



July 2014 Newsletter

University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science

**NEWS:**

**Congratulations to the 2014 UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund Awardees!**

2014 LSMF		
UMMS Dept./Campus	UMass Dept./Campus	Project Title
<b>Neil Aronin, MD</b> Professor, Department of Medicine; Co-Director, Neurotherapeutics Institute  <b>Michael H. Brodsky, PhD</b> Assistant Professor, Program in Gene Function and Expression; Director, UMMS Mutagenesis Core Facility	<b>Gregory N. Tew, PhD</b> Professor, Polymer Science and Engineering, UMass Amherst	<i>CRISPR-Cas9-derived Nucleases and PTDMs for Huntington's Disease Treatment</i>
<b>John E. Harris, MD, PhD</b> Assistant Professor, Division of Dermatology, Department of Medicine	<b>Alfred J. Crosby, PhD</b> Professor, Polymer Science and Engineering, UMass Amherst  <b>Duncan J. Irschick, PhD</b> Professor, Department of Biology, UMass Amherst	<i>Geckskin™ for Biomedical Skin Applications: Demonstrating Clinical Relevance and Potential</i>
<b>Hemant Khanna, PhD</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology	<b>Murugappan Muthukumar, PhD</b> Wilmer D. Barrett Professor, Polymer Science & Engineering, UMass Amherst	<i>Therapeutic Modalities for Leber Congenital Amaurosis (LCA) due to CEP290 Gene Defects</i>
<b>Anastasia Khvorova, PhD</b> Professor, Program in Molecular Medicine and RNA Therapeutics Institute	<b>Barbara A. Osborne, PhD</b> Professor, Veterinary & Animal Sciences; Director, Molecular & Cellular Biology Program, UMass Amherst  <b>Lisa M. Minter, PhD</b> Assistant Professor, Veterinary & Animal Sciences, UMass Amherst	<i>Ex Vivo RNAi-based Therapy for Modulating T Cell Response as a Novel Treatment for Graft-vs-Host Disease</i>

Thank you to our UMCCTS Steering Committee for their time, commitment, and thoughtful review of the LSMF proposals.

**UMMS Bioinformatics Core  
Basic Informatics Session**

**UMMS Bioinformatics Core will be offering a Basic Informatics Session.** This 6 week 1.5 hours/week basic informatics session is for individuals with **NO informatics background**. These sessions will cover basic UNIX, basic scripting and basic R programming.

Ideally, there will be sessions 4 times per year, but for no more than 20 people per session.

The class will be around the topics below to give some idea about how to interact with computing environment:

- Basic linux commands, file copy, ftp, and basic vi
- sort, join files, basic awk commands
- for loop in awk
- awk system function, if, for and while loops
- vi regular expressions, file operations,
- bed tools, intersectBed command to find out the reads mapped to the introns
- bed tools to find the distances to the 3' splice sites
- bed tools to find the distances to the 5' and 3' splice sites, use RStudio and R to draw plots.
- Bowtie Alignments, tophat, rsem quantifications
- R Basic Operations and Vectors (Arrays).
- R Matrix, data frame and statistical analysis
- R scatterplots, bar plots, ggplots, heat maps.
- Galaxy, Dolphin Pipelines, UMassTools

If you are interested, **please sign-up by clicking this link:**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1\\_asJ7ZgWOLmgkV7B22LUAUF205fQv8uPbJ-BZ2amtnc/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_asJ7ZgWOLmgkV7B22LUAUF205fQv8uPbJ-BZ2amtnc/edit#gid=0)

**Questions?** [Alper.Kucukural@umassmed.edu](mailto:Alper.Kucukural@umassmed.edu)

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### NCATS Announces Small Molecule CRADA and Licensing Opportunity

On June 24, 2014, NCATS announced the availability of a new Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) and licensing opportunity. NCATS and the University of Delaware are seeking partners for the final stages of lead optimization, evaluation and pre-clinical development of a new series of small molecule inhibitors of the human USP1/UAF1 complex for the treatment of cancer. **To be considered for the project**, interested candidates must submit a statement of interest and capability to NCATS **by July 24, 2014**.

**For more information and to submit a statement of interest**, contact Lili Portilla, MPA ([lilip@nih.gov](mailto:lilip@nih.gov)) or Krishna Balakrishnan, PhD, MBA ([balakrik@mail.nih.gov](mailto:balakrik@mail.nih.gov)) in the NCATS Office of Strategic Alliances.

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### The Harrington Prize for Innovation in Medicine

Nominations are now open for the 2015 Harrington Prize for Innovation in Medicine. The Harrington Prize, presented by the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals Case Medical Center, honors a physician-scientist who has moved science forward with achievements notable for innovation, creativity and potential for clinical application.

This annual prize provides the awardee with:

- **An unrestricted \$20,000 honorarium**
- **The Harrington Prize Lecture, delivered at the ASCI/AAP Joint Meeting**
- **A review, published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation**

**Nomination Deadline:** August 15, 2014

**Please see website for complete information:** <http://www.uhhospitals.org/services/harrington-discovery-institute/programs-and-initiatives/harrington-prize-for-innovation-in-medicine>

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Public Posting of Data on Clinical Research on Study Match

**From:** Margaret Koziel, MD, Senior Director of Clinical Research, UMCCTS  
Michael Centola, IRB Manager, UMCCTS  
Sarah Rulnick, Conquering Diseases Program Manager, UMCCTS

In order to improve knowledge in our community about the breadth and depth of clinical research at UMass Worcester, we are instituting an automatic feed of information from our electronic IRB system (eIRB) onto our public website, Study Match, which is a searchable database of clinical research. We believe this will help inform our community about the exciting work we do including potential research participants, patients, our health system partners, and collaborators. This information will be linked from both the Medical School and Medical Center websites.

In the past, posting to this database required a series of steps on the part of study teams; but we have upgraded our systems to streamline the process. **As of August 7, 2014, all clinical research will be posted to Study Match using information from the eIRB submission unless the investigator opts out of posting this information. Please review the lay summary you have in eIRB to make sure it is appropriate for public viewing prior to this date.**

**Process:**

- As is already done, investigators enter a lay language summary and contact information into eIRB. Investigators may seek guidance from either the IRB staff or the Conquering Diseases staff on appropriate lay language for both consents and the summary.
- Investigators may opt out of posting a summary on Study Match by indicating this on eIRB.
- After a study is approved in eIRB, the lay summary will be posted in Study Match.
- Investigators may modify the language at any time through eIRB (for example, if they wish to post that a study is closed to enrollment).
- After a study is closed in the IRB, the posting will be removed from the database.
- This does not replace the requirement to post applicable studies on ClinicalTrials.gov.

**Study Match:** <https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/find-studies.html>

**Some important tips on lay language:**

- The lay language summary in eIRB is limited to 100 words.
- Please use simple language (6-8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level) to describe the study. You should use the same language as the consent, not the scientific abstract prepared for the NIH.
- This is not intended to provide comprehensive information about the study, but a 1-3 line summary of the overall nature of the study.
- For tips on appropriate lay language for common medical terms, several excellent resources are available online including:
  - National Comprehensive Cancer Network Consent language database (<http://www.nccn.org/ict/default.aspx>)
  - Medline Plus, particularly for lay language description of procedures (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>)
  - University of Florida glossary of lay terms (<http://irb.ufl.edu/glossary.htm>)
  - University of Kentucky glossary of lay terms: (<https://www.research.uky.edu/ORI/ORIForms/LAYTERM.pdf>)

**Questions:** Please contact, Sarah Rulnick, [sarah.rulnick@umassmed.edu](mailto:sarah.rulnick@umassmed.edu)

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### UMCCTS Conquering Diseases Biorepository

The Biorepository arm of the Conquering Diseases Program collects blood samples from consented patients. The de-identified samples are broken down into their components (plasma, the blood cell pellet for DNA extraction, and a PaxGene tube to isolate RNA) and frozen for future use by researchers. Biorepository samples are used by many UMass researchers, and are a valuable resource for our research community.

**For more information about what the Conquering Diseases Biorepository**

<http://www.umassmed.edu/conqueringdiseases/index.aspx> or the **Clinical Research Volunteer Database** <https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/index.html> can provide for your research, please see below:

### What will these websites do for you?

- Promote your studies
- Recruit participants for your studies
- Educate potential study volunteers about types of clinical trials
- Locate Biorepository specimens for your studies

**Would you like help promoting your study? We can post your study description to the website!**

<https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/find-studies.html>

**Click on the link below to submit your study to our website:**

[https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/clinical\\_study\\_request\\_form.aspx](https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/clinical_study_request_form.aspx)

### Do you need help recruiting study participants?

We invite you to take advantage of our clinical volunteer database filled with people who are eager to participate in UMass clinical trials.

<https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/for-researchers.html>

### Do you need human samples (plasma, RNA or DNA) for your research?

We can provide you with blood specimens from our de-identified collection of samples from subjects with exact diagnosis and medical history.

<http://www.umassmed.edu/conqueringdiseases/researchers/samples/index.aspx>

**Check it out and let us know how we can help!**

#### The Conquering Diseases Team

Craig Lilly, MD – Director and PI

Michelle Maynard – Clinical Coordinator

Thomas Mayer, PhD – Biorepository Director

Sarah Rulnick, MPH – Project Manager

#### Conquering Diseases Program

University of Massachusetts Medical School

55 Lake Avenue North

Ambulatory Care Center, Room AC1-036B

Worcester, MA 01655

**508-856-2557 (office)**

### EVENTS:

**~Mark your Calendars~**

#### UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

##### Seminar Series 2014-2015 Schedule

12:00-1:00 pm (lunch served)

Faculty Conference Room, S1-342

University of Massachusetts Medical School

2014		
Wednesday, September 24	<b>Nate Hafer, PhD</b> Director of Operations, UMCCTS	<i>UMCCTS 2015 Funding Opportunities</i>
Thursday, October 30	<b>Hong Yu, PhD</b> Professor, Quantitative Health Sciences, UMMS	"TBA"
Wednesday, November 19		
Wednesday, December 17	<b>Julia Hua Fang, PhD</b> Professor, Quantitative Health Sciences	"TBA"
2015		
Tuesday, January 27		
Wednesday, February 25		
Tuesday, March 24		

Thursday, April 23		
Wednesday, May 27		

**If you are interested in presenting at one of our upcoming UMCCTS Seminars**, please contact, Dr. Nate Hafer, Director of Operations, UMCCTS, at [nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu)

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### **GUIRR Upcoming Webinar**

#### **NIH Blueprint for Neurotherapeutics: A novel approach to early-stage drug discovery research funding**

The National Academies' Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) will be hosting a webinar on:

**Wednesday, July 30, 2014  
1:00-2:00 pm EDT**

This webinar will describe upcoming opportunities for academic researchers and small businesses to apply for Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network (BPN) resources.

**If interested, please register at:**

[https://nasevents.webex.com/mw04011/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=nasevents&service=6&rnd=0.371141801419966&main\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fnasevents.webex.com%2Fec07011%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D1749607085%26%26MK%3D664120937%26%26%26siteurl%3Dnasevents&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=National%20Academies&utm\\_campaign=GUIRR+Webinar+-+July+30%2c+1pm+EST&utm\\_content=&utm\\_term=](https://nasevents.webex.com/mw04011/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=nasevents&service=6&rnd=0.371141801419966&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fnasevents.webex.com%2Fec07011%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D1749607085%26%26MK%3D664120937%26%26%26siteurl%3Dnasevents&utm_medium=email&utm_source=National%20Academies&utm_campaign=GUIRR+Webinar+-+July+30%2c+1pm+EST&utm_content=&utm_term=)

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### **UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences Special Seminar**

**“Pharmacoepidemiological Studies on Medication Use and Safety during Pregnancy – Results from the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort”**

**Monday, August 4, 2014  
12:00 noon – 1:00 pm  
Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072  
University of Massachusetts Medical School**

**Hedvig Nordeng, PhD**  
Professor, School of Pharmacy  
University of Oslo  
Researcher, Division of Mental Health  
Norwegian Institute of Public Health

Lunch will be provided: Please RSVP to [Kelley.Baron@umassmed.edu](mailto:Kelley.Baron@umassmed.edu)

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### **UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences Clinical and Population Health Research Comprehensive Project**

**“The Effect of Prior Opioid Agonist Treatment on Relapse in an In-Treatment Medicaid Population”**

**Wednesday, August 6, 2014  
11:30 am – 12:00 pm  
(15 min. presentation / 15 min. Q&A)  
Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072  
University of Massachusetts Medical School**

**Presented by: Gillian Griffith, B.S.**

Reviewers: Robin Clark, PhD, Becky Briesacher, PhD, and Bruce Barton, PhD

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**UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences**  
**Clinical and Population Health Research *Comprehensive Project***

**“The Effect of Race on Race-Consciousness and Hypertension”**

**Thursday, August 7, 2014**

**11:30 am – 12:00 pm**

(15 min. presentation / 15 min. Q&A)

**Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072**  
**University of Massachusetts Medical School**

**Presented by: Lauren Powell, B.S.**

Reviewers: Stephenie Lemon, PhD, William Jesdale, PhD, and Sharina Person, PhD

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**UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences**  
**Clinical and Population Health Research *Comprehensive Project***

**“Sin Provecho: Food Insecurity and Migration Factors among Caribbean Latinos in Massachusetts”**

**Thursday, August 7, 2014**

**1:00 – 1:30 pm**

(15 min. presentation / 15 min. Q&A)

**Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072**  
**University of Massachusetts Medical School**

**Presented by: Tariana V. Little, B.A.**

Reviewers: Milagros C. Rosal, PhD, William Jesdale, PhD, and Bei Chang, Sc.D.

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**UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences**  
**Clinical and Population Health Research *Comprehensive Project***

**“Objectively Measured Physical Activity and Symptoms among Patients with Radiographically Confirmed Knee Osteoarthritis”**

**Friday, August 8, 2014**

**11:30 am – 12:00 pm**

(15 min. presentation / 15 min. Q&A)

**Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072**  
**University of Massachusetts Medical School**

**Presented by: Shao-Hsien Liu, MPH**

Reviewers: Carol Oatis, PT, PhD, Leslie Harrold, MD, MPH, and George Reed, PhD

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**UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences**  
**Clinical and Population Health Research *Comprehensive Project***

**“Predictors and Prevalence of Opioid Use in Pregnant Veterans”**

**Tuesday, August 12, 2014**

**10:00 am – 10:30 am**

(15 min. presentation / 15 min. Q&A)

**Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072**  
**University of Massachusetts Medical School**



**Presented by: Aimee Kroll-Desrosiers, M.S.**

Reviewers: Kristin Mattocks, PhD, MPH, Molly Waring, PhD, and Sowmya Rao, PhD

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**Duke Translational Medicine Institute  
2014 Community Engagement Conference**

**National Conference on Engaging Patients, Families and Communities in all Phases of Translational Research to Improve Health**

**Thursday and Friday, August 21 and 22, 2014  
Bethesda, MD**

**Registration and complete details at: <https://www.dtmi.duke.edu/ce-workshop>**

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**Request for Applications for Innovator Presentations at the  
6<sup>th</sup> Annual 2014 Partnering for Cures Meeting**

**November 16-18, 2014  
Grand Hyatt – New York  
<http://www.partneringforcures.org/>**

**Each year, 30 innovative, cross-sector R&D collaborations are awarded 25-minute presentation slots at Partnering for Cures Annual Cures Meeting.** This platform, based off of an investor conference model, is designed to help engage potential funders, partners, and/or collaborators in moving their existing initiatives forward and/or amplifying the impact of their approach.

Collaborations should be aimed at reducing the time and cost of getting new medical solutions (drugs, devices, diagnostics, etc.) from discovery to patients; and should involve partners from **two or more** of the following sectors – NGOs/nonprofit foundations, industry (pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device and diagnostic companies), research institutes, universities, government agencies, investors, and private philanthropists. Partnerships should be **established, not merely proposed**, at the time of presentation, and should be able to provide **evidence of outcomes/progress** against their goals.

**Aspiring presenters must submit a brief, online application through the Partnering for Cures website by August 22, 2014.** <http://www.partneringforcures.org/program/innovators/>

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**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>

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**Indiana Clinical and Translational Science Institute  
Indianapolis-based Women’s Fund of Central Indiana  
NEXT Initiative**

The Indianapolis-based Women's Fund of Central Indiana is seeking applicants for the NEXT Initiative to support the development and implementation of comprehensive solutions helping women ages 18 to 24 achieve economic stability.

Invited entrepreneurs will spend the first one to two years incubating a solution that the Women's Fund will launch and fund for the subsequent eight to nine years. It is the intention of this initiative to select two to three entrepreneurs who will each receive a salary of \$90,000 and full benefits, during the incubation phase, as an employee of the Central Indiana Community Foundation. (The Women's Fund is a special-interest fund of CICF.)

The NEXT Initiative aims to address the gap in culturally appropriate services for vulnerable women in this age group -- women who have been mired in economic insecurity and are seeking a path to economic stability.

**Letters of intent are due: Tuesday, September 2, 2014.**

**For more information on the NEXT Initiative, visit <http://womensfund.org/next>**

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***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>***