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UMCCTS Newsletter, January 2025

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CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



NEWS

The 2023-2024 Annual Impact Report is now available!
Please [click here](#) to read about the work the UMCCTS
has done over the past year.

Hawa Abu, MD, PhD Receives KL2 Scholar Award

Dr. Hawa Abu, Assistant Professor in the UMass Chan Department of Medicine's Geriatric Division, has just received a UMCCTS KL2 Faculty Career Development award. Mentored by Alok Kapoor, MD, MPH and Jerry Gurwitz, MD, Dr. Abu plans to conduct research entitled "Association of Health Belief Variables, Religiosity, and Spirituality with Anticoagulation Use in Older Adults with Atrial Fibrillation".

Announcing our newest

Pilot Project Program (PPP) Awardees

Congratulations to the following investigators on their recent pilot project awards!

[“Gene-Enhanced Delivery of Pseudomonas Exotoxin for Targeted Therapy of Lethal Prostate Cancer”](#)

Gang Han, PhD, Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology, UMass Chan Medical School

[“Comparative Safety and Effectiveness of Four-Factor Prothrombin Complex Concentrate versus Andexanet Alfa for Patients with Major Bleeding: A Nationwide Study”](#)

Vincent Kan, MD, MSc, Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School (PI) and Matthew Alcusky, PhD, PharmD, Associate Professor, Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School

[“Targeting Immune Checkpoint Tim-3 in a Preclinical EBV-associated Burkitt Lymphoma Humanized Mouse Model”](#)

Ann Moormann, PhD, MPH, Professor, Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School

[“Cell Specificity of siRNA Uptake and Silencing in the Tumor Microenvironment”](#)

Leslie Shaw, PhD, Professor, Molecular, Cell and Cancer Biology (MCCB), UMass Chan Medical School

[“Development of an Informed Consent Adaptive Tool for Equitable Recruitment in Clinical Research”](#)

Adrian Zai, MD, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School and Jamie Faro, PhD, Assistant Professor, Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School

EVENTS

Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS) Research Methods Meeting

January Research Methods Meeting

The goal is to share innovative research methods, explore current challenges like reducing inequities, highlight method-focused publications, seek feedback on research problems for grants, and identify collaborators for new or ongoing projects.

If you would like to receive a calendar invite and reminders prior to each seminar, please email judi.saber@umassmed.edu to be added to the distribution list.

Wednesday, January 15th | 10–11AM

Title: Transforming Medicine and Healthcare through Artificial Intelligence

Presenter: Yonghui Wu, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics, University of Florida, College of Medicine, Director of Natural Language Processing

**Click [here](#) to join or call 1 301 715 8592, Meeting ID: 948 2951
6040 password: 202286**

2025 M2D2 \$200K Challenge Information Session

Wednesday, January 15th 2-3pm • Virtual | [Register to Attend](#)

It's officially that time of year! Join us for special insights into the types of innovations that the Challenge sponsors are looking for this year, as well as the overall Challenge rules, key dates and deadlines, insider tips, and more. Plus, there will be a Q&A session.

The JHU Trial Innovation Center presents the virtual:

DIDACT Symposium

January 16, 2025 from 1 to 5 p.m. EST

Join us for a virtual symposium highlighting contemporary methods for the efficient design and analysis of clinical trials. New tools and software will be discussed, and attendees will be provided with real-world examples using these innovative methods to aid in producing effective trials.



Ravi Varadhan, PhD

Individualized Treatment Effects for Time-to-Event Endpoints Using a Flexible Bayesian Approach



Constantine Frangakis, PhD

How to Characterize Groups of Individuals with Large Effect



Issa Dahabreh, PhD, ScD

Robust Integration of External Data in Clinical Trials



Chris Lindsell, PhD

Design for Diversity

Register at:

t.ly/fcf-E



CTSA Reproducibility Rounds

Stanford Program on Research Rigor & Reproducibility ([SPORR](#)), in collaboration with Columbia, Duke, Harvard, and Indiana cordially invites you to the 3rd **Reproducibility Rounds** webinar titled: **193 Preclinical Cancer Biology Experiments: Lessons, Surprises, and Future Directions** by [Timothy M. Errington](#), Senior Director of Research, Center for Open Science.

Abstract: The Reproducibility Project: Cancer Biology was a large-scale systematic investigation into the replicability of high-impact, preclinical cancer biology experiments. Overall, there were challenges at every stage of the research process from design to conducting the replications. It was hard to understand what was originally done, there was not always access to the original data or reagents to conduct the experiments, and the model systems frequently did not behave as originally reported. The limited transparency and incomplete reporting made the efforts to replicate the findings much harder than was necessary. Of the replication experiments able to be completed, the evidence was much weaker on average than the original findings even though all the replications underwent peer review before conducting the experiments to maximize their quality and rigor. These findings suggest that there is unnecessary friction in the research process that may be slowing the advancement of knowledge, solutions, and treatments.

Join Us:

January 21st | 12 pm ET | [Registration Link](#)

Register for Rare Disease Day with FDA
and NCATS

Registration is now open for the [FDA-NIH Rare Disease Day](#) — a two-day event co-hosted by NCATS and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration!



Join us on Feb. 27 and 28, 2025, on the NIH Main Campus at the Natcher Conference Center. This free in-person/virtual (hybrid) event welcomes patients, advocates, caregivers, health care providers, researchers, trainees, students, industry representatives and government staff who are committed to highlighting patient voices and advancing scientific discoveries for rare diseases.

[Learn more about the event and register today.](#)

FUNDING

California National Primate Research Center 2025 Call for Pilot Project Letters of Intent

The California National Primate Research Center (CNPRC) Pilot Program invites Letters of Intent for pilot project proposals to support basic and translational research using nonhuman primates (rhesus macaque and titi monkeys) for the 2025-2026 funding period. Pilot projects that address biomedical/translational research topics across the nonhuman primate lifespan and include CNPRC scientific research unit areas (Cardiorespiratory Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Neuroscience and Behavior, Reproductive Sciences, and Regenerative Medicine) are requested. Pilot projects should be innovative and lead to tangible results in one year. Full details of the call and additional information about the CNPRC Pilot Program may be located [here](#).

The deadline for Letters of Intent is **January 17, 2025**. Full proposals will be requested from a subset of Letters of Intent. Applicants should note that this process is competitive at two levels: the Letters of Intent and the full proposals. Questions about the CNPRC Pilot Program may be emailed to Lisa A. Miller, PhD: lmiller@ucdavis.edu.

PAR-25-122:

Pilot Projects Investigating Understudied Proteins Associated with Rare Diseases (R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Earliest Submission Date: January 16, 2025
Expiration Date: November 17, 2027

This NOFO aims to promote innovative research to increase knowledge of understudied proteins associated with rare diseases. Applications proposing projects leading to a better understanding of eligible proteins [please see NOFO] within the context of rare disease are encouraged.

[MORE INFO](#)

PA-25-080:
NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings
(Parent R13 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Expiration Date: September 8, 2027

The NIH Research Conference Grant (R13) intends to support high quality scientific conferences (including a symposium, seminar, workshop, or other organized and formal meeting) that are relevant to the NIH's mission and to the public health.

[MORE INFO](#)

3 New Challenge Opportunities: Translational Science, Quantum Sensing and Quantum Computing

[The NCATS Translational Science Education and Training Challenge](#) seeks innovative models of translational science education and training to build a diverse and skilled translational science workforce. Winning models will convey specialized knowledge and skills to overcome translational challenges and advance the translational enterprise.

Additionally, the [NIH Quantum Sensing Technology Challenge](#) and the [NIH Quantum Computing Challenge](#) are now open. These challenges aim to spur innovative applications of quantum-enabled sensing technologies and quantum computing approaches in biomedical research and clinical settings. These challenges focus on advancing biomedical applications, early detection and diagnostics and more.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

KL2 Request for Applications (RFA) **FACULTY CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Letters of Interest are due by 5pm on January 24, 2025

Are You an Early-Career Faculty Member at UMass Chan - Worcester with an Interest in Health-Focused Research? Learn More about the UMCCTS KL2 Program's Mentored Career Development Award and Current RFA UMCCTS KL2 Mentored Career Development Program Opportunity.

The UMCCTS KL2 Mentored Career Development Program (PI: Dr. Catarina Kiefe) is currently seeking applications from early career faculty who wish to make a career of innovative, transdisciplinary healthcare research aimed at bringing more treatments to all people more quickly.

[Read the Request for Applications](#)
[KL2 Training Program website](#)

Apply for the Translational Science Interagency Fellowship Program

NCATS jointly sponsors the Translational Science Interagency Fellowship (TSIF) with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to provide training to fellows in translational science and regulatory science. The 2025 application window is open! If you or someone you know are interested in developing valuable skills applicable to future careers in academia, the pharmaceutical industry and government, [learn more](#) about the TSIF program.

Orientation to Clinical Research at UMass Chan

The CCTS Office of Clinical Research (OCR) hosts monthly in-person sessions.

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.

[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

**Wednesday, January 22, 4:00-5:00 PM
by Zoom**

The K Award Writing Group supports junior faculty in the development of K-level “Mentored Research Scientist” 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 submitted for input.

**To register to attend the K Award Group, please email
Robyn.Leonard@umassmed.edu.**

[Visit our
Website](#)

R Club Research Writing Group

Tuesday, January 21, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
by 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.

[https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/5682209338?](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/5682209338?pwd=dHRmWnBnWHBZZ1I0c3B4M05Pc3BTdz09)
[pwd=dHRmWnBnWHBZZ1I0c3B4M05Pc3BTdz09](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/5682209338?pwd=dHRmWnBnWHBZZ1I0c3B4M05Pc3BTdz09)
Password: 809084

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**

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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