UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Newsletter

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2015

UMCCTS Newsletter, August 2015

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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UMCCTS K-12 Scholar Receives $2.5 Million CDC Grant

Principal Investigator, Nancy Byatt, DO Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, and Obstetrics & Gynecology and co-investigators, Tiffany Moore Simas, MD, the Joy McCann Professor for Women in Medicine and Associate Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pediatrics and Jeroan Allison, MD, Vice Chair and Professor of Quantitative Health Sciences, Professor of Medicine and Associate Provost for Health Disparities Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, have received a $2.5 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on the public health problems of depression during and after pregnancy.

Dr. Byatt is a 2013 UMCCTS Clinical Research Scholar (K12) awardee. Dr. Moore Simas was a recipient for the 2008 UMCCTS Pilot Project Program award and the 2012 UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund award. Dr. Allison is a 2013 UMCCTS Community Engagement and Research awardee.

Congratulations to Drs. Byatt, Moore Simas and Allison for this prestigious national award!

Click here for the complete article in the July 2015 UMass Med Now newsletter.
Important Information to the Medical School Community about the Upcoming AAHRPP Accreditation Site Visit

UMMS is seeking accreditation of its Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP). Accreditation signals our commitment to protection of our research subjects and the highest quality in human subject research, and is increasingly a requirement to participate in multi-center clinical studies.

The accreditation process includes a site visit during which selected HRPP support staff, investigators and study staff will be interviewed. The accreditation site visit for UMMS is scheduled to occur September 1-3, 2015. Those selected to participate in the site visit have already been notified.

As a part of preparation for the AAHRPP site visit, and as a general update to the research community, we are conducting a series of educational “bootcamp” sessions on human research protection program requirements. These sessions are open to everyone in the research community.

The final Bootcamp session is:

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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 25, 2015</td>
<td>PI Responsibilities, Oversight and RNI</td>
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<td>8:00-9:00 am</td>
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<td>Conference Room S2-310</td>
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<td>University Campus, Worcester</td>
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Questions about these sessions can be directed to HRPeducation@umassmed.edu.

What Is the Human Research Protection Program?

The UMMS HRPP describes a comprehensive system put into place to support the protection of the rights and welfare of subjects in Human Research at our institution. Components of this system include institutional components (including but not limited to the IRB, Research Integrity and Conflict of Interest programs, the Office of Clinical Research, UMMS senior leadership, Radiation Safety and Biosafety committees) as well as every investigator and study team member involved in human research.

For more information about the HRPP at UMMS, please visit: http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/human-research/

If you have questions about the UMMS AAHRPP accreditation process, please contact Meg Johnson at Meg.Johnson@umassmed.edu or at (508) 856-5152.

To learn more about AAHRPP, AAHRPP accreditation or to view a list of accredited institutions, visit: http://www.aahrpp.org/
**Governor Cellucci Tribute Road Race 2015**

**Raises Funds for ALS Research**

*Pictured below, Sally Gore, MS, Research Evaluation Analyst and Nate Hafer, PhD, Director of Operations for the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science recently ran in the Governor Cellucci Tribute Road Race 2015.*

For complete coverage regarding the *Governor Cellucci Tribute Road Race* and the promising research that is being done for ALS at UMMS, [click here](#).
How to Share Your Science

Scopus Resource

By: Sally A. Gore, MS, MSLIS, Research Evaluation Analyst, UMCCTS

Back in the June edition of this column, I wrote about alternative metrics and, specifically, the tool “Altmetrics.” As an evaluator, it’s important for me to locate and utilize the tools available that help give a bigger picture of the impact of the research done by members of the UMCCTS. Getting one’s work published and cited remain valuable markers of success, but today the h-index and impact factor are augmented by other measures, things made available thanks to the highly networked world in which we live.

Scopus is a database of published abstracts and citations of peer-reviewed literature, books, and conference proceedings. Members of the UMCCTS have access to Scopus via the Lamar Soutter Library. Like the more familiar PubMed, Scopus provides a way to search for materials in the biomedical sciences, but it also indexes (and thus makes available) fields in other sciences, including technology, social sciences, the arts and humanities. With clinical translational science being multi-disciplinary in nature, tools like Scopus that cover more than medical literature are ever more important.

Scopus recently released a new module that incorporates article-level metrics into its results view. This allows an author (or yours truly as an evaluator) to see some other outlets where the work has received notice. Here are a couple of examples from UMCCTS members:

In November 2013, Sherry Pagoto, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine, Department of Medicine, and colleagues published an article in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine entitled, “Evidence-based strategies in weight-loss mobile apps.” This article has been cited in other published literature 22 times, a field-weighted citation impact of 6.22. In short, when compared with similar articles in the field, it’s well-above average, i.e. a nice thing to report when one is thinking about research impact (or promotion and tenure). But we can also see, thanks to the new module, that this article has reached audiences beyond other colleagues publishing. It’s been saved by more than 100 Mendeley users, individuals who use this citation management tool to save, reference, and share articles. They represent people working in the disciplines of computer and information science, medicine, and psychology. They are both students and professionals, and they live all over the world. The article was
also blogged about and covered by 18 different news sources including the Huffington Post, the San Francisco Chronicle, Time Magazine, NBC News, and Fox News, to name a few.

Finally, 19 different people shared about the article via Twitter, thus reaching countless followers on that platform.

Skeptics of these type metrics might argue that Pagoto’s work gets this kind of exposure because it’s popular with the general public. Perhaps, though that’s hardly an argument against its importance and its impact. Scientists want – and more importantly, need – to reach the relevant audiences and stakeholders for their work in order to generate future funding. With these monies becoming harder to secure, it’s smart strategy to use the tools available to best effect.

It’s also false to state that work has to be in a cutting edge or trending field like mobile apps to gain exposure via these other outlets. David McManus, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Medicine, and colleagues published, “50 year trends in atrial fibrillation prevalence, incidence, risk factors, and mortality in the Framingham Heart Study: A cohort study,” in the July 11, 2015 issue of the Lancet. This is an example of fairly “traditional” medical research using data from a classic long-standing/ongoing study, published in a prestigious and well-established journal. Being so new, it’s yet to have been cited by others in publications, yet we can tell via alternative metrics that it’s already had an impact worth reporting. It’s been written about on a medical blog, covered by two different media outlets, including one in Germany, shared via Twitter by 46 users, and on Facebook by 10 accounts. Note that at least one of those Facebook accounts is the publisher’s, showing that the value of social networking is not lost on them. In looking at these metrics, we can see that an article published merely one month ago is already reaching a large audience.

These are things we simply couldn’t track and report just a few years ago. These are also audiences that scientists likely didn’t reach very easily before, either. The takeaway message is this: tools are now available that allow both the sharing and tracking of your work like never before. Knowing this, planning for it, and using the tools to your advantage can help your science have a more effective impact and help us reach the goal clinical translational science of bringing science from the bench top to the bedside much faster.

If you’d like to learn more about these metrics and/or how to use Scopus, contact the Library or send me an email (sally.gore@umassmed.edu). I’m happy to help you determine the reach of your research.
Pilot Project Program (PPP) Awards

PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY
SPRING 2015

Current Number of Funded Projects: 9

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR BETTER SCIENCE

Number of Different Investigators Involved: 45

Number of Medical Disciplines Represented: 17

Producing:

- 3 Inventions
- 6 Journal Articles
- 8 Successful Grant Proposals
- 19 Professional Presentations
- 21 Trained Early Investigators
On behalf of the Office of Research, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the Center for Clinical Translational Science

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
(August 13th – September 23rd)

The Office of Research, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the Center for Clinical Translational Science is pleased to announce that the

UMMS 20th Annual Research Retreat is taking place

Thursday, October 8th – Friday, October 9th, 2015

at the

University of Massachusetts Amherst Conference Center

Amherst, MA

To register please click here

If you have any questions, please contact Angela DiTerlizzi at 508-856-1572 or via e-mail Angela.DiTerlizzi@umassmed.edu
PMM Special Seminar

Jose Luis Gomez-Skarmeta, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
Centro Andaluz de Biologia del Desarrollo (CABD)
Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain

“Gene regulation dynamics and chromatin architecture during development and evolution”

Wednesday
August 19, 2015
11:00 am

Host: Craig Ceol, Ph.D.
508-856-5509

Albert Sherman Center
6th Floor, Room 2072

368 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01605
PMM Special Seminar
Jeffrey J. Hayes, Ph.D.
Shohei Koide Professor and Chair
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics
University of Rochester Medical Center

“Structures and interactions of the core and linker histone tail domains”

Wednesday
August 19, 2015
4:00 pm

Host: Craig Peterson, Ph.D.
508-856-5858

Molecular Medicine Seminar Room
3rd Floor, Biotech Two
373 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01605
GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH:
A CHINESE PERSPECTIVE

AUGUST 26, 2015
6:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
55 Lake Avenue, North Worcester, MA 01655
UMass Medical School: Amphitheater II S4-102

Mental illnesses have now overtaken cardiovascular disease as the biggest burden on China’s healthcare, and the country is currently lacking enough psychiatric health providers to accommodate the enormous patient population. Additionally, statistics have shown that Chinese-Americans have significantly lower diagnosis and treatment rates for mental disorders than those of other ethnicities. It is now imperative that healthcare providers in China and the U.S. be prepared to combat this disparity both in numbers and effective treatment solutions. This symposium will explore the roots of mental health challenges faced by the Chinese population in China, America, and the world. It will also create a local network for both mental health care and research collaboration. Food will be served.

Confirmed speakers include:
Sun Kim, PhD (UMass Boston)
David Kennedy, PhD (UMass Medical)
Amy Wachholtz, PhD (UMass Medical)
Kathy Niu, MD (UMass Medical)
Albert Yeung, MD (Harvard/MGH)
Doug Ziedonis, MD, MPH (UMass Medical)
Xiaoduo Fan, MD, MPH (UMass Medical)

Please send RSVP and all inquiries to Alan Xie at alan.xie@umassmed.edu

http://www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry/globalinitiatives/chinamentalhealthprogram/welcome/
PMM Special Seminar

Haig Alexander Eskandarian, Ph.D.
Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne
EMBO Post-Doctoral Fellow in Microbiology and Bioengineering

“Inherited cell-surface wave-troughs mark future division sites in mycobacteria”

Wednesday
September 2, 2015
1:00 pm

Host: Raffi V. Aroian, Ph.D.
508-856-8169

Molecular Medicine Seminar Room
3rd Floor, Biotech Two
373 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01605
Jessica Wapner’s first book, “The Philadelphia Chromosome: A Genetic Mystery, a Lethal Cancer, and the Improbable Invention of a Life Saving Treatment,” was published in 2013 and was named a top-ten nonfiction book by the Wall Street Journal. The book chronicles the discovery of a chromosome that would later be recognized as the sole cause of a deadly blood cancer, chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). A new era of cancer research was launched, and the concept of rational drug design was established.

Ms. Wapner is a freelance writer with a focus on healthcare, medicine and cancer research. Her work is published by Scientific American, Science, Nature Medicine, the New York Times and elsewhere. Ms. Wapner graduated from Clark University with an honor’s degree in Biology.
M2D2 Family Feud Style Business Networking Event

Thursday, September 10, 2015
6:00 – 8:00 pm
110 Canal Street, 4th Floor
Lowell, MA 01852
*enter off of either Middlesex or Jackson Street, Lowell

Please join the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) along with event sponsors Duane Morris LLP and MPR on September 10th for a Family Feud Style Business Networking Event!

Your registration fee $10.00 includes pizza, beer, and wine.
First 20 people to register: $10.00
Registration fee until September 9: $20.00
UMMS Human Research Protection Education Program

Clinical Research Professionals Group

The Clinical Research Professionals Group (CRPG) consists of clinical research staff throughout the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS), including Principal Investigators, Study Coordinators, Research Nurses, Administrators, and others. All research staff are invited to be part of the CRPG regardless of their role or background in clinical research.

CRPG meets once per month. Meetings are a forum for presentations and discussion on a variety of topics, including:

- enhancing the protection of human subjects in research
- best practices in clinical research
- policies and procedures related to the implementation of human subjects research

If you are interested in being part of the CRPG to receive important announcements, please email HRPeducation@umassmed.edu to be added to the email distribution list.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Location at UMMS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 20</td>
<td>12:00 – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Lazare Auditorium S1-607</td>
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<td>Friday, September 11</td>
<td>9:00 – 10:00 am</td>
<td>Hiatt Auditorium S1-608</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 19</td>
<td>12:00 – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Hiatt Auditorium S1-608</td>
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For questions about educational offerings or if you have a topic you would like to see the HRPP Education Program address, please email HRPeducation@umassmed.edu
UMMS Human Research Protection Education Program

AAHRPP “Boot Camp”

Site Visit Preparation

Investigators and study staff are encouraged to attend this series intended to prepare potential *key informants* for AAHRPP interviews.

8:00-9:00 am

*S2-301 Conference Room*, UMMS Worcester campus

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*Register or questions – email:*  [HRPeducation@umassmed.edu](mailto:HRPeducation@umassmed.edu)
FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE!

To UMass Physicians and Advanced Practice Nurses:

Didn’t get a chance to sit for an interview to discuss the utility of point-of-care testing devices?

An online version of the survey is now available and takes less than 20 minutes to complete

http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/poctusa

Thanks for your support of this important research.

A Survey of Clinical Opinion on the Utility of Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) Devices

As part of an inter-institutional MOU, the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is facilitating a research project with the University of Ulster, Nanotechnology & Integrated Bioengineering Centre, School of Engineering, Northern Ireland regarding the clinical utility of point-of-care testing (POCT) devices. A PhD student, Alistair Quinn, visited UMass in June and conducted over 20 interviews.

What is the purpose of the study?

There are indications from published literature that despite rapid advances in the development of new diagnostic markers that underpin the clinical utility of POCT, the uptake and utilization of these technologies is less than might be expected. The nature and relative importance of the issues that have been identified as possible impediments to the more widespread adoption of POCT are not fully understood. To better explain these underlying issues, it is deemed important to gain relevant information as to the utility of POCT devices within the clinical environment. As POCT is used internationally, it is important to compare experiences in a range of countries operating within different healthcare provision regimens.

A complete description of the study is available on the UMCCTS website at, http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/news/2015/June/point-of-care-testing

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Nate Hafer, PhD, nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu
The UMASS-Chemical Screening Initiative

Call for Proposals

Purpose of the Program

The UMASS-Chemical Screening Initiative (UMASS-CSI) provides investigators access to experienced professional and state-of-the-art technological resources at the Small Molecule Screening Facility (SMSF) for the discovery of exceptional chemical probes, potential diagnostic and therapeutic candidates of high-impact, as well as research tools. The program is funded by the UMass Office of the President’s Science and Technology Fund and the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

Executive Summary

- To permit the discovery of high-impact chemical compounds with therapeutic benefits in the academic setting
- To provide drug screening and development support to 10 meritorious projects from across the UMass system
- Facilitate external funding
- Facilitate industry-academia collaborations by demonstrating ‘drug-ability’ of biological targets
- Generate intellectual property for UMass

Objective of this Call for Proposals

The objective of this announcement is to invite applicants with a well-developed assay used in basic research and therapeutic development programs suitable for HTS to submit the assay for consideration by the UMASS-CSI to identify hits and probes from the SMSF compound library.

Five, Tier 1 projects encompassing pilot experiments would be awarded $7,250 each for screening any library of choice, up to a total of 5,000 compounds (e.g., a partial diversity set and/or a combination of the LOPAC and international drug collection to name a few).

Five, Tier 2 projects would involve comprehensive screening of the entire 58,000 compound library. These five Tier 2 projects would be awarded $22,500 each.
In both cases, the awards would cover all costs involved. These awards would cover not only assay development and high throughput screening costs but also secondary and counter screening, hit validation, compound picking, and consultation with medicinal chemists at UMass Amherst (Dr. Sergey Savinov) and the Structure-based Drug Design core at UMASS Medical for further developing these compounds into potential therapeutics.

Sangram S. Parelkar, PhD, who is the manager of the SMSF and has broad expertise in drug discovery and development, would be responsible for assay development and all aspects of screening. Paul Thompson, PhD, the SMSF Core Director, will also provide input into assay design and compound prioritization.

Please direct any questions to Drs. Thompson and/or Parelkar.

**Key Dates:**

- Call open: 09/15/2015
- UMASS-CSI team available for questions and project mentoring from 09/15/2015
- Proposal Deadline: **Thursday, October 15, 205 at 5:00 pm EST**
- Awards announced on or about 11/30/2015

**Complete details are available on the UMCCTS website at:**
http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/UMASS-CSI/
Pfizer’s Centers for Innovative Therapeutic Innovation

Call for Proposals

Pfizer’s Centers for Innovative Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) will be announcing a Call for Proposals on September 11, 2015 with a deadline date of October 16, 2015. If interested in applying for this funding opportunity, the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science will post this Call for Proposals on our website once the RFA has been announced.

http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/Pfizer-CTI/

The NIH Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program

A Unique Bridge for Early Stage Clinical Investigators

The National Institutes of Health, in partnership with the Lasker Foundation, is pleased to announce the 2015 Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program. This is an opportunity for 10 to 12 years of funding for clinical researchers.

This unique program provides Scholars with 5 to 7 years of support as an independent principal investigator in the NIH Intramural Research Program, followed by three years of continued financial support, either at the NIH or at an outside medical center/research institution.

Qualifications/eligibility:

Candidates must have a clinical doctoral degree (MD, MD/PhD, DO, DDS, DMD, RN/PhD or equivalent) and a professional license to practice in the United States. The program is intended for investigators at the early stages of their independent careers, and at the time of application, candidates must be no more than 10 years from completion of their core residency training. Candidates generally will have completed or will be completing a post-residency clinical fellowship and will have demonstrated significant patient-oriented research experience to qualify for a tenure-track level appointment.

To apply: Learn more at http://www.nih.gov/science/laskerscholar/

Application deadline: Thursday, August 27, 2015

Questions can be directed to Dr. Charles Dearolf, Assistant Director for Intramural Research, at LaskerScholar@nih.gov
The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

*Collaborative Innovation Award*

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health has announced a **Collaborative Innovation Award, Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program U01 and pre-application X02**.

These FOAs aims to support applications for innovative collaborative investigations (involving three or more CTSA sites) into improvements of the methods of translational research, at any step in the translational spectrum (T1-T4). It is anticipated that the combined effort of three or more CTSA hubs in flexible networks will substantially enhance the effectiveness of the CTSA consortium to address high priority translational research questions. These FOAs therefore aim to support innovative and collaborative experimental translational research projects carried out in the CTSA consortium that have the following characteristics:

- Such projects should develop a new technology, method, or approach that addresses a general roadblock in science and/or operations that limits the efficiency and effectiveness of translation.
- Such projects should demonstrate in one or more use cases whether the tool, method, or approach is effective in accelerating translation, utilizing clear and meaningful metrics and outcomes, when implemented across multiple CTSA hubs.
- Such projects should advance collaboration, building on existing strengths and resources of individual CTSA hubs.
- What constitutes success of the proposed project can be defined and measured.

Please see complete details in the 2 links below: There is a pre-application step (X02) followed by an invited full application (U01).


If you are interested in submitting a pre-application, please contact Nate Hafer at least 2 weeks before the grant deadline at nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu or 508-856-2511
American Cancer Society-Jules L. Plangere Jr. Family Foundation Professor in Cancer Immunotherapy

To highlight the success and promise of cancer immunotherapy and to accelerate the application of immunotherapy to many types of cancer, we are delighted to announce the availability of an American Cancer Society-Jules L. Plangere Jr. Family Foundation Professor in Cancer Immunotherapy. This award is intended for an outstanding, mid-career investigator who has made seminal contributions to the field of cancer immunotherapy and who is an internationally recognized leader in the field. Applications are invited from highly distinguished investigators actively leading research programs and mentoring young scientists in any aspect of tumor immunology or immunotherapy. ACS Professors are also expected to be effective spokespersons for cancer research and for the Society.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from outstanding mid-career investigators who have made seminal contributions in the field of cancer immunotherapy. Furthermore, it is expected that they will continue to be leaders in their field and act as a spokesperson for the American Cancer Society. Applicants must be within 15 years of promotion to the rank of full Professor or the equivalent at a US-based, not-for-profit, non-governmental institution. For this award, department and division chairs are eligible to apply though administrative responsibilities will be evaluated during the review. Applicants directing research programs covering the full spectrum of basic, preclinical, and clinical investigations will be considered.

Award

The award will be $80,000 per year for 5 years which can be budgeted at the recipient’s discretion. No indirect dollars will be provided for this award. Contingent upon the availability of funds, an application for renewal for a second 5 year term will be considered. Only one award will be made.

Application process

Interested individuals must submit a 2-3 page Letter of Intent and curriculum vitae with a complete bibliography electronically to Dr. William Chambers, Vice President, Extramural Research, by going to the American Cancer Society electronic submission website at proposalCENTRAL. The LOI must be submitted by Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

An external review panel will select a small number of applicants who will be invited to submit a full application by November 15, 2015. All applicants will be notified by email in
early October whether they are invited to submit a full application. The final decision regarding this award will be made in March 2016 by the Council for Extramural Grants.

For additional information, contact:

Susanna Greer, PhD
Director, Clinical Cancer Research and Immunology
Extramural Research and Training Department
404-329-7552
Susanna.greer@cancer.org

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**Request for Information (RFI): Inviting Comments and Suggestions on a Framework for the NIH-wide Strategic Plan**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is currently developing an NIH-wide Strategic Plan. The goal of this 5-year plan is to outline a vision for biomedical research that ultimately extends healthy life and reduces illness and disability.

At this time, NIH is inviting the public to review the framework and provide feedback via the RFI submission site (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rfi/rfi.cfm?ID=46) by:

**Sunday, August 16, 2015.**


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**Request for Information (RFI): Strategies for Simplifying NIH's Grant Application Instructions**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) seeks input on the restructuring of the NIH grant application instructions. Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically on the submission website (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rfi/rfi.cfm?ID=47) by:

**Friday, September 25, 2015.**
