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UMCCTS Newsletter, January 2021

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CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS MEDICAL SCHOOL CCTS NEWS LETTER



NEWS

THE NATIONAL COVID COHORT COLLABORATIVE (N3C)

N3C is an NIH NCATS-sponsored analytics platform that contains clinical data from the electronic health records of people who were tested for the novel coronavirus or who have had related symptoms. UMass Medical School was one of the first 12 vanguard sites to deposit COVID data to N3C. We are happy to announce that we have executed all the regulatory work required to facilitate access to N3C Data Enclave for our UMMS and Memorial investigators.

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Did You Know?

NEWS

THE NATIONAL COVID COHORT COLLABORATIVE (N3C)



CTSA sites across the country are continuing to contribute data to N3C with the goal of creating a harmonized data set from all 60+ CTSA's. Currently, the N3C Data Enclave boasts upwards of 600K COVID related cohorts (>60K COVID positive data) from 15 sites. Access to de-identified or identified data sets is available: a) access to de-identified or safe harbor datasets does not require institutional IRB approval; and b) access to datasets with PHI requires institutional IRB approval. More information on the N3C Data Enclave is available at <https://ncats.nih.gov/n3c>. For any questions or assistance in gaining access to N3C Data Enclave, contact our UMCCTS - N3C admin, Mahesh Vangala Mahesh at Vangala@umassmed.edu.

COVID-19 Positive Patients*	Total Patients	Sites	Total Rows	
75,588	672,443	15	691.4m	
Procedures	Lab Results	Drug Exposures	Visits	Observations
59.2m	390.9m	112.9m	30.6m	32.1m



UMASS INTEGRATIVE BIOMARKER CENTER (INBIOC) IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

At the UMass Integrative Biomarker Center (InBioC), we look forward to working with investigators to provide relevant and timely proteomics or RNA measurements (i.e. microRNA, mRNA, etc) to support clinical projects for validation, preliminary data, grant submissions, etc. We do require that data generated as part of this initiative be made available to other investigators as part of a virtual data repository that will allow data sharing and/or reanalysis. We will provide "Seed Money" along with support for investigators to generate data needed for programs, grants, and projects. Initially, these will be awarded in the range of 1-5K. Please see our webpage (<https://www.umassmed.edu/InBioC/>) to learn more.

COVID-19

CLINICAL RESEARCH NURSES NEEDED FOR RADX STUDIES

The Center for Advancing Point of Care Therapeutics (CAPCaT) has been designated as a national test center for the NIH Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) program. Our Center is looking for experienced clinical research nurses with an interest in working with people undergoing COVID-19 testing to collect information and specimens in order to validate new and innovative test devices coming to UMass from around the world. The positions are available immediately. If you are interested or if you have any questions, please contact Danielle Howard at (Danielle.howard@umassmed.edu) or apply at <https://www.ummsjobs.com/job/5416/> or <https://www.ummsjobs.com/job/5000/>



UMMS UPDATE

UMMS update regarding human subjects research during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here: <https://umassmed.edu/ccts/covid-19/>. This website is updated frequently; Last update Nov 25, 2020.

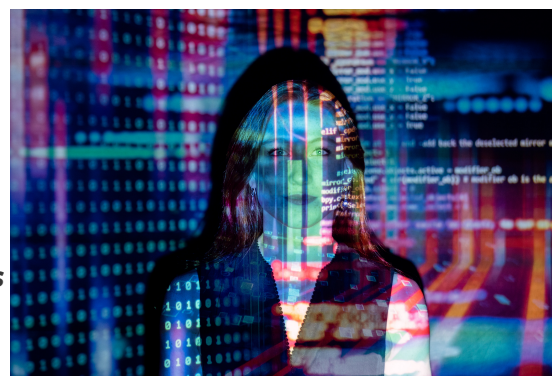
UCLINICAL TRIALS DATABASE

To search for active Covid-19 clinical trials at UMMS, please visit

<https://www.conqueringdiseases.org/>.

Conquering Diseases is an easy to use web-based search tool to find, share and save clinical studies relevant to patients. It also provides educational resources to help patients and families learn

about and find clinical studies. It provides a patient-friendly and direct way to learn about clinical studies and a secure environment to share clinical study opportunities and communicate with study staff for screening and enrollment into clinical studies.



THE NATIONAL COVID COHORT COLLABORATIVE (N3C)

The National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) Data Enclave is now open to scientists looking for evidence-based answers to COVID-19 research questions. This centralized and secure national data analytics platform is for COVID-19 research, including studying potential risk factors, protective factors and long-term health consequences, as the pandemic continues to evolve. Its data and analytics capabilities will grow over time. Learn more about the N3C data and applying for access.



EVENTS



HOW TO USE REAL WORLD DATA TO SUPPORT YOUR RESEARCH & CLINICAL TRIALS: JANUARY 14, 2021

You are invited to attend two upcoming training webinars to learn how to utilize the TriNetX platform to conduct research and support clinical trials utilizing real-world data. Basic Functionality Training is at 10:00 AM and Advanced Analytics Training is at 8:00 AM on January 14th. For more information visit:

<https://mailchi.mp/trinetx/training-jan21-1467406?e=7790c5a783>

REAL WORLD DATA & ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH: JANUARY 27, 2021 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Real-world data are routinely collected about the patient health status or health care from a variety of sources (e.g., electronic health records (EHRs); claims and billing; disease registries; patient-generated input; mobile devices). Such data are increasingly used in research and development, especially during the current pandemic. This Virtual Workshop will provide a forum for presentations and discussions around the latest trends, and most up-to-date methods of using real world data. The constructive and practical messages should benefit principal investigators, research laboratory leaders, as well as users of clinical research discoveries. For more information visit:

<https://www.fnlm.org/product/real-world-data-and-electronic-health-records-in-clinical-research/>

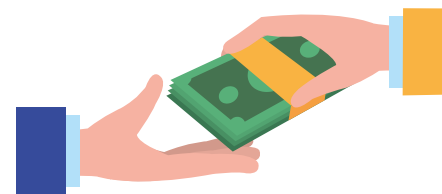
DEVELOPING MESSAGES THAT MOVE NON-ACADEMIC AUDIENCES JANUARY 29, 2021 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

The Community Engagement and Collaboration Core of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translation Science is offering the workshop “Developing Messages that Move Non-Academic Audiences” on January 29, 2021 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Please register by January 27, 2021 to reserve your spot! This workshop will provide practical advice and hands-on exercises to turn your idea into a powerful message. Getting rid of jargon is only the first step. We’ll help you frame your message, tailor it to your audience, and choose the right way to communicate it. You’ll walk out the door with a plan! Bring something you want to say to a non-academic audience. Please register at

<https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/community/programs-and-resources/public-engagement-project/>



FUNDING



CCTS SPARK PROGRAM:

ROLLING APPLICATION DEADLINE

This program's priorities are to support studies that impact clinical care and research methodologies, support students/trainees, and provide access to funds to generate pilot and preliminary data for external grant submissions. For more information, visit: <https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/spark-program/>

CCTS SMALL CONFERENCE GRANTS:

ROLLING APPLICATION DEADLINE

This funding facilitates the development of faculty-to-faculty networks within the University system. Click on this link for more information: <https://umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/small-conference-grants/>

NCATS ASPIRE: REDUCTION-TO-PRACTICE CHALLENGE

OPENS 11/30 & DUE FEB. 28, 2021 AT 5 PM

NCATS invites innovators and multi-expert teams to participate in the NCATS ASPIRE Reduction-to-Practice Challenge. The goal is the development of a platform that scientists can use to advance their translational science relevant to development and testing of new and safer treatments of pain, opioid use disorder and overdose. NCATS anticipates that this integrated platform ultimately can be generalized to address many of the roadblocks in automated chemistry. Stage 1 of the Reduction-to-Practice Challenge opens Nov. 30, 2020, and submissions are due by Feb. 28, 2021, at 5p.m. EST. For more information visit: <https://ncats.nih.gov/aspire/2020Challenge>

DRUG DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATORY:

DUE FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Drug Development Collaboratory: The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support intramural-extramural collaborations on late-stage translational science projects between NCATS Therapeutic Development Branch (TDB) and extramural researchers, for therapeutic development of small molecules, biologics, or gene therapies. The UG3 phase will provide support for late stage pre-clinical work and clinical trial planning that is conducted applicant institutions. The goal of any collaboration with TDB is to enable an IND application by the end of the UG3 phase. If UG3 milestones are met and an IND is cleared, support may be provided for an early stage clinical trials in the UH3 phase that will be conducted at the applicant institutions. Application due date: February 9, 2021 For more information visit: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-301.html>



FUNDING



UMCCTS PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM (PPP) 2021 - REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT DUE FEBRUARY 12, 2021 BY 5PM

The UMCCTS and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) are announcing the next funding round for the Pilot Project Program (PPP). Individual project awards (up to \$50,000 for 1 year) will be made on a competitive basis to enable investigators to accelerate the translation of innovative discoveries into:

- *New understanding and/or diagnosis of a disease process*
- *New devices, therapeutics, and vaccines for the treatment and/or prevention of disease*
- *New standards of care in the practice of community medicine*
- *New approaches to community-based research demonstrating true bi-directionality between community and academia*
- *New methodologies to leverage institutional strengths and new initiatives*
- *The pursuit of high-risk, high reward studies*



For more information visit: <https://umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/PPP/>

SMART HEALTH & BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN THE ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & ADVANCED DATA SCIENCE (SCH): DUE FEB. 16, 2021 AT 5 PM

The purpose of this interagency program solicitation is to support the development of transformative high-risk, high-reward advances in computer and information science, engineering, mathematics, statistics, behavioral and/or cognitive research to address pressing questions in the biomedical and public health communities. Transformations hinge on scientific and engineering innovations by interdisciplinary teams that develop novel methods to intuitively and intelligently collect, sense, connect, analyze and interpret data from individuals, devices and systems to enable discovery and optimize health. Solutions to these complex biomedical or public health problems demand the formation of interdisciplinary teams that are ready to address these issues, while advancing fundamental science and engineering. Application due date: February 16, 2021. For more information visit:

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21530/nsf21530.htm>



EDUCATION



POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING IN CANCER PREVENTION & CONTROL:

The NCI-funded PRACCTIS program (Prevention and Control of Cancer: Training for Change in Individuals and Systems) at UMMS is now accepting applications for postdoctoral scholars to start January 2021 and August 2021. We train independent researchers to address critical prevention and control care delivery issues across the cancer continuum, including primary prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship, with emphasis on promoting change in individuals, providers and systems. Our faculty mentors are leaders in implementation science, health equity and low resource settings, health behavior change, health informatics, systems change and health policy, health communications, population health sciences, and prevention and intervention research. Applicants must plan to pursue an independent research career focused on cancer prevention and control, have earned a doctoral degree (PhD, ScD, MD, DO, etc.), and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. For more information contact Barbara Estabrook, Barbara.estabrook@umasmed.edu

TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE INTERAGENCY FELLOWSHIP:

The Translational Science Interagency Fellowship (TSIF) is a new post doctoral fellowship opportunity developed by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Fellows will be jointly mentored by NCATS and FDA scientists on a research project of mutual interest to both organizations. Fellows in this program will develop skills of value to future careers in academia, the pharmaceutical industry and government. Applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents and have two years or less of postdoctoral training. More information about potential projects, mentors, and the application process can be found at <https://ncats.nih.gov/training-education/training/TSIF> . Questions about the fellowship and application process are welcome. Please contact TSIFellowship@nih.gov (link sends e-mail)





EDUCATION

RESEARCH WITH SEXUAL & GENDER MINORITY POPULATIONS

Tufts CTSI Clinical Research Network is hosting the “Research with Sexual and Gender Minority Populations” training module which will be led by Tania D. Strout, PhD, RN, MS from Maine Medical Center. Please register at:

https://ilearn.tuftsctsi.org/product?catalog=ST109_2019_Online

DID YOU KNOW?



HRPP QA/QI:

The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Program is a component of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science. The program is independent of the IRB and helps study teams and investigators by conducting routine post-approval monitoring of on-going research to evaluate adherence with institutional requirements and federal regulations. If there are review findings, the QA/QI manager shares those findings with investigators and study teams, and provides direct education on the findings, including how to avoid making similar errors in the future. In order to support improvement at an institutional level, the QA/QI manager shares aggregated data from reviews with the HRPP leadership and the Research Community to identify trends and target areas for education. The program also makes self-evaluation tools available to investigators and study teams seeking to perform their own assessments. To learn more about HRPP QA/QI HRP-142, visit: <https://www.umassmed.edu/globalassets/ccts/ccts-media/irb/updated-sops-2015/hrp-142-hrpp-qa-qi-program-final.pdf>.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR DATA TO HEALTH (CD2H):

The goal of CD2H is to make data more meaningful, open and accessible. The CD2H supports a vibrant and evolving collaborative informative ecosystem for the CTSA program and beyond. The CD2H harnesses and expands an ecosystem for translational scientists to discover and share their software, data and other research resources within the CTSA program network. The CD2H also creates a social coding environment for translational science institutions, leveraging the community-driven DREAM challenges as a mechanism to stimulate innovation. To learn more, <https://ctsa.ncats.nih.gov/cd2h/>.

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.”



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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.