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## UMCCTS Newsletter, December 2023

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# CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

**UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER**



## HIGHLIGHTS

**ANNOUNCING**  
our new KL2 Awardees

**Workshop Series:**  
Science & Communication

**Friendly Reminder to Cite & Submit**  
Clinical Investigator Training Course

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# NEWS

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR NEW AWARDEES**

## KL2 Scholars 2023



**Raquel Binder, PhD**

**Department of Infectious Disease**

**Title: Unraveling Respiratory Virus**

**Transmission Dynamics among Latinx and  
Black Communities in MA**

**Primary mentor: Ann Moormann, PhD, MPH**

**Other mentors: Timothy Kowalik, PhD; Ana  
Maldonado-Contreras, PhD; Andrés Colubri,  
MFA, PhD**



**Anna Whelan, MD**

**Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology**

**Title: Adapting a Health at Every Size**

**Intervention to Obstetric Care**

**Primary mentor: Tiffany Moore Simas, MD,  
MPH**

**Other mentors: Nancy Byatt, DO, MBA, MS;  
Emily Miller, MD, MPH; Kristin Mattocks, PhD;  
Martha Zimmermann, PhD**



**Evan Bradley, MD, PhD**

**Department of Emergency Medicine**

**Title: Oral Microbiome in Respiratory Viruses**

**Primary mentor: John Haran, MD, PhD**

**Other mentors: Beth McCormick, PhD; Vanni  
Bucci, PhD; Jennifer Wang, MD**

Friendly Reminder

# Cite & SUBMIT it

Our success is a direct reflection of your research achievements. ***Therefore, we need your help to ensure the future of clinical and translational science research.***

Grant acknowledgement ensures critical performance measures are captured when we report annual progress and productivity to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

***As an NIH-funded core, it is crucial that researchers who receive CCTS funding or support comply with NIH grant acknowledgement and public access policies.***

**Cite the NIH CTSA award any time you use it.  
Instructions can be found [HERE](#).**



**CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND  
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE**



## Call For Papers

Learn how you can share your research through the *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science: The Official Journal of ACTS and CR Forum (JCTS)*!

JCTS is an international peer-reviewed journal that publishes papers capturing the spectrum of research from T1 (translation from research lab bench to bedside) through to T4 (translation to populations). JCTS aims to provide a



forum for the rapid communication of relevant topics of interest to the large and diverse community of clinical and translational scientists.

**JCTS highlights outstanding work in the following areas:** *Basic and Preclinical Research* | *Clinical Research* | *Education* | *Research Methods and Technology* | *Implementation, Policy, and Community Engagement* | *Translational Research Design and Analysis*

## Upcoming Thematic Issues

JCTS is accepting manuscripts for **upcoming thematic issues!**  
Learn more about each thematic issue & the submission deadlines below:

### **Integration of Social Determinants of Health with Clinical and Translational Science**

*Deadline for Submission: December 31, 2023*

### **Advancing Understanding and Use of Impact Measures in Implementation Science**

*Deadline for Submission: February 15, 2024*

**Manuscripts may be submitted for peer review in any of the Journal's article types listed here:** *Research Articles* | *Expedited Reports* | *Brief Reports* | *Letters* | *Editorials* | *Special Communications* | *Comments* | *Review Articles* | *Perspectives* | *Conference Proceedings* | *Translational Science Case Studies*

For a full description of each manuscript category, as well as information on the submission of manuscripts, journal policy and journal style, please visit the **JCTS Instructions for Contributors** on Cambridge Core.

**The Lamar Soutter Library, UMass Chan, has Read and Publish Agreement with Cambridge University Press. This agreement waives article processing charges (APCs) for open access articles in JCTS that meet the following criteria. Please see the LINK BELOW for more information about this excellent benefit!**

<https://library.umassmed.edu/news-events/lsl-now/library-signs-agreement-with-cambridge-university-press>



[More Info Here](#)

# EVENTS

# Thinking about Information Disorder in the Context of Health and Science: How Bad is the Problem and What Can We Do About It?

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM EST

Via Zoom (Registration is Required!)

**REGISTER**

Many policymakers, practitioners and members of the public are (rightfully) concerned about the potential consequences of widespread access and exposure to inaccurate, misleading and/or outright false information for both individuals and society, particularly when it comes to making important health-related decisions and policies.

In this interactive session, we will dig into the rapidly growing evidence base regarding the scope and nature of misinformation about science and health (sometimes referred to as an “infodemic”) in order to better understand what it is that we are really up against. We will focus in particular on evidence-informed actions that individuals and organizations can take to reduce negative impacts within the health decision-making domain.

## FEATURED SPEAKER



**Ezra Markowitz, Ph.D.**, is a Professor of Environmental Decision-Making in the Dept. of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His research and teaching focus on the intersection of decision-making, persuasive communication, public engagement with science, and environmental sustainability. He is particularly interested and an expert in the practical application of behavioral science to improve individuals' and communities' decision-making and communications.



**REGISTER**



This is the first workshop in a 3-part series on Science and Health Communication. The workshops are related but stand alone. You can join any or all of them, and do not need to have attended earlier sessions to take part fully in a later workshop. Watch for dates and details!

Real-time Captioning will be provided

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

## 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 December 8th will be presented by...



## **Jennifer Mammen, PhD**

Associate Professor, Adult Nursing  
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, CNHS

### **"Symptom Mapping: Identifying bothersome symptoms and relevance of digital measures over time in early Parkinson's Disease"**

**December 8, 2023**

**1:00-2:00 PM | Virtual**

This presentation is focused on use of novel symptom mapping methods to understand meaningful symptoms of early Parkinson's disease. Symptom mapping is an online hybrid approach to data collection that allows for the simultaneous collection of qualitative and quantitative data, which can enhance understanding of complex phenomena. These approaches are being used globally to connect what is meaningful to patients to development of new monitoring tools that will be used in clinical drug trials to test therapeutic efficacy.

**[Zoom Link](#)**

Zoom Password: 552084

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Small Business and  
Industry Assistance

# Clinical Investigator Training Course (CITC)

DECEMBER 6 – 7, 2023  
Webcast



[MORE INFO & REGISTRATION LINK](#)



CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH  
DIVISION of DRUG INFORMATION

Your source for the latest drug information. Know the moment it happens.

*FDA's Division of Drug Information  
is presenting a series of continuing  
education (CE) webinars targeting  
the needs of all health care professionals.*

**FDA Drug Topics:  
An Overview of FDA's Project Facilitate Oncology  
Expanded Access Program**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

**Time: 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM (ET)**

After registering, you will receive a calendar invitation with details on how to join the online meeting. An email will be sent to all participants by the next business day with instructions on how to claim CE and a copy of the presentation slides.

[MORE INFO](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)



# FUNDING

RFA-TR-23-017 and RFA-TR-23-018:

## Miniaturization and Automation of Tissue Chip Systems (MATChS)

(U43/U44 and UT1/UT2 – Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: November 22, 2023

**First Available Due Date: February 22, 2024**

Expiration Date: February 24, 2026

This NOFO provides support using the SBIR and STTR cooperative agreement mechanisms for the development of MATChS. Applications in response to this NOFO would include those proposing research and development of tools and turnkey technologies for higher throughput automated measures with on-line sensing, rapid acquisition and analysis of data to reduce manual handling.

[More Info: RFA-TR-23-017](#)

[More Info: RFA-TR-23-018](#)

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PA-23-317:

## Competing Revisions to Existing NIH Single Project Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements

(Clinical Trial Optional)

Release Date: November 24, 2023

**Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): November 24, 2023**

Expiration Date: November 24, 2026

The NIH hereby notifies NIH award recipients that funds may be available for revision applications to support the expansion of existing projects and/or programs within the awarding Institute or Center (IC) identified in the competitive revision Notice of Special Interest (NOSI). Only applications submitted in response to a NOSI published by an NIH Institute or Center will be allowed to apply to this NOFO.

[More Info](#)

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NOT-NS-24-021:  
**Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding  
Opportunity Announcement for Translational  
Neural Devices**

(R61/R33 – Clinical Trial Optional)

Forecasted Date: November 1, 2023

**Estimated Post Date: February 22, 2024**

Estimated Application Due Date: May 28, 2024

This Notice announces the intention of NINDS to reissue RFA-NS-21-021 to solicit applications for research pursuing translational activities and small clinical studies to advance the development of low risk therapeutic and diagnostic devices for disorders that affect the nervous or neuromuscular systems.

[More Info](#)

## EDUCATION & TRAINING



**NCATS Training Program**

# Applications Open

The AIM-AHEAD Consortium (Data Science Training Core and Communications Hub) is partnering with the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) to offer AIM-AHEAD stakeholders, trainees, mentees, and consortium partners a training opportunity designed to increase researcher diversity in artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) by leveraging the NCATS N3C Data Enclave. The N3C Data Enclave can be used to study COVID-19 and identify potential treatments, clinical best practices, novel patient cohorts, and interventions as the pandemic continues to evolve.

Two cohorts of diverse professionals committed to applying AI/ML to benefit underrepresented communities will complete an intensive **8-month** program in advanced data analysis developed by NCATS and utilizing the resources of the NCATS N3C Data Enclave and AIM-AHEAD's Data Science Training Core. Completing the training will equip the motivated professional to conduct the in-depth analysis of large datasets essential for cutting-edge biomedical and socioeconomic research.

**Applications are due by Dec. 8, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. EST.**

**Training will begin on Jan. 8, 2024.**

Participants will receive stipend support totaling \$8,000 and a \$2,000 travel allowance to attend the AIM-AHEAD Annual Meeting.

Please send questions to the [AIM-AHEAD Connect HelpDesk](#).

[Apply Here](#)

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## K Award Research Writing Group

### Next Meetings

**December 13, 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](mailto:Robyn.Leonard@umassmed.edu).

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## R Club Research Writing Group

December 5th & 19th, 2023  
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](mailto: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=dHRmWnBnWHBZZ1I0c3B4M05Pc3BTdz09>

Password: 809084

Zoom Meeting Link

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?

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](mailto: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](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu).  
The newsletter is published the first week of each month.



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