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**From the University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science**

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### **Discovering New Therapeutic Uses for Existing Molecules**

NCATS has recently announced a new pilot program to explore new therapeutic uses for existing molecules. Eight participating companies have provided their compounds and related data, which were determined by the NIH to meet specific eligibility criteria. For example, each compound must have advanced to clinical studies but been unsuccessful in its original therapeutic indication or not pursued for business reasons. Preliminary information about the **58 compounds**, including mechanism of action, route of administration, and any limitations in use based on safety and tolerability, are available at: <http://ncats.nih.gov/therapeutics-directory.html>. Researchers who are interested in NCATS' Therapeutics Discovery funding must submit a pre-application in response to the NIH Funding Opportunity Announcement at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-203.html> by August 14, 2012.

Investigators interested in applying for this program should contact Nate Hafer at [nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu) or 508-856-2511 for complete details.

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### **Lecture Series on Health Services Research Methods**

The first lecture, "**Outcomes Assessment**", will be presented by **John E. Ware, PhD** on **Wednesday, July 11, 1:00-2:30 PM, Hancock Hill Conference Room (AC7-050), ACC Building, UMass-Worcester**. Lectures continue on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout July and August. For more information or questions, please call Ms. Kristie Capurso at 508-856-8821. Sponsored by the Center for Outcomes Research, the Surgical Research Scholars Program, and the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences.

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### **Medical Device Design and Business Development for Entrepreneurs**

**August 6-10, 2012**

**Massachusetts Medical Device and Development Center (M2D2)**

**600 Suffolk St, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Lowell**

**To register and get more information [click here](#)**

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The purpose of this course is to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with a valuable toolbox of concepts and networks for advancing their medical device design and development processes. Topics include needs finding, needs screening, concept generation, intellectual property basics, regulatory affairs basics, reimbursement basics, business models, prototyping, and final concept selection.

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### **Shaping Our World-SHOW: Beyond Treading Water: Functional Analysis of Tumor Initiation and Maintenance**

**When: Thursday, July 26, 2012 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Where: Harvard Institutes of Medicine, Bray Room - First Floor, Blackfan Circle – 4, Boston, MA**

Learn more and register on the [Event webpage](#). Attendance is free but pre-registration is required.

July's SHOW will focus on the genetic pathways that drive the development of cancer. Specifically, we will look at melanoma, an aggressive form of skin cancer, which has been on the rise of late. Though making up only five percent of skin cancer cases, melanoma is responsible for a large number of the deaths associated with skin cancers, having a particularly poor prognosis when diagnosed in its later stages. Our special guest speaker, **Dr. Craig J. Ceol, Assistant Professor of Molecular Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School**, has been working to identify the genetic defects responsible for the growth of tumors, specifically malignant melanoma.

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**Fifth Annual CTSA Consortium Community Engagement Conference**  
**Methods, Metrics and Outcomes: Evaluating the Success of Community Engaged Research**  
**August 23 – 24, 2012**  
**Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center**  
**Bethesda, MD**

Conference goals are to demonstrate feasible and replicable methods and metrics developed by and with communities that have improved individual and community health, particularly within underserved communities; facilitate the application of these methodologies and metrics to diverse local settings; and share tools for assessing and improving the effectiveness of community engagement in improving individual and community health outcomes.

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### **Institutional CTSA Funding Opportunity Announced**

NCATS released the long-anticipated new funding announcement for institutional CTSA's on Friday, July 6. More information is [available here](#). The UMCCTS plans to re-compete for additional funding in 2014, near the end of our current funding period.

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### **New Funding Round for Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases (TRND) Program** **[Read full announcement here](#)**

The NCATS Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases (TRND) program performs preclinical and early clinical development of new drugs for rare and neglected diseases, and develops new technologies and paradigms to improve the efficiency of therapeutic development for these diseases. The TRND program will partner with academic laboratories, not-for-profit organizations, and for-profit companies. Successful applicants will collaborate with TRND to create and implement a therapeutic development project plan. **Note:** *This is not a grant or contract program; no extramural funding will be provided.*

For more information about the TRND program, including deadlines for current or upcoming opportunities, please visit the TRND webpage at <http://trnd.nih.gov>.

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Clinical Research for Rare Diseases**

The Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network (RDCRN) and the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) are sponsoring the *3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Clinical Research for Rare Diseases (CCRRD)* on **Tuesday October 2, 2012 in Rockville, Maryland**. This unique conference will focus on research methodology for rare diseases and should be of particular interest to trainees and junior faculty engaged in research in rare diseases. For more information about the conference, including details about the program, applying for travel awards, and conference logistics and registration, visit the conference website: <https://rarediseasesnetwork.epi.usf.edu/conference/>

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## CVIP UMass Startup Initiative

The Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property (CVIP) in the President's Office has instituted the UMass Startup Initiative (UMSI) to foster the creation of startups at UMass. This program augments other funding initiatives which currently include the CVIP Technology Development Award and the UMass Co-Investment Equity Fund. **The UMSI will make five thousand dollar (\$5,000) grants available to the UMass campuses to prepare business plans that address the commercial potential of inventions disclosed to CVIP.** The business plan will be prepared by an external consultant with relevant commercial experience working closely with the key investigator of the disclosed invention. CVIP will assist with the selection of the consultant. The business plans will be used by CVIP to determine the feasibility of a startup and after that determination CVIP will assist in seeking management and then investment for the new companies. Initially the awards will be available on a request basis. All applicants will be asked to submit a brief application describing the technology, its commercial application and the rationale for creating a startup. Selection of the awardees will be made by CVIP with the assistance of an external advisory group.

**For full details and application instructions, please contact:** Dr. Bill Rosenberg, Executive Director CVIP at [wrosenberg@umassp.edu](mailto:wrosenberg@umassp.edu) or Nate Hafer at [nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu).

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***Please remember to cite the UMCCTS grant UL1RR031982 and UL1TR000161 in all journal publications.***

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