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## UMCCTS Newsletter, September 2023

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# CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

**UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER**



## **ANNOUNCING**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED**  
TL1 Postdoc Fellowship

**Pilot Project Program (PPP) Request**  
for Letters of Intent  
Due October 10, 2023

**Another Successful Year of  
Summer Undergraduate Clinical  
Research Internships**

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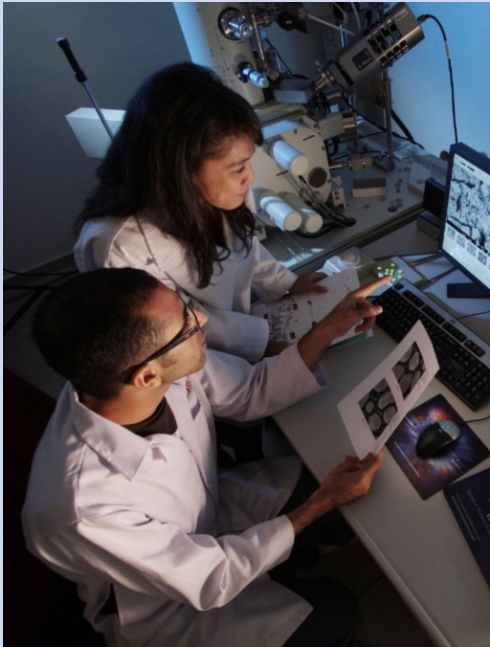
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## UMCCTS TL1 Request for Application (RFA)

Post-Doc  
Mentored Career Development Opportunity

EXTENDED DEADLINE - September 29th



## TL1 POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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

The application deadline has been extended to  
Friday, September 29, 2023

To learn more about the UMCCTS TL1 Program's  
Post-doctoral Fellowship click below.

[More info and RFA  
Link](#)

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UMCCTS

## Pilot Project Program Request for Application (PPP RFA)

Due Tuesday, October 10, 2023 (5 PM Eastern)



### Pilot Project Program (PPP) 2023 - Request for Letters of Intent

*The intent of the Pilot Project Program (PPP) is to speed up the rate of progress to move a research project, clinical finding or other discovery into a broader network of activities, while maximizing the breadth of transdisciplinary skills applied to the research question. We are particularly interested in proposals which feature a clinical scientist working with a basic scientist, proposals with an emphasis on community-based research, and proposals that support the career development of new investigators.*

[Further Details and RFA Here](#)

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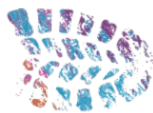
**Summer Undergraduate Research Internships:  
Opening Doors to Impactful Career Discovery**



## 2023 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH INTERNS

*Pictured above (minus Batoul and Nour Chouiki UMass Boston who were unavailable for the photo): Front row from L-R: Connor Coe (UMass Boston), Gabrielle Pandolfo (UMass Lowell), Alice Moreira (UMass Lowell), Grace White (UMass Amherst), Christina Ciaramitaro (UMass Lowell) and Scott Thorley (UMass Amherst). Back row from L-R: Natalia Arcos Rivera, (UMass Lowell), Lovia Asiedua Gyau (UMass Lowell), Daniela Salinas Camacho (UMass Lowell), Sophie Spielberg (UMass Amherst) and Mariana Hebert (UMass Dartmouth).*

[Click here for more](#)



# STRIDE

Strengthening Translational Research In Diverse Enrollment.

## Resources to Help Diversify

## Clinical Research Participation

A collaborative study between UMass Chan Medical School, Vanderbilt and the University of Alabama at Birmingham developed innovative approaches to enhance informed consent procedures with a goal of improving research literacy among under-served populations.

Visit <https://strideproject.org/> to learn more about this effort and download materials.

Bridging Engineering and Medicine (B.E.A.M.)

## CALL FOR MEDICAL PROBLEMS

Deadline Extended to Friday, Sept. 8, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Do you have a medical device need? Would it be amazing if someone *else* could solve the problem for you?

The **Bridging Engineering and Medicine (BEAM)** program is designed to facilitate technology-focused collaborations and training opportunities between the UMass Amherst and UMass Chan Medical School campuses. In collaboration with the CCTS, we are seeking Engineering Senior Design projects. The medical problems will be defined by UMass Chan faculty mentors and solved by teams of undergraduate Biomedical Engineers at UMass Amherst.

**Faculty mentors:**

- Articulate the medical problem and the requirements of an effective solution
- Respond to occasional email questions and meet with the student design teams on an as-needed basis
- Provide feedback as the project develops to ensure that their proposed solution meets the needs you have defined

Design teams are composed of 3-6 undergraduate Biomedical Engineers. Students have varied backgrounds and will be carefully matched to projects that build on their academic strengths. Each member of the design team will exert ~9 hrs/week over both the Spring and Fall academic semesters. A physical prototype will be produced at the end of the design challenge. Design teams are supplied with a materials budget; no funding needs to come from UMass Chan faculty.

**Example projects:**

- A device to prevent unintentional pullout of IVs in the clinic
- A syringe that regulates fluid temperature prior to injection
- An imaging algorithm to analyze movement patterns and prevent patient falls in the hospital
- A warming chamber to accommodate rodents for laboratory procedures
- A microfluidic device optimized for specific cell culture applications
- A more comfortable pediatric cranial orthosis
- A cup that makes drinking fluid easier for individuals experiencing tremor

*Interested? Please fill out the one-page PDF (link below). Or respond to the questions in email format and send to [rachael.sirianni@umassmed.edu](mailto:rachael.sirianni@umassmed.edu). This is the second call for senior design projects, and we will need project ideas by **Tuesday, August 29th**. If you have a general project idea but the timeline is any trouble, please reach out and we can accommodate an extension.*

[Access PDF Here](#)

# EVENTS

## Register for the upcoming I-Corps Program

Does your latest discovery have commercial value?  
Would a potential "customer" of your research welcome your technology,  
protocol, or intervention?

The I-Corps Program at the UMCCTS, a UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) initiative, is designed to support the translation of biomedical research by providing early-stage education and strategic guidance to faculty, staff and students during the ideation phase of technology development.

**Registration deadline is Sept 20, 2023**



# Poster and Scientific Session Submissions Are Now Open

At Translational Science 2024, we continuously seek fresh avenues to drive innovation in translational science for research. Our mission is to design a scientific program that fosters inclusive discussions, propels advancements in team science, and provides an esteemed platform to exhibit your state-of-the-art research.

Are you eager to unveil the latest and most promising developments in translational science at TS24?

**The call for poster and scientific session proposals is now open!**

Play your cards right and join us as we head to Las Vegas for TS24. We cannot wait to witness your captivating presentations in person in Las Vegas next year, from April 3-5, with pre-meeting activities commencing on April 2.

translational science 2024

APRIL 3-5, 2024 • LAS VEGAS  
Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino  
Pre-Meeting Activities: April 2

**SCIENTIFIC SESSION PROPOSALS**

Submit by: **October 2**

**Scientific Sessions:** 60-minute concurrent scientific programming sessions organized as you wish and described in your session proposal.

**SUBMIT NOW**

translational science 2024

APRIL 3-5, 2024 • LAS VEGAS  
Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino  
Pre-Meeting Activities: April 2

**POSTER PROPOSALS**

Submit by: **October 23**

**Posters:** research based posters eligible for a short oral platform presentation or poster presentation and published in JCTS.

**SUBMIT NOW**

The CCTS/UMass Chan is an institutional member of ACTS. For assistance with creating a nonmember affiliate account, please send an email to [ccts@umassmed.edu](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu).

Please note: If accepted for a poster submission and/or session, you must attend in person in Las Vegas to present.

Showcase original research in one of the following areas of interest:

- Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design
- Contemporary Research Challenges

- Education, Career Development, and Workforce Development
- Evaluation
- Health Equity and Community Engagement
- Informatics
- Precision Medicine/Health
- Regulatory Science
- Research Management, Operations, and Administration
- Science Policy and Advocacy
- Team Science
- Other

Please [visit our website](#) to learn more about the submissions portal, best practices, and more. We look forward to receiving your scientific session ideas and posters submissions!

# Massachusetts

## LIFE SCIENCES CENTER

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is proud to launch the next rounds of six research innovation programs supporting women's health, data science, drug delivery, research infrastructure, and women's health.

**The deadline to apply for all six programs is Nov. 17, 2023.**

**Bits to Bytes**: Funds collaborative academic and industry translational research projects that generate and analyze large omics datasets to answer pressing life science questions, as well as train the next generation of data scientists in the Commonwealth.

**Novel Therapeutics**: Capitalizes and incentivizes collaborative academic and industry translational research projects to address complex challenges in "therapeutic" delivery—from biomanufacturing, to targeted delivery, biomaterials and more.

**Research Infrastructure**: Develops innovative research infrastructure in Massachusetts to advance the life science ecosystem.

**First Look Awards**: In collaboration with the Mary Horrigan Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, the program supports exploratory research projects aiming to begin developing translatable solutions for women's health and furthering our understanding of gender biology.

**Women's Health Innovation Grants**: Target innovations with translational potential and preliminary supporting data but still require a key set of proof-of-concept experiments prior to attracting a commercial partner or spinning out into a new company.

**Women's Health Collaboration**: Supports translational academic and industry research collaborations that improve the discovery, technical innovation, and/or analysis of datasets to answer pressing life science questions around women's health. Women's health encompasses conditions which solely, disproportionately, or differently affect women.

To learn more about these programs, register for one of these virtual informational sessions MLSC staff will be hosting:

- Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. – [register](#)
- Oct. 20 at 9 a.m. – [register](#)

To begin an application and apply by Nov. 17, head to our Application Portal below.



## Save The Date! Translational Science Day Scheduled for Monday, October 16

Tufts CTSI is excited to announce that its 2023 Translational Science Day symposium is scheduled for **Monday, October 16 in person on the Tufts University School of Medicine campus.**

The theme of this year's symposium is "***Advancing Health Equity through Translational Science***," and the event will include lightning talks, interactive research studios, and two keynote speakers: Michael G. Kurilla, MD, PhD, Director, Division of Clinical Innovation, National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS), and Robert M. Califf, MD, MACC, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, FDA.

[Registration is now open!](#)

[Please visit our event page to view the current agenda for the day.](#)

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# 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.

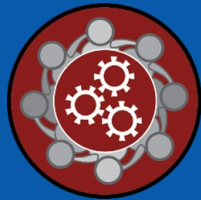


**REGISTER**



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

For more information, visit [www.advancingdigitalendpoints.com](http://www.advancingdigitalendpoints.com)

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## SPECIAL SEMINAR

Given jointly by the  
UMASS Chan 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?](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/93647672649?pwd=UjNWRnU2NG5jOTRVL0tlUEc1cWJNUT09)  
[pwd=UjNWRnU2NG5jOTRVL0tlUEc1cWJNUT09](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/93647672649?pwd=UjNWRnU2NG5jOTRVL0tlUEc1cWJNUT09)  
PASSWORD - 524134

ZOOM LINK

# FUNDING



## Announcing the NIH Build UP Trust Challenge!

Let's build community trust and improve people's health and well-being.

### What is the NIH Build UP Trust Challenge?

The NIH Build UP Trust Challenge will award a total of up to \$1.25 million for solutions that increase research participation and the adoption of existing and new tools and approaches to detect, treat, and monitor diseases, conditions, and disorders by improving engagement with minority health populations and populations with health disparities.

### Are You Interested in Submitting a Solution?

Eligible individuals, teams, and organizations must register by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, in order to participate. We suggest completing the Readiness Tool to help determine your eligibility and fit for the Build UP Trust Challenge.

### Do You Know Potential Solvers?

Share information about this exciting opportunity.

### About the NIH Build UP Trust Challenge

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) launched the Build UP (underserved populations) Trust Challenge to identify new and promising scalable strategies that increase research participation and the adoption of existing and new tools and approaches to detect, treat, and monitor diseases, conditions, and disorders by improving engagement with minority health populations and populations with health disparities

Learn more here: [www.builduptrust.org/about](http://www.builduptrust.org/about)

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RFA-TR-23-016

## Preclinical Proof of Concept Studies for Rare Diseases (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: July 05, 2023

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): September 01, 2023

Letter of Intent Due Date(s): September 1, 2023; May 1, 2024; May 1, 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. Therapeutic agents include small molecules, biologics or biotechnology-derived products. The goal of this NOFO is to spur therapeutic development for rare diseases by advancing projects to the point where they would attract subsequent investment supporting full Investigational New Drug (IND) application development or progression to clinical trials in the case of repurposing or repositioning.

[More Info](#)

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RFA-HD-24-011

**HEAL Initiative: HEAL KIDS  
(Knowledge, Innovation and Discovery Studies) Pain:  
Acute Pain Clinical Trials Program  
(U01 Clinical Trial Required)**

**Posted Date: August 18, 2023**  
**Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): October 20, 2023**  
**Letter of Intent Due Date(s): October 20, 2023**

[More Info](#)

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RFA-HD-24-012

**HEAL Initiative: HEAL KIDS  
(Knowledge, Innovation and Discovery Studies)  
Pain Program Resource and Data Center  
(U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)**

**Posted Date: August 18, 2023**  
**Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): October 20, 2023**  
**Letter of Intent Due Date(s): October 20, 2023**

[More Info](#)

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NOT-EB-23-005

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Small  
Business Initiatives for Innovative Tools and  
Technologies for Improving Outcomes for  
Maternal Health**

**Posted Date: July 26, 2023**  
**Expiration Date: September 6, 2026**

Please refer to the following link for a list of relevant NOFOs.

[More Info](#)

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PAR-23-253 (Reissue of PAR-20-279)

## **Device Based Treatments for Substance Use Disorders**

(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional)

**Posted Date: August 17, 2023**

**Application Due Dates: December 18, 2023 with cycles through August 2026**

This NOFO aims to accelerate the development of devices to treat Substance Use Disorders (SUDs). Focused on the development of neuromodulatory or neurophysiological devices that are safe and effective SUD treatments, the objective is to move devices to their next step in the FDA approval process, with the ultimate goal of generating new, FDA approved device-based treatments for SUDs.

[More Info](#)

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PAR-23-259 (Reissue of PAR-20-155)

## **Academic-Industrial Partnerships (AIP) to Translate and Validate In Vivo Imaging Systems**

(R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

**Posted Date: August 8, 2023**

**Application Due Dates: October 5, 2023 with cycles through October 2026**

The FOMO intends to stimulate translation of scientific discoveries and engineering developments in imaging, data science and/or spectroscopic technologies into methods or tools that address contemporary problems in understanding the fundamental biology, potential risk of development, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer.

[More Info](#)

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PAR-23-281

## **Research Projects to Enhance Applicability of Mammalian Models for Translational Research**

(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

**Posted Date: August 18, 2023**

**Application Due Dates: October 5, 2023 with cycles through June 2026**

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) invites applications for projects to expand, improve, or transform the utility of mammalian cancer and tumor models for translational research.

NCI seeks practical projects devoted to demonstrating that mammalian models or their derivatives used for translational research are robust representations of human biology, are appropriate to test questions of clinical importance, and provide reliable information for patients' benefit.

[More Info](#)

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

### K Award Research Writing Group

#### Next Meetings

September 12th & 26th, 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).

### R Club Research Writing Group

#### Next Meetings

October 10th & 24th, 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:

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

### 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](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).





**KATHERINE LUZURIAGA, MD**  
PI AND DIRECTOR, UMCCTS



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