication With Diverse Audiences

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST
Via Zoom (Registration is Required!)

Participants will learn about various approaches to visualizing scientific findings and data for effective communication with diverse audiences. Focus will be on both key principles of effective data visualization as well as concrete skill-building amongst participants.

Presenters are Narges Mahyar, PhD, Assistant Professor in the College of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Ali Sarvghad Batn Moghaddam, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, in the College of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
Narges Mahyar, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the College of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Professor Mahyar's research falls at the intersection of social computing and design with the goal of augmenting groups' abilities to solve complex problems. She designs, develops, and evaluates novel social computing and visualization techniques that help people (both experts and non-experts) make better decisions. More recently, she has focused on exploring new strategies for scaling and diversifying public engagement in massive decision-making processes related to civic issues. Her work aims to advance civic technology that alleviates social inequality by including marginalized perspectives and leveraging the diversity of viewpoints and experiences to drive collective innovation.

Ali Sarvghad Batn Moghaddam, PhD, is a Research Assistant Professor, in the College of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Sarvghad's research investigates novel visualization and interaction techniques for supporting exploratory data analysis and sense-making. Ali works at the intersection of HCI and Visualization, conducting theoretical and problem-driven research. His research interests include Visual Analytics, Information Visualization, Interaction Design, Collaborative Technology, Healthcare Informatics, Human-Computer Interaction, and User Experience. He is also interested in the application of advanced visualization and data analysis techniques to solve real-world problems in various fields such as healthcare and business.

Click here to Register
Real-time Captioning will be provided
This is the third workshop in a 3-part series on Science Communication. The workshops are related but stand alone. You do not need to have attended earlier sessions to take part fully in this workshop.
https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/community/
R Club
Next Meetings
March 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=dHRmWnBnWHBZZlI0c3B4M05Pc3BTdz09
Password: 809084

K Award Writing Group
Next Meetings
March 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.
SEQUENCE ANALYSIS BOOTCAMP

Classes will begin Thursday, March 16th from 9:00 AM -11:30 AM in the Lazare Auditorium, S1-607.

Spring 2023 Class dates: March 9th (preliminary), March 16th, 23rd, 30th, April 6th and 13th for anyone interested in learning the basics of Bioinformatics with a focus on deep sequencing data analysis. (Sequence Analysis Bootcamp is a six-week course.)

You can register at the link below:

http://www.umassmed.edu/biocore/biocore_training/registration-form/

Please feel free to forward this email to anyone you know who may be interested.

The bootcamp will mainly focus on RNA-Seq application to gene expression. First, participants will get familiar with Linux and cluster environment and how to transfer raw data using an FTP client. Then, we will have an overview and hands on training sessions. In the overview sessions we will describe the main computational components of gene expression analysis:

1. Alignment techniques and approaches and the impact of alignment on gene quantification;
2. Estimation of gene and isoform expression; and
3. Methods to compare samples with a focus on normalization and differential gene expression analysis.

Click HERE to access the Bioinformatics website.

In the hands-on portion of the workshop we will rely on a previously published dataset to illustrate a full RNA-Seq and single cell RNA-Seq analysis and the concepts discussed during the overview. We will guide participants through:

1. Quality assessment of the data;
2. Alignment;
3. Transcript quantification using the RSEM software and Foundry interface;
4. Differential gene expression analysis using DESeq; and
5. Typical analysis such as gene ontology, clustering, and principal component analysis using R and DEBrowser.

All participants must have a laptop with wireless connection capability. Many activities will require a browser; only Firefox and Chrome have been tested. They also need to request an HPC account:

https://hpc.umassmed.edu/wiki/index.php?title=Welcome_to_the_Scientific_Computing_for_Innovation_Cluster#Requesting_an_Account and join dolphin group (http://www.umassmed.edu/biocore/introducing-dolphin/dolphin-group/). The cost for joining dolphin group is $90 per month/per lab (regardless of how many members of the lab sign up), with a 3-month minimum ($270). After the first 3 months you may cancel your membership by emailing biocore@umassmed.edu.

Some activities require issuing commands on a terminal. Participants running the Windows operating system must install putty which can be downloaded from http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/download.html

We encourage all participants to get familiar with R.

The Biocore Team: Manuel Garber, Alper Kucukural, Onur Yukselen
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:
and

**Request for Pre-Doctoral Trainee Applications**

Applicant Eligibility:

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
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.
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
FUNDING

PAR-23-077: Collaborative Program Grant for Multidisciplinary Teams (RM1 - Clinical Trial Optional)

Posted Date: February 3, 2023
Application Due Dates: May 26, 2023, with cycles through January 27, 2026

FOA supports highly integrated research teams of three to six PD/PIs to address ambitious and challenging research questions that are important for the mission of NIGMS and are beyond the scope of one or two investigators. Teams are encouraged to consider far-reaching objectives that will produce major advances in their fields.

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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