Congratulations to the 2014 UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund Awardees!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 LSMF</th>
<th>UMMS Dept./Campus</th>
<th>UMass Dept./Campus</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neil Aronin, MD</td>
<td>Gregory N. Tew, PhD</td>
<td>CRISPR-Cas9-derived Nucleases and PTDMs for Huntington’s Disease Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor, Department of Medicine; Co-Director, Neurotherapeutics Institute</td>
<td>Professor, Polymer Science and Engineering, UMass Amherst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael H. Brodsky, PhD</td>
<td>Alfred J. Crosby, PhD</td>
<td>Geckskin™ for Biomedical Skin Applications: Demonstrating Clinical Relevance and Potential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor, Program in Gene Function and Expression; Director, UMMS Mutagenesis Core Facility</td>
<td>Professor, Polymer Science and Engineering, UMass Amherst</td>
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<tr>
<td>John E. Harris, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Duncan J. Irschick, PhD</td>
<td>Therapeutic Modalities for Leber Congenital Amaurosis (LCA) due to CEP290 Gene Defects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor, Division of Dermatology, Department of Medicine</td>
<td>Professor, Department of Biology, UMass Amherst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hemant Khanna, PhD</td>
<td>Murugappan Muthukumar, PhD</td>
<td>Ex Vivo RNAi-based Therapy for Modulating T Cell Response as a Novel Treatment for Graft-vs-Host Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Wilmer D. Barrett Professor, Polymer Science &amp; Engineering, UMass Amherst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anastasia Khvorova, PhD</td>
<td>Barbara A. Osborne, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor, Program in Molecular Medicine and RNA Therapeutics Institute</td>
<td>Professor, Veterinary &amp; Animal Sciences; Director, Molecular &amp; Cellular Biology Program, UMass Amherst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa M. Minter, PhD</td>
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Thank you to our UMCCTS Steering Committee for their time, commitment, and thoughtful review of the LSMF proposals.

UMMS Bioinformatics Core
Basic Informatics Session

UMMS Bioinformatics Core will be offering a Basic Informatics Session. This 6 week 1.5 hours/week basic informatics session is for individuals with NO informatics background. These sessions will cover basic UNIX, basic scripting and basic R programming.

Ideally, there will be sessions 4 times per year, but for no more than 20 people per session.
The class will be around the topics below to give some idea about how to interact with computing environment:

- Basic linux commands, file copy, ftp, and basic vi
- sort, join files, basic awk commands
- for loop in awk
- awk system function, if, for and while loops
- vi regular expressions, file operations,
- bed tools, intersectBed command to find out the reads mapped to the introns
- bed tools to find the distances to the 3' splice sites
- bed tools to find the distances to the 5' and 3' splice sites, use RStudio and R to draw plots.
- Bowtie Alignments, tophat, rsem quantifications
- R Basic Operations and Vectors (Arrays).
- R Matrix, data frame and statistical analysis
- R scatterplots, bar plots, ggplots, heat maps.
- Galaxy, Dolphin Pipelines, UMassTools

If you are interested, please sign-up by clicking this link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_asJ7ZgWOLmgkV7B22LUAF205fQv8uPbJ-BZ2amtnnc/edit#gid=0

Questions? Alper.Kucukural@umassmed.edu

NCATS Announces Small Molecule CRADA and Licensing Opportunity

On June 24, 2014, NCATS announced the availability of a new Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) and licensing opportunity. NCATS and the University of Delaware are seeking partners for the final stages of lead optimization, evaluation and pre-clinical development of a new series of small molecule inhibitors of the human USP1/UAF1 complex for the treatment of cancer. To be considered for the project, interested candidates must submit a statement of interest and capability to NCATS by July 24, 2014.

For more information and to submit a statement of interest, contact Lili Portilla, MPA (lilip@nih.gov) or Krishna Balakrishnan, PhD, MBA (balakrik@mail.nih.gov) in the NCATS Office of Strategic Alliances.

The Harrington Prize for Innovation in Medicine

Nominations are now open for the 2015 Harrington Prize for Innovation in Medicine. The Harrington Prize, presented by the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals Case Medical Center, honors a physician-scientist who has moved science forward with achievements notable for innovation, creativity and potential for clinical application.

This annual prize provides the awardee with:

- An unrestricted $20,000 honorarium
- The Harrington Prize Lecture, delivered at the ASCI/AAP Joint Meeting
- A review, published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation

Nomination Deadline: August 15, 2014

Please see website for complete information: http://www.uhhospitals.org/services/harrington-discovery-institute/programs-and-initiatives/harrington-prize-for-innovation-in-medicine

DID YOU KNOW?

Public Posting of Data on Clinical Research on Study Match

From: Margaret Koziel, MD, Senior Director of Clinical Research, UMCCTS
Michael Centola, IRB Manager, UMCCTS
Sarah Rulnick, Conquering Diseases Program Manager, UMCCTS
In order to improve knowledge in our community about the breadth and depth of clinical research at UMass Worcester, we are instituting an automatic feed of information from our electronic IRB system (eIRB) onto our public website, Study Match, which is a searchable database of clinical research. We believe this will help inform our community about the exciting work we do including potential research participants, patients, our health system partners, and collaborators. This information will be linked from both the Medical School and Medical Center websites.

In the past, posting to this database required a series of steps on the part of study teams; but we have upgraded our systems to streamline the process. **As of August 7, 2014, all clinical research will be posted to Study Match using information from the eIRB submission unless the investigator opts out of posting this information.** Please review the lay summary you have in eIRB to make sure it is appropriate for public viewing prior to this date.

**Process:**
- As is already done, investigators enter a lay language summary and contact information into eIRB. Investigators may seek guidance from either the IRB staff or the Conquering Diseases staff on appropriate lay language for both consents and the summary.
- Investigators may opt out of posting a summary on Study Match by indicating this on eIRB.
- After a study is approved in eIRB, the lay summary will be posted in Study Match.
- Investigators may modify the language at any time through eIRB (for example, if they wish to post that a study is closed to enrollment).
- After a study is closed in the IRB, the posting will be removed from the database.
- This does not replace the requirement to post applicable studies on ClinicalTrials.gov.

**Study Match:** [https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/find-studies.html](https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/find-studies.html)

**Some important tips on lay language:**
- The lay language summary in eIRB is limited to 100 words.
- Please use simple language (6-8th grade reading level) to describe the study. You should use the same language as the consent, not the scientific abstract prepared for the NIH.
- This is not intended to provide comprehensive information about the study, but a 1-3 line summary of the overall nature of the study.
- For tips on appropriate lay language for common medical terms, several excellent resources are available online including:
  - University of Florida glossary of lay terms ([http://irb.ufl.edu/glossary.htm](http://irb.ufl.edu/glossary.htm))
  - University of Kentucky glossary of lay terms: ([https://www.research.uky.edu/ORI/ORIForms/LAYTERM.pdf](https://www.research.uky.edu/ORI/ORIForms/LAYTERM.pdf))

**Questions:** Please contact, Sarah Rulnick, [sarah.rulnick@umassmed.edu](mailto:sarah.rulnick@umassmed.edu)

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**UMCCTS Conquering Diseases Biorepository**

The Biorepository arm of the Conquering Diseases Program collects blood samples from consented patients. The de-identified samples are broken down into their components (plasma, the blood cell pellet for DNA extraction, and a PaxGene tube to isolate RNA) and frozen for future use by researchers. Biorepository samples are used by many UMass researchers, and are a valuable resource for our research community.

**For more information about what the Conquering Diseases Biorepository**
[http://www.umassmed.edu/conqueringdiseases/index.aspx](http://www.umassmed.edu/conqueringdiseases/index.aspx) or the Clinical Research Volunteer Database [https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/index.html](https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/index.html) can provide for your research, please see below:

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What will these websites do for you?
- Promote your studies
- Recruit participants for your studies
- Educate potential study volunteers about types of clinical trials
- Locate Biorepository specimens for your studies

Would you like help promoting your study? We can post your study description to the website!
https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/find-studies.html

Click on the link below to submit your study to our website:
https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/clinical_study_request_form.aspx

Do you need help recruiting study participants?
We invite you to take advantage of our clinical volunteer database filled with people who are eager to participate in UMass clinical trials.
https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/for-researchers.html

Do you need human samples (plasma, RNA or DNA) for your research?
We can provide you with blood specimens from our de-identified collection of samples from subjects with exact diagnosis and medical history.
http://www.umassmed.edu/conqueringdiseases/researchers/samples/index.aspx

Check it out and let us know how we can help!

The Conquering Diseases Team
Craig Lilly, MD – Director and PI
Michelle Maynard – Clinical Coordinator
Thomas Mayer, PhD – Biorepository Director
Sarah Rulnick, MPH – Project Manager

Conquering Diseases Program
University of Massachusetts Medical School
55 Lake Avenue North
Ambulatory Care Center, Room AC1-036B
Worcester, MA 01655
508-856-2557 (office)

EVENTS:
~Mark your Calendars~
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 24</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nate Hafer, PhD</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Director of Operations, UMCCTS</td>
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<td>Tuesday, February 25</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 30</td>
<td>Wednesday, March 24</td>
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<td>Hong Yu, PhD</td>
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<td>Professor, Quantitative Health Sciences, UMMS</td>
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<td>“TBA”</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Hua Fang, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor, Quantitative Health Sciences</td>
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<td>“TBA”</td>
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https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/umccts_news/vol2014/iss7/1
DOI: 10.13028/f67c-k473
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

GUIRR Upcoming Webinar

NIH Blueprint for Neurotherapeutics: A novel approach to early-stage drug discovery research funding

The National Academies’ Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) will be hosting a webinar on:

**Wednesday, July 30, 2014**
1:00-2:00 pm EDT

This webinar will describe upcoming opportunities for academic researchers and small businesses to apply for Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network (BPN) resources.

If interested, please register at:
https://nasevents.webex.com/mw0401l/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=nasevents&service=6&md=0.37114801419966&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fnasevents.webex.com%2Fec0701l%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26confViewID%3D1749607085%26%26MK%3D664120937%26%26siteurl%3Dnasevents&utm_medium=etmail&utm_source=National%20Academies&utm_campaign=GUIRR+Webinar++July+30%2c+1pm+EST&utm_content=&utm_term=

**UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences Special Seminar**

“Pharmacoepidemiological Studies on Medication Use and Safety during Pregnancy – Results from the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort”

**Monday, August 4, 2014**
12:00 noon – 1:00 pm
Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072
University of Massachusetts Medical School

**Hedvig Nordeng, PhD**
Professor, School of Pharmacy
University of Oslo
Researcher, Division of Mental Health
Norwegian Institute of Public Health

Lunch will be provided: Please RSVP to Kelley.Baron@umassmed.edu

**UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences Clinical and Population Health Research Comprehensive Project**

“The Effect of Prior Opioid Agonist Treatment on Relapse in an In-Treatment Medicaid Population”

**Wednesday, August 6, 2014**
11:30 am – 12:00 pm
(15 min. presentation / 15 min. Q&A)
Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Presented by: Gillian Griffith, B.S.
UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences
Clinical and Population Health Research Comprehensive Project

“The Effect of Race on Race-Consciousness and Hypertension”

Thursday, August 7, 2014
11:30 am – 12:00 pm
(15 min. presentation / 15 min. Q&A)
Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Presented by: Lauren Powell, B.S.
Reviewers: Stephenie Lemon, PhD, William Jesdale, PhD, and Sharina Person, PhD

UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences
Clinical and Population Health Research Comprehensive Project

“Sin Provecho: Food Insecurity and Migration Factors among Caribbean Latinos in Massachusetts”

Thursday, August 7, 2014
1:00 – 1:30 pm
(15 min. presentation / 15 min. Q&A)
Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Presented by: Tariana V. Little, B.A.
Reviewers: Milagros C. Rosal, PhD, William Jesdale, PhD, and Bei Chang, Sc.D.

UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences
Clinical and Population Health Research Comprehensive Project

“Objectively Measured Physical Activity and Symptoms among Patients with Radiographically Confirmed Knee Osteoarthritis”

Friday, August 8, 2014
11:30 am – 12:00 pm
(15 min. presentation / 15 min. Q&A)
Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Presented by: Shao-Hsien Liu, MPH
Reviewers: Carol Oatis, PT, PhD, Leslie Harrold, MD, MPH, and George Reed, PhD

UMMS Quantitative Health Sciences
Clinical and Population Health Research Comprehensive Project

“Predictors and Prevalence of Opioid Use in Pregnant Veterans”

Tuesday, August 12, 2014
10:00 am – 10:30 am
(15 min. presentation / 15 min. Q&A)
Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS9.2072
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Duke Translational Medicine Institute
2014 Community Engagement Conference

National Conference on Engaging Patients, Families and Communities in all Phases of Translational Research to Improve Health

Thursday and Friday, August 21 and 22, 2014
Bethesda, MD

Registration and complete details at: https://www.dtmi.duke.edu/ce-workshop

Request for Applications for Innovator Presentations at the 6th Annual 2014 Partnering for Cures Meeting

November 16-18, 2014
Grand Hyatt – New York
http://www.partneringforcures.org/

Each year, 30 innovative, cross-sector R&D collaborations are awarded 25-minute presentation slots at Partnering for Cures Annual Cures Meeting. This platform, based off of an investor conference model, is designed to help engage potential funders, partners, and/or collaborators in moving their existing initiatives forward and/or amplifying the impact of their approach.

Collaborations should be aimed at reducing the time and cost of getting new medical solutions (drugs, devices, diagnostics, etc.) from discovery to patients; and should involve partners from two or more of the following sectors – NGOs/nonprofit foundations, industry (pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device and diagnostic companies), research institutes, universities, government agencies, investors, and private philanthropists. Partnerships should be established, not merely proposed, at the time of presentation, and should be able to provide evidence of outcomes/progress against their goals.


FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

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/research/grantopps.aspx](http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/research/grantopps.aspx)

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**Indiana Clinical and Translational Science Institute**

**Indianapolis-based Women’s Fund of Central Indiana**

**NEXT Initiative**

The Indianapolis-based Women’s Fund of Central Indiana is seeking applicants for the NEXT Initiative to support the development and implementation of comprehensive solutions helping women ages 18 to 24 achieve economic stability.

Invited entrepreneurs will spend the first one to two years incubating a solution that the Women’s Fund will launch and fund for the subsequent eight to nine years. It is the intention of this initiative to select two to three entrepreneurs who will each receive a salary of $90,000 and full benefits, during the incubation phase, as an employee of the **Central Indiana Community Foundation**. (The Women’s Fund is a special-interest fund of CICF.)

The NEXT Initiative aims to address the gap in culturally appropriate services for vulnerable women in this age group -- women who have been mired in economic insecurity and are seeking a path to economic stability.

**Letters of intent are due: Tuesday, September 2, 2014.**

For more information on the NEXT Initiative, visit [http://womensfund.org/next](http://womensfund.org/next)

**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, sign-up for membership, etc., [http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts](http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts)