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## UMCCTS Newsletter, December 2024

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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.

## EVENTS

**Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS)  
Research Methods Meetings**

December Research Methods Meetings

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](mailto:judi.saber@umassmed.edu) to be added to the distribution list.

## Wednesday, December 4th | 10–11AM

**Title:** Shifting the Culture of Health Care: Promoting Whole Health and Caregiver Inclusion Using Ethnographic and Implementation Science Approaches

**Presenter:** Eileen M. Dryden, PhD, Center for Health Optimization and Implementation Research (CHOIR), VA Bedford Healthcare System

## Wednesday, December 18th | 10–11AM

**Title:** Why does it matter and what does it mean to validate a model?

**Presenters:** Arlene Ash, PhD, Professor and Division Chief, Biostatistics and Health Information Systems., UMass Chan and Randall Ellis, PhD, Professor of Economics at Boston University

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

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## 2024 Barracuda Bowl

This year, the M2D2 Barracuda Bowl is focused on supporting early-stage startups with innovative solutions in point-of-care and proactive health. **[Check out the full list of Areas of Interest](#)** to learn if you should apply!

Selected applicants will pitch to a panel of industry leaders and investors ready to help entrepreneurs scale their innovations. You can get the inside scoop on the **[2024 Barracuda Bowl from our recorded info session](#)**.

Don't forget to **[register to attend!](#)**

We'll see you in Boston on December 11th from 3:00-7:30.

More information here - <https://m2d2challenge.com/barracuda-bowl>

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# FUNDING



## Digital Sandbox Challenge Now Accepting Applications

Do you have a digital health-based solution that helps eliminate racial, economic, and regional disparities in health outcomes? The Massachusetts eHealth Institute (MeHI) is seeking startups and entrepreneurs to compete in the third [Massachusetts Digital Health Sandbox Challenge](#). This Challenge is divided into four tracks, all aimed at meeting the goals of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's [Advancing Health Equity in Massachusetts \(AHEM\) Initiative](#):

- Addressing Social Determinants of Health for Cardiometabolic Diseases;
- AI for Health Equity;
- Maternal and Infant Health; and
- The Medicaid Pilot Track (MPT)

Challenge finalists will compete for prizes worth a total of **\$250,000**. Finalists will also take part in [Mass Digital Health Connects](#), a three-month series of informative and interactive virtual workshops featuring prominent voices from across the ecosystem, including venture capitalists, state and federal policymakers, and leading researchers.

**Applications are due December 19, 2024.** Learn more and apply [here](#).

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### 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](#)

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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](#)

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**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

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## 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.

**UPCOMING DATE:** Dec. 5 2024 2:00 PM



*\*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](mailto:ann.han@umassmed.edu)) and Eric Stratton ([eric.stratton@umassmed.edu](mailto: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](#)

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## K Award Research Writing Group

**Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 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](mailto:Robyn.Leonard@umassmed.edu).

[Visit our  
Website](#)

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## R Club Research Writing Group

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 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](mailto: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



# Final Presentations

On December 5th, the Fall cohort of Fellows will present their novel approaches and solutions to Aging and Alzheimer's Disease during the LIFT networking event!

[Reserve your spot](#)

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## 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**

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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](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu). Sharing your success demonstrates the importance and effect of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science at UMass.*

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### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

To be included in the CCTS Monthly Newsletter, please send announcements, including a link, to [ccts@umassmed.edu](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu).

The newsletter is published the first week of each month.



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