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UMCCTS Newsletter, August 2013

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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News and Events

August 2013

University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science

**UMass Lowell ~ Department of Clinical Laboratory & Nutritional Sciences
Fall 2013 Colloquium**

“GENETICS AND GENOMICS OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE”

Christopher J. O'Donnell, MD, MPH

Chief, Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Human Genomics (CVEHG) Branch
NHLBI's Framingham Heart Study, NIH

Thursday, September 12, 2013

12:30 – 1:30 pm

O'Leary Library Room 222
South Campus, UMass Lowell
61 Wilder Street, Lowell, MA 01854

Faculty, staff, and students from across all 5-UMass campuses are welcome to attend. Coordinated by Mahdi Garelnabi, PhD (mahdi_garelnabi@uml.edu).

If you are unable to attend in person, a Webinar is available, but you must register early as space is limited: <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/611256183>

**Research Career & Writing Group (“K-Award” writing group)
2013-2014 Schedule**

The Research Career Award Writing Group (“K-Award” writing group), established in 2007, is co-lead by Drs. Doug Ziedonis and Sherry Pagoto. Most faculty who participate and apply for a research career award have been very successful in getting funded (>80% success rate). The group meets monthly to provide information and feedback on academic career development and on preparing a Research Career Award application (NIH K Awards, VA Research Career Awards, CTSA K12 grants, etc.).

Interested in joining? To become a member, please contact Ms. Denise Barrett, Executive Assistant to Dr. Ziedonis, at denise.barrett@umassmemorial.org

The 2013-2014 schedule is now posted at the K-Award website, <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/K-Club/index.aspx>

UMCCTS Pilot Project Program Awardee – Julia Fang, PhD Awarded R01 from NIH/NIDA

Dr. Hua (Julia) Fang, Assistant Professor, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, has been awarded a 3-year R01 grant from the NIH/NIDA. Her grant, **“DISC: Describe Smoking Cessation in RCT Multi-component Behavioral Intervention”**, will develop an innovative pattern recognition approach to

understand how different smokers respond to longitudinal internet-based and culturally-tailored behavioral interventions. Even when interventions are delivered uniformly, smokers engage with and respond to them differently. This approach will help characterize smokers' complex online engagement and cognitive response behaviors during interventions, evaluate how intervention components work for different types of smokers, untangle the efficacy of each intervention, and provide a new, detailed understanding of how smokers' distinct behavioral patterns are associated with outcomes. This new approach will be tested on two NIH-funded studies, evaluated by a comprehensive simulation study of over 170,000 conditions, and developed into accessible software tools. This study will improve these interventions for targeted populations and uncover important relationships missed by traditional approaches. It will also provide new evidence on high-risk behavioral patterns that may be clinically important for early targeted intervention. By providing analytical prototypes and accessible tools, this study will advance general pattern-recognition methodology and accelerate its utility in substance-use behavioral studies. Long-term, this work will benefit patient-centered substance use health care and even beyond.

Congratulations to Dr. Fang and her R01 research team, which includes Drs. Allison, Ash, Houston and Kim from the Departments of Quantitative Health Sciences (QHS) and Psychiatry.

UMCCTS eScholarship@UMMS

Please take a moment to check out our UMCCTS eScholarship@UMMS link <http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/umccts> to review our May 8, 2013 UMCCTS Retreat that took place at the UMMS campus, Albert Sherman Center. Poster abstracts and mini symposia presentations are posted here along with Dr. Paul Ridker's keynote speaker presentation.

We hope those of you who were able to attend this year's Retreat had a memorable experience and for those of you who were not able to attend, we hope to see you at next year's Retreat in May 2014 (more information will be forthcoming in the following months).

The Institute of Medicine Releases Report on CTSA's Program

Committee to Review the Clinical & Translational Science Awards Program at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

"In 2012 the NIH contracted with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to conduct a consensus study to assess and provide recommendations on the appropriateness of the CTSA Program's mission and strategic goals and whether changes were needed. The committee was also tasked with providing an independent appraisal of and advice on the implementation of the program by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), while exploring the contributions of CTSA's in accelerating the development of new therapeutics, facilitating disease-specific and child health research, and enhancing the integration of research funded by NIH institutes and centers. To conduct this study, the IOM convened a 13-member committee with expertise in community outreach and engagement, public health and health policy, bioethics, education and training, pharmaceutical research and development, program evaluation, clinical and biomedical research, and child health research, along the full continuum of clinical and translation research."

"The committee's overarching conclusion is that the CTSA Program is contributing significantly to the advancement of clinical and translational research and is therefore a worthwhile investment that would benefit from a variety of revisions to make it more efficient and effective."

The complete report is available at:

http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CCTS/News/CTSA%20IOM%20Report_June%202013.pdf

UMass President Awards \$830,000 for Faculty Science and Technology Projects

On July 15, 2013, President Robert L. Caret announced nearly \$830,000 in grants to faculty members from the President's Science and Technology Initiatives Fund to support six promising research projects. The projects range from creating a laboratory for urban coastal environmental science to expanding the University's ability to manufacture cutting-edge therapeutics for gene-therapy research.

The projects receiving grants this year from the Science and Technology Initiatives Fund can be viewed at: <http://www.massachusetts.edu/aasair/2013stfunded.html>

AAMC Launches Medical Research Tumblr Web Site

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has launched a web-based, social media resource, **Medical Research Tumblr**, to highlight publicly funded medical research advances being made by scientists and physicians at AAMC member institutions.

The website will feature resources such as photos, videos, and written commentary and blog posts. The postings are searchable by state, disease category, institution, and funding source.

<http://medresearch.tumblr.com/>

National Institutes of Health Funding Announcements

NOT-TR-13-007 - *Opportunity to Submit Proposals for the Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases (TRND) Program* <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-TR-13-007.html>

RFA-RM-13-008 - *NIH Transformative Research Awards (R01)*
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-13-008.html>

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, membership sign-up, etc., <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts>