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UMCCTS Newsletter, October 2024

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CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS

IN THE NEWS

**PPP Request for Applications
and NCATS Announces
2025-2030 Strategic Plan**

EVENTS

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

EDUCATION

**Professional Development Seminar
*Perfecting your NIH or NSF Biosketch***

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NEWS

Important Reminder
Call for Fall 2024 PPP LOI
Deadline is October 10, 2024 - 5:00 PM (Eastern)



INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

A major goal of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is to accelerate the translation of basic discoveries into practical, cost-effective solutions that improve individual well-being and community health. Building upon our strong reputation as a world-class research institution, producing noteworthy advances in clinical and basic research, the UMCCTS provides the infrastructure necessary to support outstanding clinical and translational investigators and their work.

[Link to RFA](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

NCATS announces their [Strategic Plan for 2025–2030](#)

This plan sets the center's direction for the future, and we hope it will be useful for the broader translational science community.

Strategic Plan Framework

NCATS Mission

Turn research observations into health solutions through translational science

NCATS Vision

Bring More Treatments for All People More Quickly

Goal 1

Advance Development of and Access to More Treatments, Particularly for Diseases With Unmet Needs



Goal 2

Empower Everyone to Contribute to and Benefit From Translational Science



Goal 3

Accelerate Translational Science by Breaking Barriers and Boosting Efficiency



Goal 4

Leverage Crosscutting Strategies to Enhance Translational Science



Goal 5

Champion Effective Stewardship of Translational Science Through Transparency, Integrity, Accountability, and Social Responsibility



[Read Details Here](#)

Catalyze Your Research

A "Did You Know?" Series

This month's focus is on the

Biorepository, Tissue and Tumor Bank

The UMCCTS Biorepository handles collection, storage, annotation, and distribution of Human Biologic Specimens.

This open-access biospecimen, tissue, and tumor bank biorepository supports investigators in patient-oriented research. Specifically, the Biospecimen and Tissue Bank provides services that help UMass and external investigators obtain, store, and study high-quality human research-related specimens while maintaining patient confidentiality.

A collection of fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue and samples (collected fresh and frozen/processed immediately following surgery) are housed in the facility.

[Visit Their Website](#)

EVENTS



Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS) Research Methods Meetings

PQHS is excited to announce that the [PQHS Wednesday Research Methods Meetings](#) have resumed and will continue through June 18, 2025 (with a summer break in July and August). Meetings are held on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10 AM.**

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 to be added to the distribution list.

October Research Methods Meeting
Title: SMART Study Designs in Medical Research with

an Example in Diabetes Management

Wednesday, October 2nd – 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Presenter: [Bruce A. Barton, PhD](#), Professor, Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research and Director, Quantitative Methods Core, UMass Chan Medical School

Title: Goal-Oriented Data-Centric Learning

Wednesday, October 16th– 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Presenter: Hongfu Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Brandeis University

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

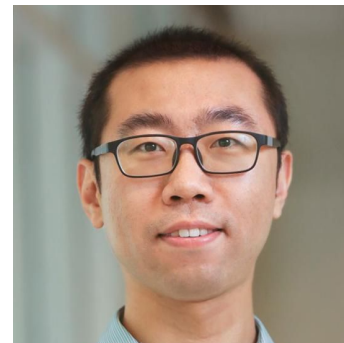


Presenter: [Bruce A. Barton, PhD](#), Professor, Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research and Director, Quantitative Methods Core, UMass Chan Medical School

Brief Description: Dr. Barton will provide insight into the use of SMART designs using the design of an NIH-funded study (TEAM CGM, Dr. Ben Gerber, PI) of the addition of CGMs to standard blood glucose management in diabetics with uncontrolled glucose levels.

Presenter: Hongfu Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Brandeis University

Brief Description: Data-centric learning focuses on enhancing algorithmic performance from the perspective of the training data. In contrast to model-centric learning, which designs novel algorithms or optimization techniques for performance improvement with fixed training data, data-centric learning operates with a fixed learning algorithm while modifying the training data through trimming, augmenting, or other methods aligned with improving utility. Data-centric learning holds significant potential in many areas such as model interpretation, subset training set selection, data generation, noisy label detection, active learning, and others. In this talk, I will introduce our recent advances in data-centric learning based on influence functions.



Visit our Website



GERONTOLOGY SPEAKER SERIES

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON
DEPARTMENT OF GERONTOLOGY AND GERONTOLOGY INSTITUTE
ROBERT AND DONNA MANNING COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES &
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION HEALTH AND QUANTITATIVE HEALTH SCIENCES
PRESENT

October 7th

Adriana Reyes, PhD, Assistant Professor Departments of Public Policy and Sociology,
Cornell University.
Topic TBD.

October 28th

Hui (Cathy) Liu, PhD, Professor Department of Sociology Purdue University.
Same-Sex Couples and Cognitive Function in Later Life

November 4th

Huijing Wu, PhD, Assistant Research Fellow, Institute of European and American Studies,
Academia Sinica, Taiwan.
Living apart together (LAT) relationships and psychological well-being: Does partnership
status matter for older adults?

Mondays, 1:00-2:15 pm

via Zoom: <https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94175483404>

Password: Boston

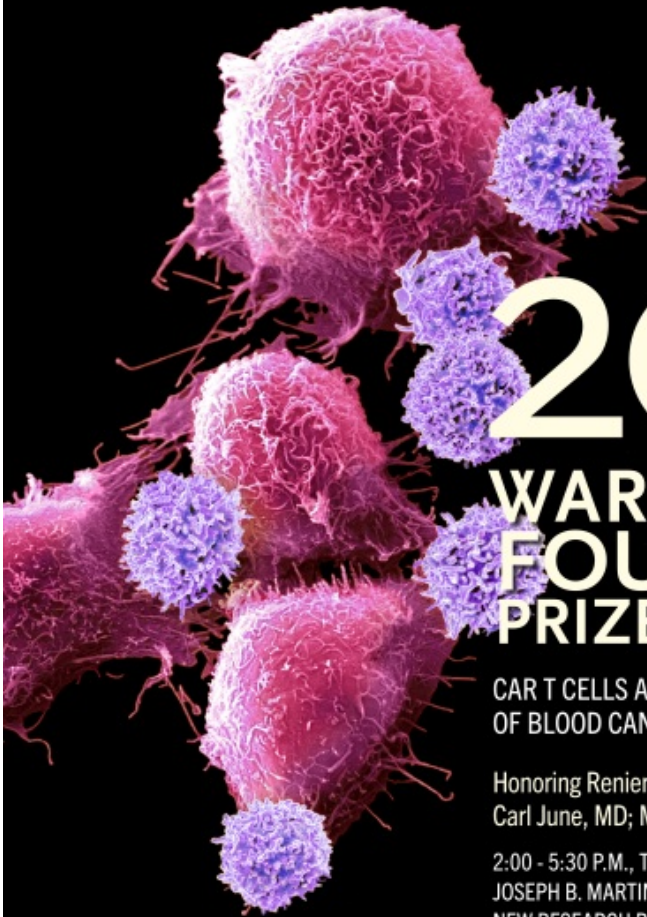
For more information contact Charles Ruberto at:
charles.ruberto@umb.edu

2024 Warren Alpert Foundation Prize Symposium Honors

Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD; Zelig Eshhar, PhD;
Carl June, MD; Michel Sadelain, MD, PhD

2:00 - 5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

JOSEPH B. MARTIN CONFERENCE CENTER
NEW RESEARCH BUILDING, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL



2024

WARREN ALPERT FOUNDATION PRIZE SYMPOSIUM

CAR T CELLS AND THE TRANSFORMATION
OF BLOOD CANCER TREATMENTS

Honoring Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD; Zelig Eshhar, PhD;
Carl June, MD; Michel Sadelain, MD, PhD

2:00 - 5:30 P.M., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

JOSEPH B. MARTIN CONFERENCE CENTER

NEW RESEARCH BUILDING, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

77 AVENUE LOUIS PASTEUR, BOSTON

Opening Remarks

George Q. Daley, MD, PhD

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine,
Harvard University

Marcela Maus, MD, PhD

Paula O'Keefe Endowed Chair,
Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer
Center, and Professor of Medicine,
Harvard Medical School

Invited Speakers

Alexander Marson, MD, PhD

Director of the Gladstone-UCSF Institute of
Genomic Immunology and Professor of
Medicine, University of California, San Francisco

Christine Brown, PhD

Heritage Provider Network Professor
in Immunotherapy and
Deputy Director, T Cell Therapeutics
Research Laboratory, City of Hope

Award Lectures

Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD

Katherine Anne Gioia Endowed Chair of
Medicine and Deputy Director, Roswell Park
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Carl June, MD

Richard W. Vague Professor in Immunotherapy,
University of Pennsylvania
Perelman School of Medicine

Michel Sadelain, MD, PhD

Stephen and Barbara Friedman Chair and
Founding Director of the Center for Cell
Engineering, Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

WARREN ALPERT
FOUNDATION



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO <https://warrenalpert.org/symposium>

Further Details

SAVE the DATE

NIH (Virtual) In silico Drug Discovery Workshop

IN SILICO DRUG DISCOVERY WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY THE NCATS ASSAY GUIDANCE MANUAL PROGRAM

OCTOBER 23-24, 2024

VIRTUAL AND FREE TO ATTEND

15+ TALKS BY EXPERTS FROM GOVERNMENT, PHARMA, BIOTECH & ACADEMIA

Keynote: Computer-Aided Drug Discovery Then and Now

Martha S. Head [Martí] (Amgen Inc.)

SESSION TOPICS

Session I: Data sourcing for *in silico* drug discovery

Chair: Sarine Markossian (NCATS, NIH); *Speakers:* Barbara Zdrzil (EMBL-EBI), Stephen K. Burley (Rutgers)

Session II: *In silico* methodologies used in drug discovery

Chair: Alexander Tropsha (UNC Chapel Hill); *Speakers:* Alexandre Varnek (The University of Strasbourg), Gisbert Schneider (ETH Zürich), Connor W. Coley (MIT), John D. Chodera (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center)

Session III: Applications of *in silico* methodologies in drug discovery

Chair: Shyam Rele (BARDA); *Speakers:* Sean Ekins (Collaborations Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), Victoria Feher (NIBR), Marissa Saunders (Recursion Pharmaceuticals), Alex Zhavoronkov (Insilico Medicine)

Session IV: Emerging trends in *in silico* drug discovery

Chair: Alexey Zakharov (NCATS); *Speakers:* Bryn Taylor (J&J Innovative Medicine), Cheryl H Arrowsmith (University of Toronto), Milad Abolhasani (North Carolina State University), David Baker (University of Washington)

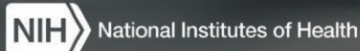
Panel Discussion: Bridging the gaps in translation

Moderator: Rommie Amaro (USCD); *Panelists:* Pat Walters (Relay Therapeutics), Russ B Altman (Stanford University), Joel Karpiak (GSK), Martha S. Head [Martí] (Amgen Inc.)

EVENT <https://ncats.corsizio.com/event/66b0e8eb68397f1ed92ecfc4>



THE ASSAY GUIDANCE MANUAL



ASPR
ADMINISTRATION FOR STRATEGIC
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



Registration Link

 **Brigham and Women's Hospital**
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

The Gillian Reny
STEPPING STRONG
Center for Trauma Innovation

7th Stepping Strong Trauma Annual Research and Innovation Symposium

November 14, 3:00-6:30 pm
Brigham and Women's Hospital and Virtual

 Brigham and Women's Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

 10 YEARS
The Gillian Reny
STEPPING STRONG
Center for Trauma Innovation

Join us in person or virtually for the 7th Annual Stepping Strong Trauma Research and Innovation Symposium. Transforming Trauma Care: Paving the Road Ahead, focuses on the future of trauma care through each stage of prevention, treatment and recovery. All are welcome to attend, with special encouragement for researchers and clinical leaders from fields such as trauma, emergency medicine, reconstruction, plastic and orthopaedic surgery, vascular, bioengineering, injury prevention, basic science, public health, policy, and community-based organizations.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

FUNDING

PA-24-255:

Administrative Supplements to Promote Diversity in Research and Development Small Businesses – SBIR/STTR

(Admin Supp Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Posted Date: September 10, 2024

**Application Due Dates: Accepted on a rolling basis
(see IC-specific details)**

Expiration Date: October 14, 2027

The NIH and CDC notify Small Business Concerns (SBCs) whose research is supported by SBIR and STTR grants that funds are available for administrative supplements to enhance the diversity of the research and entrepreneurial workforce by recruiting, mentoring, and supporting students, postdoctoral scholars, and eligible investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related

[More Info](#)

PAR-25-051:

Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network (BPN): Small Molecule Drug Discovery and Development of Disorders of the Nervous System

(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional)

Posted Date: September 25, 2024

Earliest Submission Date: December 27, 2024

Expiration Date: August 19, 2026

The Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network (BPN) invites applications from neuroscience investigators seeking support to advance their small molecule drug discovery and development projects into the clinic.

[MORE INFO](#)

NOT-EY-24-014:

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Quantum Sensing in Biomedical Applications

(SBIR/STTR)

Release Date: September 20, 2024

First Available Due Date: October 24, 2024

Expiration Date: January 27, 2027

NOSI solicits applications proposing to advance research activities relevant to quantum sensing in biomedical and clinical research and application. The purpose of this NOSI is to support small businesses for stimulation of technological innovation in quantum sensing.

[MORE INFO](#)

NOT-HL-24-030:

Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for NHLBI SBIR

Phase IIB Small Market Awards to Accelerate the Commercialization of Technologies for Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep Disorders and Diseases

(R44 Clinical Trial Optional)

Release Date: September 11, 2024

Estimated NOFO Publication Date: November 26, 2024

First Estimated Application Due Date: February 25, 2025

NHLBI anticipates issuing a NOFO to invite small businesses to submit SBIR grant applications to support later stage research and development (referred to as Phase IIB) for promising projects that were previously funded by SBIR or STTR Phase II awards and which will require eventual Federal regulatory approval/clearance.

[MORE INFO](#)

EDUCATION & TRAINING



New York I-Corps

From experiential education to successful entrepreneurship

[Learn More](#)



Announcing the New York Area Life Science Innovation Bootcamp Fall 2024

Call for Applications!

A consortium of medical school partners are offering a Regional Life Science Innovation Bootcamp! The program provides innovators with a hands-on learning experience to successfully transfer research or ideas into products and services that benefit human health. This rapid two-week program utilizes the Lean Startup methodology, helping teams engage in 20+ customer discovery interviews with potential stakeholders in the healthcare, biotech, and life science sectors.

Teams of 1+ members consisting of science/engineering students, faculty, and researchers from any university or lab are HIGHLY encouraged to apply.

Life Science Innovation Bootcamp Fall 2024 Virtual Course Dates:
Kickoff Session: Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 9 AM - 12 PM ET
Mid Session: Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 9 AM - 12 PM ET
Finale Session: Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 9 AM - 12 PM ET

This course is FREE* and fully administered via Zoom.
A/V Testing in Zoom Room will open at 8:30 AM EST.
The Entrepreneurial Lead must be able to attend all three workshop dates!

***Supported by New York NSF I-Corps Hub Award #2048498**

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Why participate in the Life Science Innovation Bootcamp?

- Gain deep customer insights into the therapeutics, diagnostics, medical devices, and digital health markets, to better align their technology with real-world clinical and healthcare needs.
- Receive guidance from experienced mentors, often experts in life sciences, who help navigate regulatory challenges and complex paths to commercialization in biotech or healthcare innovation.
- Learn what it takes to turn your research into a startup company.
- Identify commercial potential for your technology needed to submit an SBIR/STTR proposal to NIH, NSF, DoD, NASA and more for non-diluted funding
- Acquire up to \$1,500 in this Regional program for Customer Discovery related expenses such as traveling to conferences and industry trade shows
- Academic-based research teams receive lineage and eligibility to apply for the \$50,000 I-Corps Grant to participate in the NSF National I-Corps Teams Program

**Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis
until Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 12:00 PM ET**

We recommend applying EARLY so applicants have ample time to schedule the required 25-minute Zoom interview discussion. Upon completion of the application, you will be see a link to a Setmore Calendar which is where you will schedule your Zoom interview-discussion.

Eligibility for NY Area Life Science Innovation Bootcamp Fall 2024

- Teams of 1+ committed team members including students (graduate-students/postdocs are highly encouraged), faculty, and/or staff from any university or lab.
- The Entrepreneurial Lead must be able to attend all three workshop dates!
- Willing to find and talk to at least 20 potential customers and stakeholders in two weeks
- Must be exploring a technology/innovation in a science and/or engineering field and want to explore its market and value potential

Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis until Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 12:00 PM ET: <https://bit.ly/LifeSciBootcampFall2024>

Stories of New York I-Corps Founders

Learn more about the journey after NY I-Corps in the Stories below!

Tyree Williams, PhD
Icahn School of Medicine and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Kratos Technology Inc.

Rabi Musah, PhD (Left)
Allix Coon, PhD (Right)
SUNY University at Albany
Sangali, Inc.

Sherin Kannoly, PhD
Queens College
Sentinel Biotech LLC

[See Stories Here](#)

Check out the SHARP website for this
and other upcoming winter trainings

NIH Grant Writing Boot Camp: Building a Strong Foundation
for Funding Success

November 12-13, 2024 | Livestream, online training



The banner features the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health logo on the left. The central text reads "SHARP Training Skills for Health and Research Professionals". The background is a light gray with a stylized illustration of a human head profile on the left, containing a brain icon with "IA" inside. To the right, there is a DNA double helix, a lightbulb with a dollar sign inside, and a network of nodes and lines with letters X, U₃, U₄, W, Z, and U.

[Visit our Website](#)

Orientation to Clinical Research at UMass Chan

The CCTS Office of Clinical Research (OCR)
continues to host in-person sessions on a monthly basis.

(Registration required)

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 DATES: Oct. 3 and Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 2024 2:00 PM

[MORE INFO](#)

**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) and Eric Stratton (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](#)

K Award Research Writing Group

Next Meetings

Wednesday, October 9th & 22nd, 2024~ 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
Tuesday, October 1st, 15th and 29th 2024 ~ 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=dHRmWnBnWHBZZ1I0c3B4M05Pc3BTdz09>
Password: 809084

[Zoom 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. 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.



KATHERINE LUZURIAGA, MD
PI AND DIRECTOR, UMCCTS



TERENCE R. FLOTTE, MD
CO-DIRECTOR, UMCCTS

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