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UMCCTS Newsletter, August 2023

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CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



ANNOUNCING

**Pilot Project Program Awardees
Summer 2023**

**TL1 Postdoctoral
Training Fellowship Opportunity**

**2nd Annual Summer Undergraduate
Research Internship Update**

IN THIS ISSUE

Section 1 - NEWS

Section 2 - EVENTS

Section 3 - FUNDING

Section 4 - EDUCATION

[UMCCTS
HOME](#)

[NEWS](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[EDUCATION](#)

[FUNDING](#)

NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWEST PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM AWARDEES



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Pilot Project Program (PPP) Awards



The three project teams and project titles (From L to R):

“Targeted Delivery of Microbial Metabolites to Treat Inflammatory Bowel Diseases”

Co-PIs: Beth McCormick, PhD, Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Microbiology and Physiological Systems, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School and **Ernesto Soto, PhD**, Senior Scientist, Program in Molecular Medicine, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

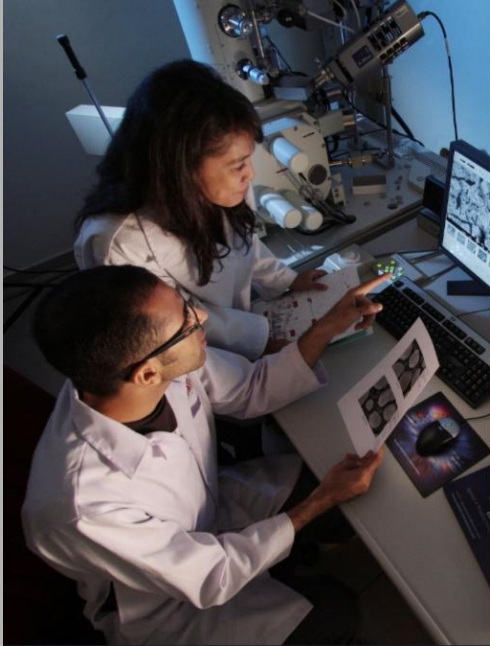
“Integrating Cancer Survivorship Care into Primary Care”

PI: Jamie Faro, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, **Katheen Barry, MD(Co-I)**, Assistant Professor, Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School; **Tzafra Tessier, PA-C (Co-I)**, Physician Assistant, UMass Cance Center, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School; and **Timothy Sannes, PhD (Co-I)**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

“Super-Resolved Thalamic Imaging Biomarkers for Neurodegeneration”

Co-PIs: Joyita Dutta, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Massachusetts Amherst, **Manojkumar Saranathan, PhD**, Professor, Department of Radiology, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School; and **Behroze Adi Vachha, MD, PhD (significant contributor)**, Associate Professor, Department of Radiology, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

Visit our
Website



UMCCTS TL1 Request for Application (RFA)

Post-Doc
Mentored Career Development Opportunity
September 1st Deadline



TL1 POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Are You Ready to Pursue a Career as an Independent,
Health-Focused Researcher

Application deadline is September 1, 2023

Learn More About the UMCCTS TL1 Program's Post-doctoral Fellowship

[RFA Link](#)

Summer Undergraduate Research Internship Update



Our expanded Summer Undergraduate Research Internship Program with 13 students from all four UMass campus locations (Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell) is in full swing. We recently had the chance to connect with a few of the students and their mentors. See full story link below.

Pictured above is UMass Lowell student, Christina Ciaramitaro, discussing a patient CT scan with mentor, Sara Schiller, MPH, Sr. Research Program Manager, Department of Radiology, UMass Chan Medical School.

[Internship Update](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Fundamentals of Clinical Research - Mini Course

Presented by

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

This lecture series, 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, can be viewed on our website. *See link below.*

Fundamentals of Clinical Research Video
Recordings

EVENTS



Leveraging Community Engagement To Address Behavioral Health Disparities In The Deaf Community

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM EST

Via Zoom (Registration is Required!)

REGISTER

Please join us for a didactic presentation about applying community engagement methods to produce behavioral health treatment and training tools for the Deaf Community, developed by Dr. Melissa Anderson, Dr. Alexander Wilkins, and their team at UMass Chan.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion with a panel of Deaf co-investigators and Deaf Community Advisors who will share their experiences being part of the research process. There will be plenty of time at the end for Q&A.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Melissa Anderson, PhD, MSCI, is a Gallaudet University-trained psychologist and clinical researcher who strives to provide accessible behavioral healthcare to members of the U.S. Deaf community. She is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at UMass Chan Medical School. She founded the DeafYES! Center for Deaf Empowerment and Recovery at UMass Chan, where she has continually provided outpatient therapy and conducted research on Deaf mental health since 2011.



Alexander Wilkins, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at UMass Chan Medical School, where he is also the co-Director of the DeafYES! Center for Deaf Empowerment and Recovery at UMass Chan. He is a recipient of a K23 Career Development Award from NIAAA. His program of research focuses on a community-engaged approach to developing resources for mental health and behavioral health care for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. He also provides outpatient mental health services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.



REGISTER



ASL Interpreters and Real-time Captioning will be provided

<https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/community/>



[Learn more about resources and support services offered by our Community Engagement and Collaboration Core \(CECC\)](#)

AdvancingDigitalEndpoints.com

**Advancing Digital Endpoints
+ Digital Health Technologies
FOR NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS**

09.18.23 + 09.29.23 + 10.10.23



NINDS and NICHD/NCMRR, in collaboration with NIA, NIMH, and NIAMS, are co-sponsoring a three-day virtual workshop.

Throughout the workshop, participants can expect to...

- Share lessons from current digital endpoint validation efforts.
- Highlight existing and emerging digital health technologies.
- Discuss shared gaps and opportunities across neurological and neuromuscular disorders.

Each day of the workshop is centered on a set of functional domains and closes with a special session or topic area such as regulatory pathways and breakout sessions.

- Day 1 (September 18th, 2023): Motor Function
- Day 2 (September 29th, 2023): Autonomic, Sleep and Pain/Sensory Function
- Day 3 (October 10th, 2023): Cognitive Function

For more information, visit www.advancingdigitalendpoints.com

SPECIAL SEMINAR

Given jointly by the
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Population and Quantitative
Health Sciences and
UMASS Boston, Gerontology Department and Gerontology Institute

Monday, September 25, 2023
12:00 – 1:00 PM

**“Industry Influence on the DSM 5 TR: Prolonged Grief Disorder and
Treatment Resistant Depression”**

Presented by: Lisa Cosgrove, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/93647672649?pwd=UjNWRnU2NG5jOTRVL0tIUec1cWJNUT09>

ZOOM LINK

PASSWORD - 524134

FUNDING

PAR-23-219:

**SBIR/STTR Commercialization Readiness Pilot
(CRP) Program Technical Assistance and Late
Stage Development**

(SB1, Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: July 12, 2023

Application Due Dates: September 5, 2023 and cycles through April 2025

This funding opportunity encourages applications from small business concerns (SBCs) to the newly re-authorized Commercialization Readiness Pilot (CRP) program. The NOFO aims to facilitate the transition of previously or currently funded SBIR and STTR Phase II and Phase IIB projects to the commercialization stage.

[More Info](#)

PA-23-232 (Reissue of PA-22-178):

PHS 2023-2 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH for Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Applications

(Parent STTR [R41/R42] Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: July 12, 2023

Application Due Dates: September 5, 2023 and cycles through April 2024

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) invites eligible United States small businesses that have the research capabilities and technological expertise to contribute to the R&D mission(s) of the NIH awarding components identified in this NOFO to submit STTR grant applications in response to identified topics.

[More Info](#)

PA-23-230 (Reissue of PA-22-176):

PHS 2023-2 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH, CDC and FDA for Small Business Innovation Research Grant Applications

(Parent SBIR [R43/R44] Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: July 12, 2023

Application Due Dates: September 5, 2023 with cycles through April 2024

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) invites eligible United States small businesses that have the research capabilities and technological expertise to contribute to the R&D mission(s) of the NIH, CDC, and FDA awarding components identified in this NOFO are encouraged to submit SBIR grant applications in response to identified topics.

[More Info](#)

RFA-TR-23-016:

Preclinical Proof of Concept Studies for Rare

Diseases

(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: July 5, 2023

Application Due Dates: October 1, 2023 and cycles through June 2025

This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) provides funding to conduct efficacy studies in an established rare disease preclinical model to demonstrate that a proposed therapeutic agent warrants further development. In addition to preclinical efficacy, accompanying pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic studies would be supported.

[More Info](#)

PAR-23-200 and PAR-23-205:

NEI Translational Research Program for Therapeutics

(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: June 27, 2023

Application Due Date: August 24, 2023, with cycles through February 2025

The purpose of these NOFOs is the rapid and efficient translation of innovative laboratory research findings into therapeutics for use by clinicians to treat visual system diseases or disorders. Multidisciplinary teams of scientists and clinicians must focus on generating preclinical data that will lead to the development of biological, pharmacological, medical device and/or combination product interventions.

[More Info
R61/R33](#)

[More Info R33](#)

PAR-23-182:

Accelerating Behavioral and Social Science through Ontology Development and Use: Research Network Projects

(U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: May 24, 2023

Application Due Date: October 3, 2023

This will support research focused on the expansion of existing or development of new ontologies for behavioral or social science research (BSSR). Projects must include multi-disciplinary teams of subject matter experts in one or more BSSR fields, as well as ontology related informatics and computational approaches, and should address health-related behavioral and social science problems not easily solved without improvement in semantic knowledge structures.

MORE INFO
HERE

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
August 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 Here](#)

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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