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UMCCTS Newsletter, October 2023

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CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS

**KL2 Program Scholar
Laurel O'Connor, MD
Wins PACE Award**

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

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NEWS

KL2 Program Scholar awarded the Prize for Academic Collaboration and Excellence (PACE) Award

This award is co-sponsored by UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science and the UMass Memorial Medical Group. The team's project, titled, *"The PACED Intervention: Paramedic-Assisted Community Evaluation (after) Discharge"*, is designed to help older adults transitioning into the community after hospitalization by ensuring that their discharge plans are being successfully implemented at home.

MORE INFO
HERE



Assistant Professor, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Department of Emergency Medicine at UMass Chan, Dr. Laurel O'Connor's research focuses on development and implementation of community-based mobile health interventions to improve the health of medically complex older adults.



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](#)

TRIAL INNOVATION NETWORK



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM

Trial Innovation Network Communications Coordination and Operations

The central web-based portal for the ACTIV Virtual Biorepository is open for business and requests from investigators to use residual biospecimens from the ACTIV Therapeutic Clinical Trials are being accepted for consideration.

Currently, biospecimens from the ACTIV-4 clinical trial are available, and the ACTIV Virtual Biorepository website will be updated as new biospecimens from other ACTIV clinical trials become available.

Additional information and access to the ACTIV Virtual Biorepository can be obtained by emailing activ-biorep@rti.org.



at the MassTech
Collaborative



Women's Health Challenge Launched

The Massachusetts eHealth Institute at MassTech (MeHI) is **seeking digital health startups** from across the U.S. to compete in the second Massachusetts Digital

Health Sandbox Challenge. The **Women's Health Challenge** is focused on finding digital health solutions that address women+ health, as well as inequities, in the areas of mental health, maternal health, reproductive health, menopause, cancer, and cardiovascular health.

Challenge finalists will compete for prizes worth \$150,000

Up to eight finalists will be selected to participate in the program and compete for prizes worth up to **\$150,000**. Selected entrepreneurs will participate in a two-month, virtual introduction to the Massachusetts digital health ecosystem program.

During the program, participants will be assessed on their testing and validation needs and then matched with members of the **Massachusetts Digital Health Sandbox Network**, a group of cutting-edge research and development organizations supporting digital health companies. Participants will work with their Sandbox partners to scope detailed testing and validation projects.

Applications are due December 1, 2023

Download the **Request for Applications** for more information.

Register for the **information session** on October 18th

[Learn More About the Challenge](#) [Explore Sandbox Capabilities](#) [Register for Info Session](#)

EVENTS

ITMAT 2023

18th Annual
International Symposium



Oct. 9 –10, 2023

Origins, Emergence, Prediction
and Perception of Disease:
A Quantum of Solace



Registration is now open for the 2023 ITMAT Symposium to be held on Monday and Tuesday, October 9-10, 2023.

The theme this year will be “Origins, Emergence, Prediction and Perception of Disease: A Quantum of Solace”. The symposium will be held in person and is free to attend. If you would like to attend the dinner at the College of Physicians, there is a \$25.00 fee.

There is also an option to join the live web stream.

Dr. Shirley M. Tilghman, OC FRS, President Emeritus, Princeton University, will join as our dinner speaker at the College of Physicians.

In Person Registration is available here: <https://upenn.irisregistration.com/Site/itmat2023>

Virtual Registration is available here: <https://mediasite.med.upenn.edu/mediasite/Channel/itmat-symposium-2023> (Use passcode: ITMAT23)

Meeting contact: Colleen Itani: citani@upenn.edu

Registration site contact: Tessa Mansell: tmansell@upenn.edu

A Scientific Symposium Celebrating
the *Life, Impact* and *Legacy* of
Michael R. Green, MD, PhD



Registration is now open for a scientific symposium celebrating Michael R.
Green, MD, PhD.

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

You are invited to register for *in-person or online attendance* at this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-the-life-impact-and-legacy-of-michael-r-green-tickets-707913707957?aff=oddtcreator>.

Agenda link: [Celebrating the Life, Impact, and Legacy of Michael R. Green Tickets, Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

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 \(CECC\)](#)

FUNDING

NOT-TR-23-026

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program:

Collaborative and Innovative Acceleration Award (UG3/UH3) (Clinical Trial Optional) for Advancing Recruitment through Trial Innovation Network (AR- TIN)

Posted Date: September 14, 2023
Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): October 17, 2023
Expiration Date: October 18, 2024

[More Info](#)

PAR-23-236: Early-stage Biomedical Data Repositories and Knowledgebases (R24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: August 30, 2023
Application Due Dates: October 30, 2023
with cycles through January 2026

This Notice of Funding Announcement (NOFO) supports the development of early-stage or new data repositories and knowledge bases that could be valuable for the biomedical research community.

[More Info](#)

PAR-23-237: Enhancement and Management of Established Biomedical Data Repositories and Knowledgebases (U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: August 30, 2023
Application Due Dates: October 30, 2023
with cycles through January 2026

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is designed to support established biomedical data repositories and knowledgebases as distinct and separate resources that have demonstrated impact and have potential for continued benefit to the community served.

[More Info](#)

RFA-NS-24-023:

HEAL INITIATIVE: Development and validation of remote or patient wearable device derived objective biosignatures or functional assessments to monitor pain for use as endpoints in clinical trials

(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional)

Posted Date: September 1, 2023

Application Due Date: January 30, 2024

Purpose of NOFO is to promote the discovery, development, and validation of real-world digital endpoints derived from data generated by existing remote or wearable devices. These endpoints will be used for monitoring the experience of pain, its progression, response to interventions, and impact on quality of life.

[More Info](#)

RFA-NS-23-006 and RFA-NS-23-007:

HEAL INITIATIVE: Development of Therapies and Technologies Directed at Enhanced Pain Management

(R43/R44 and R41/R42 - Clinical Trials Not Allowed)

Please note that NCATS is now participating in these opportunities.

Posted Date: September 15, 2022

Application Due Dates: January 4, 2024

with cycles through April 2025

These FOAs aim to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis by supporting the development of therapies and technologies directed at enhanced pain management through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

[More Info: RFA-NS-23-006](#)

[More Info: RFA-NS-23-007](#)

NOT-TR-23-027

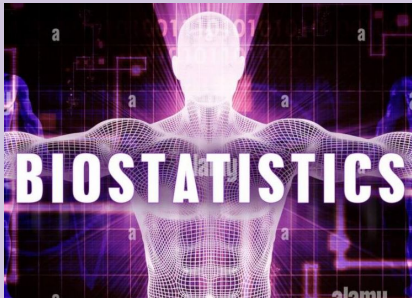
Request for Information (RFI): Inviting Input on NCATS Strategic Plan for 2024-2029

Release Date: September 22, 2023

This is a Request for Information (RFI) inviting comments on the strategic plan framework, which will inform the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) 2024-2029 strategic plan.

More Info

EDUCATION & TRAINING



Research Meeting from the PQHS Department *"The rationale and logic of propensity scores"*

Wednesday, October 4, 2023
10:00 – 11:00 AM

Presenters: Arlene Ash, PhD,
Professor, PQHS, UMass Chan
Medical School

*More info about the Population and
Quantitative Health Sciences
(PQHS) Core at link below:*

<https://www.umassmed.edu/pqhs/qmc/>

Brief Description: This will be a basic (introductory), but “fundamental,” talk about why and how propensity score methods can help protect an observational study from confounding due to differences in the kinds of patients who receive treatment versus those who do not.

Click [here](#) to join or call 646 876 9923 - Meeting ID: 937 1668 5400
Password: 492717

K Award Research Writing Group

Next Meetings

October 11th & 25th, 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.

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 to be added to our mailing list.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/5682209338?pwd=dHRmWnBnWHBZZ1l0c3B4M05Pc3BTdz09>

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. 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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