



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

April 2016 Volume 2, Issue 4

NEWS



UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science 6th Annual Research Retreat Registration is now open!

Registration is now open for the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) **6th Annual Research Retreat**. The Retreat will be held on **Friday, May 20, 2016** at the **Albert Sherman Center, University of Massachusetts Medical School**.

The Retreat will feature a full-day of programs comprised of **keynote address**, **concurrent mini symposia**, and **poster session** featuring the work of researchers from across the **5-UMass campuses**. Retreat attendees will include a diverse group of investigators, faculty, clinicians, nurses, community agencies, students and staff ranging from basic scientists to population health and community-based researchers.

Don't miss out on this exciting educational opportunity! This will be a great venue for collaboration and networking too!

[Register!](#) Registration open till May 6th - Register today!

[Click here](#) for complete Retreat information and details.

Congratulations to Dr. McManus!



David McManus, MD, ScM, a 2012 [K12 Clinical Research Scholar](#), recently achieved two milestones in his career. First, he was awarded the Joan and Douglas Zipes Award for the most impactful arrhythmia-related scientific manuscript of 2016 from the Heart Rhythm Society. Second, he was awarded an R01 grant from NIH entitled, "**Systematic Assessment of Geriatric Elements in Atrial Fibrillation (SAGE-AF)**". McManus submitted the application with Jane Saczynski, PhD, an Associate Professor from Northeastern University. As his mentor, John

Keaney, MD, noted upon hearing the news, "Please join me in congratulating Dave on this landmark in his academic career. It is a terrific reflection on [Cardiovascular Medicine](#) and our efforts in developing clinician scientists and translational investigators."

Training of investigators who will make a career of innovative, hypothesis-driven clinical and translational research is a top priority of the UMCCTS and many resources are available to young investigators including training programs, mentoring, and academic career development. Dr. McManus' accomplishments highlight the success of these programs.

Innovations in Patient Recruitment Program Request for Proposals

Deadline date has been extended to April 22!

A goal of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science is to support UMass researchers' human subject research through technological innovations. In collaboration with the UMCCTS Informatics Core and the Special Population Resource Center, this request for letters of intent seeks proposals for innovative techniques to identify and engage research participants, particularly among historically hard-to-reach patient populations. Innovative methods for recruiting such patients need to be identified, supported, and disseminated to the larger UMass research community. **The intent of the funding** is to support ongoing or future research projects that utilize innovative patient recruitment methodology.



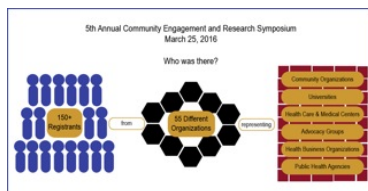
Deadline date for applications has been extended to Friday, April 22, 2016

[Click here](#) for complete information and eligibility.

Why (and How) Scientists Engage with the Public

*Sally Gore, MS, MSLIS
Research Evaluation Analyst, UMCCTS*

An interesting article in the February issue of PLOS One, [Scientists' Prioritization of Communication Objectives for Public Engagement](#) (Dudo & Besley), sheds light on a topic that's been of much discussion in the scientific community for awhile now, i.e. the importance of scientists talking about their work with the public. Most often it's cited that public engagement is important to insure public support, financial and otherwise, for scientific research. The argument goes that an informed public will be a supportive public, demanding that the government and private funding agencies adequately provide for science. Thus, researchers' objectives and priorities when speaking to the public tend to be on informing, educating, and defending science. Indeed, this tendency and belief was evident in the findings of Dudo & Besley's study. [Read More](#)



*Sally Gore, MS, MSLIS
Research Evaluation Analyst, UMCCTS*

The **5th Annual Community Engagement and Research Symposium** was held on March 25, 2016 in the Albert Sherman Center. A vibrant group of researchers and community leaders shared ideas and resources, learned about ongoing community engaged research initiatives and made connections to collaborate on research projects.

Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, SPRN, BC-ADM, FAAN, Professor and Ann Darling Edwards Endowed Chair; Director, Center for Community Health Partnerships and Co-Director, SCTR Community Engagement gave the Keynote. Her talk was titled: **"Translation Research: Where are our Communities?"** Dr. Jenkins shared methods for working effectively with communities and challenged participants to develop ways of working in collaboration to enable new knowledge and insight.

[Learn More](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

New Research Website Calendar Launched!

[Research @ UMMS](#) is a new website that consolidates information about the research enterprise at UMass Worcester. Check out the site for the latest research news and information about research resources, educational opportunities, funding, and more! Also check out the new [Institutional Events and Research calendar](#) for a listing of upcoming seminars and events around campus.

The website is a joint project of the UMMS IT department, UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science and the UMMS Office of Research.



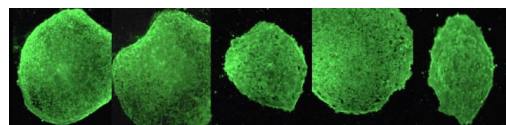
Data Analysis Sessions

The [UMMS Bioinformatics Core](#) hosts a data analysis session (data-thon) every other Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The format is to briefly introduce you to the available pipelines followed by analysis of **your** dataset.

If you have an RNA-Seq, ChIP-Seq, ATAC-Seq or small RNA-Seq dataset that you would like to have an analysis jump-start, and would like to participate in a session, please send an email to [Biocore](#). There are a limited number of openings for each session.

Please go to the [UMMS Bioinformatics Core Data Analysis Sessions](#) website for complete information.

Don't forget, you must email [Biocore](#) for pre-registration.



Boston University Medical Campus, Center for Regenerative Medicine iPSC Core Facility

Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSCs) generated by forced overexpression of defined transcription factors in somatic cells hold great promise for human disease research and personalized medicine. iPSCs show extensive self-renewal and have the ability to become any cell type in the body, providing an inexhaustible source of cells for in vitro disease modeling studies, screening of pharmacological compounds and regenerative therapies. The Center for Regenerative Medicine (CRoM) iPSC Core was created to expedite the use of iPSC technology by providing essential services and support to on-campus investigators and the broader scientific community. We will provide all available iPSC lines free of charge to the entire academy research community.

[Learn More](#)

Congratulations to our Pilot Project Program 2016 Awardees!

One of the major goals of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science is to foster research through pilot funding grant opportunities. The UMCCTS is also looking at ways to generate more funding opportunities through collaborative relationships with industry. We welcome ideas to engender future funding for investigators who are interested in clinical and translational research. Please contact Nate Hafer, PhD, Director of Operations, UMCCTS, if you are interested in partnering with UMCCTS to develop a collaborative funding opportunity or with any suggestions/comments. We appreciate your input and support!

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate our current PPP awardees!

Pilot Project Program (PPP)

Sharone Green, MD	<i>Innate Immunity Recognition of Chikungunya Virus</i>
Lawrence J. Hayward, MD, PhD	<i>A Humanized In Vivo Model of Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy</i>
Wen-Chieh Lin, PhD	<i>Identify Community-living Elders at High Risk of Falling for Targeted and Tailored Interventions</i>
Jeffrey J. Rade, MD	<i>Endothelial-specific Thromboxane Metabolites as Novel Biomarkers for Cardiovascular Risk</i>
Wen Xue, PhD	<i>CRISPR-based Precision Medicine for Tyrosinemia</i>

Congratulations to our TL1 Fellowship Training Program 2016 Awardees!

We apologize for not including Dr. Green in the list of awardees for the Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowship Training Program in our March 2016 newsletter - please see the updated list below.

Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowship Training Program (TL1)

Jonathan Green, MD (Post) (UMMS)	<i>Implementation and Utilization of Mobile Technology in Adolescent Bariatric Surgery Patients</i>
Matthew Alcusky, PharmD, MS (Post) (UMMS)	<i>Neglected by the Evidence: Pharmacoepidemiologic Research in Older Adults with Cardiovascular Disease</i>
Vijaya Daniel, MD, MPH (Post) (UMMHC)	<i>Microbial Determinants of Gastrointestinal Perforation Incidence and Outcomes</i>
Alec Gramann, MD (Pre) (UMMS)	<i>Evaluating Anti-GDF6 Treatment as Potential Therapy for Advanced Melanoma and Breast Cancer</i>
Apurv Soni, MD (Pre) (UMMS)	<i>Understanding Predictors and Trends of Maternal and Child-Health in India at an Individual, Community, and Population Level: Challenges and Opportunities for Improvement</i>
Jacob Hunnicutt, MPH (Pre) (UMMS)	<i>Building the Evidence Base to Improve Pain Management in Nursing Home Residents with Cancer</i>

EVENTS



April 2016 Events

Speaker:

Beth A. McCormick, PhD

Professor and Vice Chair, Microbiology and Physiological Systems
Executive Director, The Center for Microbiome Research
University of Massachusetts Medical School



Joined by:



Doyle Ward, PhD

Associate Professor,
Microbiology and Physiological Systems
Director of Operations,
The Center for Microbiome Research
University of Massachusetts Medical School



Jeffrey Blanchard, PhD

Associate Professor, Biology
Co-Director,
The Center for Microbiome Research
University of Massachusetts Amherst

The Center for Microbiome Research and Our Approach to Team Science

**Thursday, April 28, 2016
9:00 - 10:00 am (EST)
WEBINAR**

In this Webinar, learn how members of the Center for Microbiome Research perform a team-based approach to address the complex scientific and medical issues, and how the University cultivates team-based collaborations.

[Register now](#) for this educational and informative Webinar!

For past UMCCTS Team Science Webinars (audio/video presentations), please [click here](#).

This MassTERi event is sponsored by the UMMS Office of Innovation and Business Development and the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science.



Education series continues!

Richard Wobbe, PhD

Pharma experience includes Scriptgen, Anadys Pharmaceuticals, ArQule, XTL Biopharmaceuticals

Assay Development: Not Just Another Experiment

Thursday, May 5, 2016

Faculty Conference Room, S1-342

1st Floor Medical School Lobby Entrance
University of Massachusetts Medical School

4:00 - 5:00 pm - Lecture and Case Study

5:00 - 5:30 pm - Networking (drinks and hors d'oeuvres)

Lecture and Case Study: Assay development and data are at the heart of pharmaceutical drug development. Many properties have to be present in a molecule for that molecule to become a drug and each of those properties is defined by an assay. Developing and running pharmaceutical development assays are not like running experiments in a typical research lab. This lecture will describe the art and science of assay development. The speaker will share some concrete examples of assay development and the rationale behind the selection criteria.

[Register now](#) for this informative and educational lecture.

This event will be a great opportunity for networking and collaboration too!

**NIH Grant Writing Workshop!
Friday, May 13, 2016**

8:00am – 4:00pm

at the
Albert Sherman Center, AS1.2130 East (Multi-Purpose Room)
University of Massachusetts Medical School
55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA

Are you applying for a NIH career development ("K") award or your first research ("R") grant?

This workshop will provide an overview of NIH and the grant review process, including a demonstration of a grant review panel, key steps in writing a grant, and the details of K and R awards. In an interactive session, you will work with colleagues to draft an effective specific aims page for your application.

Presenters:

Joan M. Lakoski, PhD (American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy) and
Robert J. Milner, PhD (UMMS)

[Register here](#) for the workshop by May 6th.

If you are not at UMMS, please email: Susan.Tremallo@umassmed.edu

Sponsored by: The Office of Research, Faculty Affairs and Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Human Research Protection Program (HRPP)
Upcoming Educational Opportunities**

Clinical Research Professionals Group (CRPG) Meetings:

Tuesday, May 9, 2016

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Hiatt Auditorium, S1-608, UMMS, Worcester

[Learn More](#)





**Center for Gerontology Research
and Partnerships
2nd Annual Healthy Aging -
Living Well Forum**

**April 22, 2016
8:30 am - 12:00 pm**

University of Massachusetts Lowell
University Crossing, Moloney Hall
220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell, MA

Please RSVP to: Laura_Hajjar@uml.edu

[Read More](#)



**Northeast American Association for
Clinical Chemistry
1st Annual Conference**

**May 26, 2016
1:00 pm - 9:00 pm
May 27, 2016
7:30 am - 5:30 pm**

University of Massachusetts Lowell
Inn & Conference Center
50 Warren Street, Lowell, MA

[Register here](#) by May 1st.



**UNM Mentoring Institute
9th Annual Mentoring Conference
Call for Proposals**

TRAVEL AWARDS AVAILABLE!

Travel awards are available for faculty who's abstract proposals are accepted to the UNM Mentoring Institute 2016 Mentoring Conference. If interested, please email your **accepted** abstract proposal information to [Nate Hafer, PhD](#), Director of Operations, UMCCTS.

Deadline date for [Poster Abstract submission](#) to UNM: **May 15, 2016**

This year's conference theme is ***Developmental Networks: The Power of Mentoring and Coaching***. We seek to facilitate discourse on the effectiveness of developmental networks, and the impact of mentoring and coaching relationships in educational and workplace settings.

[Learn More](#)



**Massachusetts Life Sciences
Innovation Day 2016
June 2, 2016**

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS available to UMass students, fellows, and post-docs!

UMass students, fellows, and post-docs are eligible to have their conference registration fee covered by the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS). To be eligible, please prepare a poster application through the process described at this link: [click here](#).

If your lab, or yet to be funded company, has notable discoveries or new grant awards that you want to publicize to the Massachusetts research and business communities, please complete the poster application, and send it, along with your poster abstract to [Nate Hafer, PhD](#) no later than **May 6, 2016**. The UMCCTS will judge applications and notify all winners.

The **9th Massachusetts Life Sciences Innovation (MALSI) Day** is the biggest day for life sciences startups and innovation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This is a high-energy, hands-on event which brings together scientific leaders and business experts to mingle with scientists, post-docs, professors, entrepreneurs, innovators, and venture capitalists.

[Learn More](#)

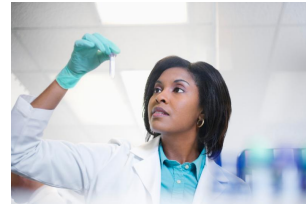
FUNDING and TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges Explorations

The Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to encourage innovative and unconventional global health and development solutions, is accepting grant proposals until **May 11, 2016**. Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations, and for-profit companies.

[Learn More](#)



Philanthropies Announce Program to Develop Scientific Talent Worldwide

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and partners, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, today announced an international program to select up to 50 outstanding early career scientists. The program's aim is to help develop scientific talent worldwide.

[Learn More](#)

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) was founded in 2006 to enhance clinical and translational research across the five University of Massachusetts campuses and our clinical partner, UMass Memorial Health Care. With the receipt of an NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) in 2010, and its successful renewal in 2015, the UMCCTS joined a network of 62 NIH-funded centers collaborating to transform the conduct of clinical and translational research across the U.S. Other key partners include our patients and communities, foundations, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, and members of the venture capital and philanthropic communities.

We encourage you to browse through our [website](#) to learn more about how the UMCCTS catalyzes clinical and translational research through education and training, pilot funding programs, cores, and services.

Please remember to cite the CTSA Grant # UL1-TR001453 in all supported journal publications.