

eScholarship@UMassChan

UMCCTS Newsletter, February 2024

Item Type	Newsletter
Authors	UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science
DOI	10.13028/38t8-je56
Publisher	UMass Chan Medical School
Rights	Copyright © 2024 UMass Chan Medical School; Attribution 4.0 International
Download date	2025-03-17 02:04:30
Item License	http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14038/53041



CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS

ANNOUNCING
our new PPP Awardees

Spring 2024 PPP RFA

KL2 Diversity RFA

and

Recent Faculty Awards

IN THIS ISSUE

Section 1 - NEWS

Section 2 - EVENTS

Section 3 - FUNDING

Section 4 - EDUCATION

[UMCCTS
HOME](#)

[NEWS](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[EDUCATION](#)

[FUNDING](#)

CONGRATULATIONS Pilot Project Program Awardees



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Pilot Project Program (PPP) Awards



John E. Landers, Ph.D.



Heidi K. Leftwich, DO



Ana Maldonado-Contreras, PhD



Jae-Hyuck Shim, Ph.D.



Julia Alterman, Ph.D.



Sarah K. Whitley, MD, PhD

Awardees and Project Titles (From L to R):

“A Generalizable Approach of Mutant-Specific Knockdown Towards the Development of Therapeutics for Dominant Diseases”

PI: John E. Landers, Ph.D., Professor of Neurology, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School;
Other Key Personnel: Desiree Powell, Ph.D., Research Associate IV, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

“Maternal Investigation for a Comprehensive Review Of microBiome in preEclampsia (MICROBIOME Study)”

PI: Heidi K. Leftwich, DO, Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UMass Memorial Health/University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School;
Co-PI: Ana Maldonado-Contreras, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology and Physiological Systems, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School;
Collaborators: Vanni Bucci, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Physiological Systems, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, and
Courtney Birchall, MD, PGY-6, Fellow, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

“Development of a Novel RNA Interference as a Therapeutic Agent for Rheumatoid Arthritis”

PI: Jae-Hyuck Shim, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School;
Co-PI: Julia Alterman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, RNA Therapeutics Institute, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

“Matrikine Regulation of Skin Inflammation”

PI: Sarah K. Whitley, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Dermatology, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School; Investigator, Autoimmune Therapeutics Institute; Co-Director, Hidradenitis Suppurativa Center

**Now Open - Request for Pilot Project Program
Applications**

PPP Letters of Intent (LOIs) Due Thursday, March 14, 2024.



UMCCTS
Pilot Project Program
Request for Application
(PPP RFA)

LOIs Due Thursday, March 14, 2024 (5 PM ET)



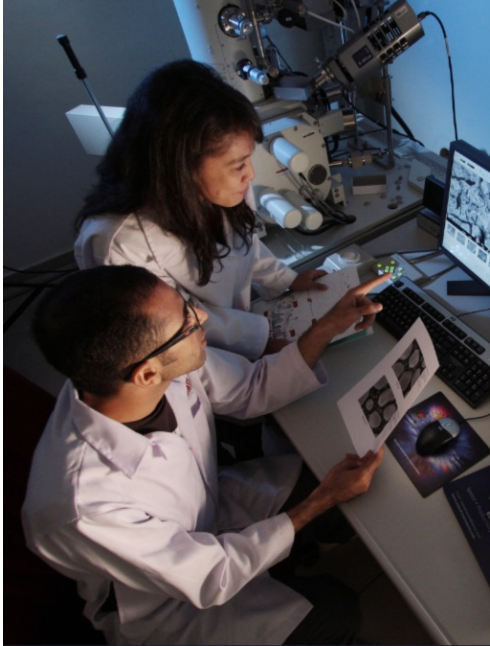
INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

A major goal of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is to accelerate the translation of basic discoveries into practical, cost-effective solutions that improve individual well-being and community health. Building upon our strong reputation as a world-class research institution, producing noteworthy advances in clinical and basic research, the UMCCTS provides the infrastructure necessary to support outstanding clinical and translational investigators and their work.

[DETAILS
HERE](#)

[Visit our PPP
Website](#)

NOW ACCEPTING
LOIs for KL2 Diversity Award



UMCCTS

KL2 Diversity Request for Application (RFA)

Mentored Career Development Opportunities:
Individuals from Underrepresented Groups



Announcement Date: 2.1.2024

LOIs Due: 3.1.2024

[More Details & Application
Instructions](#)

[Visit our KL2
Website](#)



UMass Chan Medical School awarded AAHRPP Re-Accreditation

On December 15, 2023, the Council on Accreditation of the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP) once again awarded UMass Chan Medical School Full Accreditation for a period of five years. This is a continuation of the Medical School's AAHRPP Accreditation, first issued in 2015 and renewed in 2018.

AAHRPP is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body headquartered in Washington, DC which promotes high-quality research through accreditation. According to AAHRPP, "As the "gold seal," AAHRPP accreditation offers assurances—to research participants, researchers, sponsors, government regulators, and the general public—that an HRPP is focused first and foremost on excellence."

For questions and additional information about AAHRPP and UMass Chan, please contact Meg Johnson, JD, CIP at Meg.Johnson@umassmed.edu

Congratulations to our IRB staff who hosted the FDA with only a few days notice and successfully aced the inspection!

Opportunities for Researchers

All of Us **RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The All of Us Research Program is building a dataset to help transform the future of health research by equipping researchers with expansive health data from diverse populations, especially those underrepresented in biomedical research. More than 8,450 health researchers are leveraging this one-of-a-kind dataset to improve understanding of health and disease, identify opportunities to reduce disparities, and enable more precise approaches to care.

Click link below to learn more:

- [About the Research Hub](#)
- [Benefits for Researchers](#)
- [Guidelines for Applicants](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)



Visit our
Website

Highlights of Recent Funding for UMCCTS KL2 and PPP awardees



Nancy Byatt, DO, MS'15, MBA, current [KL2 Program mentor](#), former [KL2](#) and [Pilot Project Program awardee](#) continues to shine! A research team led by Dr. Byatt, pictured here with Christopher Sheldrick, PhD, has secured a \$21 million award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to conduct a perinatal mental health



Pilot Project Program awardee, Melissa Anderson, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry, pictured here with Alexander Wilkins, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry, are co-directors of the DeafYes! Center for Deaf Empowerment and Recovery at UMass Chan. They have been awarded a \$3.6 million award from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to start a nationwide virtual clinic testing evidence-based therapy for Deaf people with trauma symptoms and alcohol use disorders. Read full story [HERE](#).



Research supported by a K23 grant is under way by **KL2 scholar Lara Kovell, MD**, associate professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, on a project titled, ***“Development of a Mobile Health Intervention for Blood Pressure Management in Pregnancy”***.

The goal of the study is to support home BP monitoring (HBPM) and hypertension self-care in pregnant women with hypertension. By developing a culturally-relevant digital health approach, the proposed Moms@Home intervention will integrate storytelling videos from women with similar lived experiences with a Social Cognitive Theory-based proven approach to support behavior change. Storytelling, a culturally relevant approach that taps into the wisdom of the community, is a way to bring group prenatal care to our patients who are often managing hypertension without peer support.

EVENTS

SAVE the DATE

Please plan to join this info session
about the Pilot Project Program (PPP).

Wednesday, February 7 at noon

During the session, Dr. Hafer, CCTS
Director of Operations, will go over:

1. **the goals of the program**
2. **eligibility requirements**
3. **how to apply**




Plenty of time is scheduled to answer
any questions.

Nate Hafer, PhD, Associate Professor,
Program in Molecular Medicine, UMCCTS

[Zoom Link](#)

SAVE the DATE FDA Advisory Panel Seminar

A graphic with a light blue background featuring several pills (white, yellow, and orange) scattered around. In the center is a dark blue rounded rectangle containing white text and a calendar icon. The text reads: 'Save the Date! FDA Advisory Panel Seminar', 'An engaging and informative session', 'Date: April 9, 2024', 'Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM CT', 'Location: Virtual Event (Link to come)', 'Please join us for this special event! Share the date with your trainees and colleagues.', and 'Formal invitations with a detailed agenda and registration information will follow soon.'

 **Save the Date!**
FDA Advisory Panel Seminar

An engaging and informative session

Date: **April 9, 2024**

Time: **10:00 AM to 12:00 PM CT**

Location: **Virtual Event** (Link to come)

Please join us for this special event! Share the date with your trainees and colleagues.

Formal invitations with a detailed agenda and registration information will follow soon.

April 9th at 10:00 AM CT

Event Details:

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM CT

Location: Virtual Event Link to come

Formal invitations with a detailed agenda and registration information will follow soon.



UMASS
CENTER FOR CLINICAL &
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

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 March 5th will be presented by...

Michelle Boakye, PhD, MPH, RN

Assistant Professor
Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences
University of Massachusetts Boston

"Improving Psychosocial and Self-Management Support for Adults Newly Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes: Lessons Learned"

March 5, 2024

12:00-1:00 PM | Virtual

[Zoom Link](#)

FUNDING

PAR-24-114:

International Research Scientist Development Award (IRSDA)

(K01 Independent Clinical Trial Required)

Posted Date: January 16, 2024

This opportunity provides support and protected time (three to five years) to advanced postdoctoral U.S. research scientists and recently-appointed U.S. junior faculty (\geq two years beyond conferral of doctoral degree) for an intensive, mentored research career development experience in a low- or middle-income country.

[MORE INFO](#)

NOT-CA-24-025:

Notice of Extension of the Expiration Date for PAR-21-166 "Academic-Industrial Partnerships for Translation of Technologies for Diagnosis and Treatment

(R01 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Notice Posted Date: January 23, 2024

Extended Application Due Date: June 5, 2024

The purpose of this Notice is to extend the expiration date for [PAR-21-166](#), Academic-Industrial Partnerships for Translation of Technologies for Diagnosis and Treatment (R01 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)".

[MORE INFO](#)

NOT-NS-24-048:

Notice of Change: Extension of PAR-21-122, PAR-21-123, PAR-21-124 Innovation Grants to Nurture Initial Translational Efforts (IGNITE) NOFOs by One Additional Council Round

Notice Posted Date: January 17, 2024

Extended Application Due Date: October 21, 2024

The following NOFOs have been extended by one additional council round:
[PAR-21-122](#), "Innovation Grants to Nurture Initial Translational Efforts (IGNITE): Neurotherapeutic Agent Characterization and In vivo Efficacy Studies (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)",
[PAR-21-123](#) "Innovation Grants to Nurture Initial Translational Efforts (IGNITE): Development and Validation of Model Systems to Facilitate Neurotherapeutic Discovery (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)", and
[PAR-21-124](#) "Innovation Grants to Nurture Initial Translational Efforts (IGNITE): Assay Development and Neurotherapeutic Agent Identification (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)".

NOT-MH-24-155:

Notice of Extension to **PAR-21-130, PAR-21-131, PAR-21-132, PAR-21-133, PAR-21-134, PAR-21-135, PAR-21-136 and PAR-21-137**

Notice Posted Date: January 17, 2024

Extended Application Due Dates: June 15, 2024 and October 15, 2024

The following NOFOs have been extended:

[PAR-21-130](#), Clinical Trials to Test the Effectiveness of Treatment, Preventive, and Services Interventions (R01 Clinical Trial Required)

[PAR-21-131](#), Pilot Effectiveness Trials for Treatment, Preventive and Services Interventions (R34 Clinical Trial Required)

[PAR-21-132](#), Confirmatory Efficacy Clinical Trials of Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Mental Disorders (R01 Clinical Trial Required)

[PAR-21-133](#), First in Human and Early Stage Clinical Trials of Novel Investigational Drugs or Devices for Psychiatric Disorders (U01 Clinical Trial Required)

[PAR-21-134](#), Development of Psychosocial Therapeutic and Preventive Interventions for Mental Disorders (R33 Clinical Trial Required)

[PAR-21-135](#), Development of Psychosocial Therapeutic and Preventive Interventions for Mental Disorders (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Required)

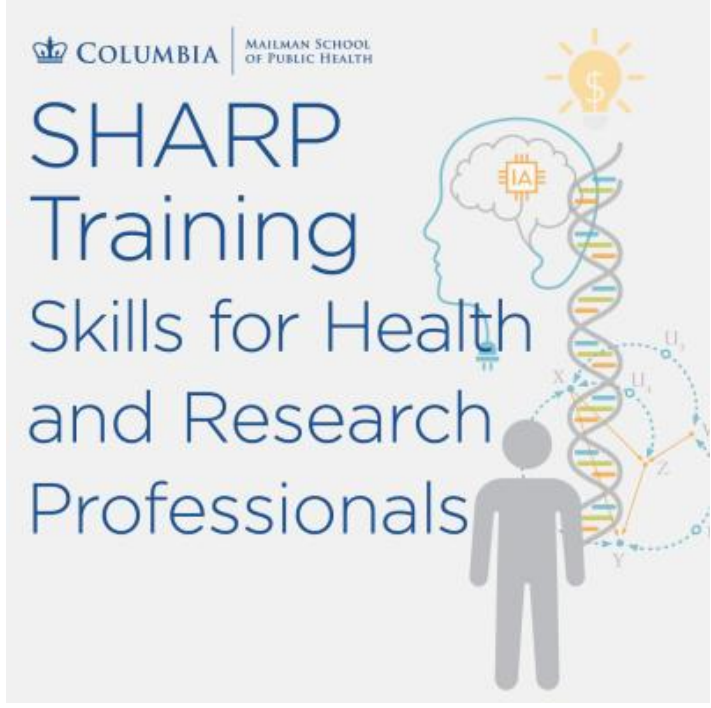
[PAR-21-136](#), Early Stage Testing of Pharmacologic or Device-based Interventions for the Treatment of Mental Disorders (R33- Clinical Trial Required)

[PAR-21-137](#), Early Stage Testing of Pharmacologic or Device-based Interventions for the Treatment of Mental Disorders (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Required)

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Save the Date(s)!

31 Unique Trainings for Summer 2024



Registration will open for summer trainings soon!

You keep asking, we keep listening! Based on suggestions from colleagues, collaborators, and former attendees, we have several exciting announcements for the 2024 Columbia Skills for Health and Research Professionals (SHARP) Program:

- There are several new summer 2024 topics, including **how to design and deliver better research presentations, creating more effective data visualizations, preparing all aspects of an NIH K award application, and how scientists and journalists can communicate findings more effectively to the public.** See this year's exciting lineup below.
- Scholarships are available for many trainings with additional awards depending on training capacity. **Apply before February 29!**
- Trainings will be offered in-person, livestream virtual, or hybrid (in-person and livestream virtual). The format of each training is different, but all are live courses (not self-paced, pre-recorded).
- Check out **Career MODE** - a program for early-career investigators that partners closely with the SHARP Program to provide supplemental training in crucial professional research skills, mentoring, and networking to foster pathways to independence using omics and data sciences.

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested, and encourage them to **subscribe for updates**. We will send out an announcement when registration opens in late February. We look forward to seeing you and your colleagues this summer.



Scholarships

SHARP Training
Website

Orientation to Clinical Research at UMass Chan

The CCTS Office of Clinical Research (OCR)
continues to host in-person sessions on a monthly basis.

(Registration required)

These sessions provide a high-level overview of the resources and systems that are in use and available at UMass Chan, as well 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.

UPCOMING DATES: March 7, 2024 and April 4, 2024
at 9:00 AM

MORE INFO

**Please note: You will need to log in with UMass Chan credentials in order to register. Otherwise, please email OCR staff members Ann Han (ann.han@umassmed.edu) and Eric Stratton (eric.stratton@umassmed.edu) to be manually added to an orientation session.*

Registration is Required

Seating is limited to 20 individuals per session, so we kindly ask that you register for this session.

REGISTER
HERE

K Award Research Writing Group

Next Meetings

Wednesday, February 14th & 28th, 2024~ 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.

Visit our
Website

R Club Research Writing Group

Next Meetings
Tuesday, February 13th & 27th, 2024 ~ 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=dHRmWnBnWHBZZ110c3B4M05Pc3BTdz09>

Password: 809084

Zoom Meeting Link

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?

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.



KATHERINE LUZURIAGA, MD
PI AND DIRECTOR, UMCCTS



TERENCE R. FLOTTE, MD
CO-DIRECTOR, UMCCTS

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE
55 LAKE AVENUE N, WORCESTER MA 01655

UMASS Center for Clinical & Translational Science (UMCCTS) | 362 Plantation St., AC7-216,
Worcester, MA 01605

[Unsubscribe kimberlee.cantin@umassmed.edu](mailto:kimberlee.cantin@umassmed.edu)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by ccts@umassmed.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!