UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Newsletter

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2014

UMCCTS Newsletter, May 2014
UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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NEWS:

See you at the Retreats!

5th Annual UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Research Retreat

Tuesday, May 20, 2014
9:00 am – 6:30 pm (Registration: 8:00-9:00 am)
Reception and Hors d’oeuvres to follow
Albert Sherman Center
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester campus
Agenda and complete details: http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/researchretreat2014

18th Annual UMMS Basic Research/Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Retreat

Thursday, May 22, 2014
8:30 am – 5:45 pm (Registration: 7:30-8:30 am)
Reception and Dinner to follow
Albert Sherman Center
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester campus
Agenda and complete details: http://www.umassmed.edu/research/annualretreat/

EVENTS:

Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, UMMS
Quantitative Methods Core Methods Seminar

“APPLICATIONS OF ITEM RESPONSE THEORY”

Craig Wells, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
University of MA Amherst

Tuesday, May 20, 2014
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072 (9th Floor)
UMMS Worcester Campus

RSVP to: Maureen.Schulz@umassmed.edu

UMMS Diabetes Symposium and Kroc Lecture

Wednesday, May 21, 2014
1:00 – 4:00 pm
Reception to follow in the Foyer and Cube
1:00 Welcome: Chancellor Michael Collins and Dean Terry Flotte
1:10 Douglas Melton, PhD  “Making Pancreatic Beta Cells”
2:00 Jonathan Graff, MD, PhD  “White Adipose Tissue: A Tale of Two Stem Cells”
2:50 Break
3:10 Philipp E. Scherer, PhD  “An Integrated View of the Adipocyte: From Feast to Famine”
4:00 Ray and Robert Kroc Lecture
Richard A. Flavell, PhD, FRS  “Inflammasomes in Health and Disease”
5:00 Reception

UMCCTS Community Engagement & Research Section
Webinar Invitation

“TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CESSATION: COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS”

Tina Grosowsky, MA
Project Coordinator
Central MA Tobacco Free Community Partnership
Department of Psychiatry
University of MA Medical School

Greg Seward, MSHCA, LADC-I, CTTS-M
Director, Tobacco-Free Initiative
Director, Tobacco Consultation Services
Instructor, Department of Psychiatry
University of MA Medical School and UMass Memorial Medical Center

Wednesday, June 11, 2014
12:00 – 1:00 pm

This webinar is part of a series offered by the UMCCTS Community Engagement & Research Section. It is free and open to all!

Visit the website to Register: www.umassmed.edu/ccts/community

3rd Annual Deshpande Symposium:
Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Higher Education

June 10-12, 2014
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center
Lowell, MA

This two and a half day Symposium is a gathering of like-minded higher education professionals focused on accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship across the college and university environment.

Over 20 panel sessions will cover a variety of entrepreneurial and commercialization topics. An optional tour of Boston and Cambridge Innovation Ecosystems will also be available on Thursday afternoon of the Symposium.

Audience:
Higher education professionals including college and university Presidents, Chancellors, Provosts, Deans, Department Chairs, Faculty, Administrators, and Directors of Entrepreneurship and/or Academic Research.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

UMCCTS Small Conference Grants
Funding Opportunity

Introduction
The University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science (UMCCTS) is pleased to announce a funding call for Small Conference Grants. This funding opportunity is designed to leverage the convening capacity of the UMCCTS to create new, multidisciplinary teams to address a pressing health need. For the purpose of this award, a conference is defined as a symposium, educational program, seminar, workshop, or any other organized and formal meeting.

Purpose
The UMCCTS supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed toward life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research. This fund serves to spur inter-disciplinary collaboration and strengthen the University’s research portfolio in clinical and translational research. By providing seed funding to outstanding faculty members, this fund facilitates the development of faculty-to-faculty networks within the University system, thereby leveraging the considerable expertise and resources that exist on the individual campuses. It is assumed that successful conferences will serve as a springboard to attract additional funding from extramural sources.

All UMass faculty (Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, Worcester) with an interest in clinical and translational science may apply. Project awards of up to $1,000 can be requested.

Proposals will be accepted on a “rolling basis” (no due date). Investigators will be notified of award approximately 2-3 weeks post submission.

Complete details, criteria to apply, and the application process are available at the UMCCTS website: http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/research/grantopps.aspx

Massachusetts Neuroscience Consortium
Round 2 Funding: Request for Proposals

Introduction
The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is pleased to announce the launch of a second Request for Proposals (RFP) funded by the global biopharmaceutical companies that comprise the Massachusetts Neuroscience Consortium. Each of the Consortium Members have contributed to the total project funding of $1,250,000.

Purpose
For this second round, the Consortium has expanded the diseases of interest and is seeking proposals to fund the identification and validation of novel targets for the symptomatic treatment and modification of chronic and debilitating neurodegenerative and neuroinflammatory diseases (such as AD, PD, MS, Huntington's and ALS), neuropathic pain and treatment-resistant depression. All proposals must be anchored in recognized human disease genetics and pathophysiology, or within pathways of known relevance to human disease, and should be translational, rather than exploratory.

All Massachusetts academic and research institutions are eligible to apply. There is no limit to the number of applications that may be submitted from any one institution.
The deadline for 2-page Pre-Proposal applications is **May 15, 2014 at noon**. Interested applicants must apply via the MLSC’s Web site at: [https://forms.masslifesciences.com/neuro2014q2/](https://forms.masslifesciences.com/neuro2014q2/)

**Questions:** Beth Nicklas at 781-373-7715 or neuroscience@masslifesciences.com

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**GSK Fast Track Challenge**

Does your research have the potential to lead to a new medicine? Are you a principal investigator affiliated with an academic research institute, college or university? **Would you like to partner with a leading pharmaceutical company to progress your research towards drug discovery?**

If so, the Discovery Fast Track Challenge is for you.

**Up to ten concepts will be selected.**

- GSK will screen your target using our sophisticated lead discovery technologies, such as High Throughput Screening (HTS) and Encoded Library Technologies (ELT)
- Compounds discovered from the screen will provide the basis for further partnership and novel chemical probes to progress your research
- You’ll work directly with a highly skilled team of GSK scientists
- You and your research will be on an accelerated path towards discovery of a new medicine

**What are we looking for?**

- Clear therapeutic hypothesis: A coherent and supportable hypothesis that modulation of target will produce a physiological effect which will be of therapeutic benefit to particular patients
- Target defined: Specific drug target identified, and some understanding of type of pharmacology desired
- (Exclusive) enabling expertise: Academic partner has know-how and/or expertise essential to progressing the target which is not (readily) found elsewhere
- Tractability: A path to identification of a drug molecule can be defined. Target knowledge suggests that a drug-like molecule can be generated
- Requirement for GSK contribution: GSK has capabilities and expertise which will help progress the project to the next milestone

**One-page non-confidential proposals accepted until May 16, 2014 in North America.**

Go to [www.gsk.com/discoveryfasttrack](http://www.gsk.com/discoveryfasttrack) for details.

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**Call for Proposals for NIH Bench-to-Bedside Program**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Bench-to-Bedside (B2B) Program is currently requesting letters of intent for its 16th cycle of awards. These two-year awards of $135,000/year (direct costs) are designed to seed new projects that propose to translate basic science to human subjects or vice versa. Bench-to-Bedside proposals can fall into one of seven categories: AIDS; behavioral and social sciences; dietary supplements; minority health; rare diseases; and women’s health; and general (intramural-only) projects.

B2B applications must involve an intramural (NIH on-campus) investigator, who may partner with an extramural investigator. Either the intramural or extramural investigator may lead the project, but the intramural investigator is responsible for submitting the application.

**Letter of Intent is due:** **June 18, 2014**

**Complete information and application details are available at:** [http://www.cc.nih.gov/ccc/btb/](http://www.cc.nih.gov/ccc/btb/)

If you have general questions about the extramural investigator’s participation in this funding opportunity, please contact Minkyung (Min) Song at [songm@mail.nih.gov](mailto:songm@mail.nih.gov)
Please remember to cite the CTSA Grant # UL1TR000161 in all supported journal publications.

Visit our website for all the latest news, funding announcements, seminars, educational training, sign-up for membership, etc., http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts