



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

December 2014 Newsletter

University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science

NEWS:

NIH Awards Dr. Joel Richter \$9.5 million for Fragile X Research Center

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$9.5 million grant to Professor of Molecular Medicine Joel D. Richter, PhD, and colleagues to establish a Center for Collaborative Research in Fragile X at UMass Medical School, one of three centers designed by the NIH. Scientists at the centers will seek to better understand the Fragile X syndrome and its associated disorders in an effort to work toward developing effective treatments for the inherited illness. In total, the NIH awarded \$35 million to the centers.

Read the complete article at *UMass Med Now*: <http://www.umassmed.edu/news/news-archives/2014/11/nih-awards-joel-richter-95-million-for-fragile-x-research-center/>



Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Announces New Grant Competition: 2015 International Clinical Research Fellowship

The Doris Duke International Clinical Research Fellowship (ICRF) program provides fellowships for U.S.-based medical students to take a year out from school to conduct mentored clinical research in developing countries.

Fellows receive a stipend, health insurance, and financial support to attend a year-end meeting as well as supplementary funds for research and training.

For complete program details: <http://www.ddcf.org/Programs/Medical-Research/Goals-and-Strategies/Build-the-Clinical-Research-Career-Ladder/International-Clinical-Research-Fellowship/>

Key Dates

Online Application/

Letters of Support Due: January 13, 2015

Offers Begin: March 13, 2015

Decisions Due: March 20, 2015

NIH-Funded Mixed Methods Research Training Program for Health Sciences

Jointly offered by Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Call for Applications: Mixed Methods Training Program

Applications due: Monday, December 15, 2014

We invite applications for a new and exciting one-year, fully funded Mixed Methods Research Training Program in the Health Sciences. The program is sponsored by the NIH, and led by [Dr. Joseph J. Gallo](#) (Professor, Johns Hopkins University), [Dr. John Creswell](#) (Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln), and [Dr. Charles Deutsch](#) (Director, Population Health Research Program, Harvard Catalyst | The Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Center). Program scholars will have the opportunity to enhance their mixed method research skills through a state-of-the-art training program including interactive webinars, working with

nationally recognized mixed methods mentors and consultants, and attending a summer retreat. *This program is conducted remotely except for the summer retreat.*

Summer retreat: June 15-18, 2015

Location: Baltimore, Maryland

For eligibility requirements and application instructions, please email mixedmethods@hms.harvard.edu.

EVENTS:

UMMS Program in Molecular Medicine Seminar Series

“THE EVOLUTIONARY DESIGN OF PROTEINS”

Rama Ranganathan, MD, PhD
Center for Systems Biology
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Thursday, December 11, 2014
4:00 pm

University of MA Medical School
Biotech II
373 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA
3rd Floor Molecular Medicine Seminar Room

Host: Victor Ambros

UMMS Bioinformatics Core and Program in Bioinformatics and Integrative Biology

The Bioinformatics Core invites you to:
An Informal Discussion

“TECHNICAL APPROACHES TO SINGLE CELL GENOMICS”

Chad Nusbaum, PhD
Director, Broad Technology Labs

Friday, December 12, 2014
11:00 am

University of MA Medical School
Albert Sherman Center
6th Floor Conference Room AS6.2072

Host: Manuel Garber

UMMS “K to R Club”

Program Leaders:
Robert J. Goldberg, Ph.D.
Beth McCormick, Ph.D.

On behalf of Drs. Rob Goldberg and Beth McCormick, we are pleased to announce the formation of a K to R Club at UMMS. This seminar/working group is available for all current and past K awardees and junior faculty

at the institution who are contemplating the submission of an R type grant (e.g., R01, R03, R21) to the NIH during the coming academic year. This course meets on a regular monthly basis on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (began, October 15, 2014) and will run through mid-July. Discussion will focus on all the basic elements of a grant application and a series of mock grant reviews will be reviewed during the year so that applicants will obtain a better appreciation for the peer review process and what makes for a successful grant application. This working group is intended to enhance, and not replace, mentoring by peers and senior faculty. Each of the monthly sessions will be conducted in an interactive format so that attendees can ask questions of each other and the course leaders to facilitate their proposal development.

The next K to R Club meeting is:
Wednesday, December 17, 2014
12:30 pm

Albert Sherman Center, AS6.2072 (6th Floor) Conference Room

Check out the website to sign-up and for more information: <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/education/r-club/>

UMMS Program in Molecular Medicine Seminar Series

“CLINICAL GENE THERAPY FOR ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY”

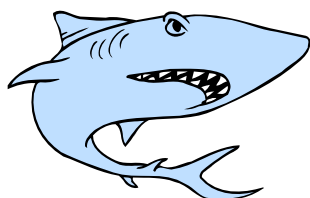
Terence R. Flotte, MD
Executive Deputy Chancellor, Provost and Dean
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Monday, January 5, 2015
12:00 pm

University of MA Medical School
Biotech II
373 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA
3rd Floor Molecular Medicine Seminar Room

Host: Michael Czech

UMass Lowell
Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) and Mintz Levin
Invite you to attend:



M2D2 “SHARK TANK”
Pitch Event & Networking Session

Wednesday, January 7, 2015
Mintz Levin
One Financial Place
Boston, MA 02111

5:00-6:00 pm: Registration
6:00-7:00 pm: Company Pitches
7:00-9:00 pm: Networking

A panel-style venture pitch event resembling ABC TV Network’s “Shark Tank” show will be held at Mintz Levin, Boston, MA followed by networking. Several entrepreneurs representing start-up companies affiliated with M2D2 will have to face tough questions from a panel of investors regarding their technologies, current stage of development and financial projections in a pitch of their ventures.

Register at:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ea89m8rec473e4c2&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Registration Fee for the first 20 people: \$10.00
 Registration Fee until Jan. 1, 2015: \$20.00
 Walk-in/On-Site Registration Fee: \$30.00
 Registration Fee includes Hor d'Oeuvres, Beer and Wine

**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

2015		
Date:	Presenter:	Title:
Tuesday, January 27	"TBA"	
Wednesday, February 25		
Tuesday, March 24		
Thursday, April 23	Hong Yu, PhD	
Wednesday, May 27	Hua Julia Fang, PhD	

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

**Translational Science 2015
Present your Research at Translational Science 2015**

**Thursday, April 16 – Saturday, April 18, 2015
 Omni Shoreham Hotel
 Washington, DC**

Translational Science 2015, sponsored by the Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) and the American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR), offers a variety of ways for you to share your experiences, challenges, and fresh approaches with professionals from around the country.

Abstract Presentations are being accepted – Due date: Tuesday, January 20, 2015

You must register to attend the Translational Science 2015 in order to have your poster accepted. Registration for the meeting will open in the next few weeks.

Register at (and abstract submission): <https://translationalsciencemeeting2015.abstractcentral.com/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:



**CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE**



**UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Voyager Therapeutics
Developmental Therapeutics Awards**

Request for Letters of Intent

To: All UMass Worcester Faculty

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS), in collaboration with Voyager Therapeutics, is announcing a special round of the Pilot Project Programs (PPPs) focused on understanding and optimizing recombinant adeno-associated viral (rAAV) vectors for therapeutic use.

Investigators are invited to submit proposals related to the following topics:

- Targeted systemic dosing of rAAVs
- Preexisting immunity to rAAV vectors
- Effect of anti-capsid T cell responses on rAAV expression
- Regulated expression of the transgene product

Funding:

In this inaugural pilot program between UMCCTS and Voyager, a total of \$250,000 is available to fund pilot projects (n = 2-4). Individual project awards of up to \$125,000 over two years will be considered. Smaller “pilot” projects of ~\$50,000 are also encouraged.

Letter of Intent Instructions:

Letter of intent will be peer-reviewed and the most promising projects will be selected for full proposal submission. Please only include non-confidential information.

Please email your LOI (2 pages or less) as a PDF attachment to: Nathaniel.Hafer@umassmed.edu

Deadline Date: Friday, December 12, 2014 by 5:00 pm (EST)

Complete instructions and eligibility: <http://www.umassmed.edu/CCTS/Funding/>

**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/Funding/>

Please remember to cite the CTSA Grant # UL1TR000161 in all supported journal publications.

<http://www.umassmed.edu/CCTS/NIH-Citation-Requirements/>

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