



CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



ANNOUNCING

PREDOCTORAL TL1 Request for Applications (RFA)

For this cycle, preference will be given to students in PhD programs at UMass Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, or Lowell



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NEWS

For this cycle, preference will be given to students in PhD programs at UMass Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, or Lowell.

PREDOCTORAL TL1 Request for Applications (RFA)

Applications are due by May 22, 2023 at 5:00 PM ET



UMCCTS

TL1 Request for Application (RFA)

Mentored Career Development Opportunity
Deadline is May 22, 2023 at 5:00 PM



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.

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

- Pre-doctoral candidates must first be accepted into a UMass doctoral program and be willing to complete the required course 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). Request 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>).

Please refer to the [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#) for complete details.

CALL FOR PROBLEM STATEMENTS

Preparing Engineers for Professional Practice: Interdisciplinary Senior Design Projects

For UMass Chan Faculty with an interest in mentoring and medical product innovation.

Undergraduate engineering majors at **UMass Amherst, UMass Dartmouth, and UMass Lowell** complete a senior design project as a capstone to their degree. This two-semester course will take place during the 2023-2024 school year.

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.

The deadline for problem statements is June 15th.

[More Info Here](#)

Request for Information: Advancing Clinical and Translational Science through Accelerating the Decentralization of Clinical Trials

NCATS invites stakeholders throughout the scientific research, advocacy, clinical practice, industry, patient and lay communities, including the general public, to comment on how decentralized clinical trials (DCTs) may be designed to be more effective, efficient and equitable to bring more interventions to all people, faster.

In particular, comments are sought on ways to enable participants from:

1. Diverse backgrounds, that includes, but is not limited to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, background, gender, and mental or physical ability; and
2. Those who are underserved, used in the context of Health Disparities related to population-based health

Deadline for Comments: May 12, 2023

[More Details](#)

EVENTS

Fundamentals of Clinical Research - Mini Course

Presented by

Bruce Barton, PhD | Robert Goldberg, PhD | Heather Strom Tessier, MS

Mondays and Wednesdays in May-June 2023



This lecture series is designed for students in training, residents, post-doctoral fellows, and junior faculty who are interested in learning about the most commonly employed study designs used in clinical and public health research and about the IRB review process.

Everything You Wanted to Know About the IRB and Then Some

Heather Strom Tessier – Wednesday, May 24th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Observational Studies Used in Clinical Research

Rob Goldberg – Wednesday, May 31st 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Randomized Clinical Trials: Introduction and Theory

Bruce Barton – Monday, June 5th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Randomized Clinical Trials: Implementation and Conduct

Bruce Barton – Wednesday, June 7th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Randomized Clinical Trials: Analysis and Publication

Bruce Barton – Monday, June 12th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

ZOOM LINK

PASSWORD - 121516

Applications Open for AAMC Grant Writers Coaching Group for NIH Awards

June 22, 2023

Fairmont El San Juan, San Juan, Puerto Rico

You can now submit applications to attend The AAMC's Grant Writers Coaching Group for NIH Awards, which supports faculty that are underrepresented in academic medicine in improving critical writing skills to strengthen their grant proposals.

This intensive 1-day in-person workshop occurs on **June 22** and is open to those actively working on both K and R NIH grant proposals. Additional virtual online learning sessions and continued peer review will be available over 3-4 months after the conclusion of the in-person workshop to further strengthen grant proposals.

Applications deadline is May 8 but don't wait to secure your seat for this learning opportunity.

The workshop kicks off our [2023 Minority Faculty Leadership Development Seminar](#). Join us for both at the Fairmont El San Juan in San Juan, Puerto Rico, starting June 23 through June 25. Keep an eye on your inbox for announcements about speakers, networking, and coaching opportunities.

Eligibility: Our target audience includes racial and ethnic faculty that are underrepresented in academic medicine, however, all faculty regardless of racial ethnicity are welcome to apply.

[More Info Here](#)



PROJECTS IN PROCESS SEMINAR SERIES

**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. Copy this Zoom link:

<https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/98536008463?pwd=QkpDMzJhdDVkSUFNWjRQaERVcDE1QT09>
Password: 013592

or click the **red** button below

PRESENTER	DATE
Maira Castaneda-Avila	May 5th
Martha Zimmermann	May 12th
Ekaterina Anderson	May 12th
Vincent Kan	May 19th
Carly Herbert	May 19th
Julie LeMoine	June 2nd
Alexandra Onyiego	June 2nd

Zoom Meeting Link

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.

Click below 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/>

Register Here



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.



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.

NEW!

Orientation to Clinical Research at UMass Chan

The CCTS Office of Clinical Research (OCR) will be hosting in-person sessions titled, "Orientation to Clinical Research at UMass Chan" on a monthly basis.

These sessions will provide a high-level overview of the resources and systems that are in use and available at UMass Chan, as well as guidance related to account access and other institutional policies around the conduct of clinical research. Further, these sessions will also provide an opportunity to meet some of the OCR staff, learn where the OCR and IRB are physically located, as well as to meet colleagues from other departments who are also engaged in clinical research.

Mark your calendar and join us for one of the upcoming dates:
Thur, May 18th, Thur, June 15th

[More Info Here](#)

FUNDING

VILCEK FOUNDATION

2024 Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science

The Vilcek Foundation will award three Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise of \$50,000 each to young, immigrant biomedical scientists who demonstrate outstanding early achievement.
Applications are open through June 12, 2023.

[MORE INFO
HERE](#)

PAR-23-160 & PAR-23-159 (Reissue of PAR-22-100 & PAR-22-101):

**Clinical Trial Readiness for Rare Diseases, Disorders,
and Syndromes
(R03 & R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)**

Key Dates

Posted Date - April 13, 2023
Open Date (Earliest Submission Date) - April 15, 2023

Letter of Intent Due Date(s)
30 days prior to the application due date
Application Due Dates: May 15, 2023 and cycles through October 17, 2024

This opportunity will support clinical projects that address critical needs for clinical trial readiness in rare diseases. The initiative seeks applications that are intended to facilitate rare diseases research by enabling efficient and effective movement of candidate therapeutics or diagnostics toward clinical trials, and to increase their likelihood of success through development and testing of rigorous biomarkers and clinical outcome assessment measures, or by defining the presentation and course of a rare disease to enable the design of upcoming clinical trials.

[MORE INFO R03](#)

[MORE INFO R21](#)

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.

[More Info](#)

PAR-23-087 (Reissue of PAR-22-169):

Novel Assays to Address Translational Gaps in Treatment Development

(UG3/UH3 - Clinical Trial Optional)

Posted Date: January 12, 2023
Application Due Dates: June 21, 2023, with 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

[More Info](#)

RFA-TR-23-010 (Reissue of RFA-TR-22-011):

Emergency Awards: HEAL Initiative-Early-Stage Discovery of New Pain and Opioid Use Disorder Targets Within the Understudied Druggable Proteome

(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: April 14, 2023

Application Due Date: May 22, 2023 (Letter of Intent Due: May 7, 2023)

NCATS is issuing this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) in response to the declared public health emergency issued by the Secretary, HHS, to support early-stage research projects focusing on the identification of new druggable targets for pain, opioid use disorder and/or overdose within the understudied druggable proteome.

[MORE INFO
HERE](#)

RFA-TR-23-011 (Reissue of RFA-TR-22-013):

Emergency Awards: HEAL Initiative - New Innovator Award

(DP2 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: April 20, 2023

Application Due Date: May 23, 2023 (Letter of Intent Due: May 8, 2023)

NCATS is issuing this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) in response to the declared public health emergency issued by the Secretary, HHS, to support a postdoctoral or newly independent Early Stage Investigator of exceptional creativity who proposes novel, original and insightful research concepts with the potential to produce a major impact, test scientific paradigms, or advance key concepts on broad, important problems in biomedical research related to pain, opioid use disorder (OUD), and/or overdose (OD).

[MORE INFO
HERE](#)

PAR-23-161 (Reissue of RFA-TR-22-058):

Emergency Awards: HEAL Initiative: Translational Science Career Enhancement Awards for Early and Mid- career Investigators

(K18 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)

Posted Date: April 20, 2023

Application Due Date: May 22, 2023 (Letter of Intent Due: May 7, 2023)

NCATS is issuing this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) in response to the declared public health emergency issued by the Secretary, HHS. This NOFO is designed for early- and mid- career scientists with pain or opioid abuse expertise interested in receiving hands-on experience in translation at an industry laboratory, or an academic or government research center performing therapeutic development activities.

**MORE INFO
HERE**

PAR-23-267 & PAR-23-268:

Industrialization and Translation of Extracellular Vesicles for use in Regenerative Medicine

(U43/U44 // UT1/UT2 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)

Posted Date: April 18, 2023

**Application Due Dates: June 6, 2023 and annual cycles
through June 6, 2025**

Opportunities will use the SBIR and STTR cooperative agreement mechanisms to support novel platform-oriented technology development associated with the production, manufacturing, and use, of extracellular vesicles as therapeutics in regenerative medicine.

**MORE INFO
U43/U44**

MORE INFO UT1/UT2

EDUCATION & TRAINING

***Interested in pursuing a translational science career as a Medical Scientist?
If you are – or plan to be - enrolled in a dual clinician-scientist doctoral
program, this NCATS-funded fellowship opportunity might be for you!***

PAR-23-109:

NIH Medical Scientist Partnership Program

The program aims to develop a diverse pool of combined doctoral degree students (e.g., MD/PhD, DNP/PhD, PharmD/PhD) who will conduct their PhD dissertation research at research laboratories in the NIH Intramural Research Program. MSPP Scholars will gain experience in the basic, translational, and clinical biomedical sciences to prepare them for leadership positions in biomedical careers.

Applications due: August 8, 2023

[More Info](#)

K Award

Research Writing Group

Next Meetings

May 10th & 24th, 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 Here](#)

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 & Application Links](#)

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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