

# UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Newsletter

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## UMCCTS Newsletter, June 2017

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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## CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

June 2017 Volume 3, Issue 6

### NEWS

#### Survey Says...Another Successful Retreat!

Sally Gore, MS, MS LIS  
Research Evaluation Analyst, UMCCTS

The UMCCTS hosted another successful research retreat last month. More than 250 people attended the 7th annual event, representing all 5 UMass campuses as well as several outside institutions and businesses. Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, FASTMH, FAAP delivered an inspiring keynote address focusing on poverty-related neglected diseases. Additionally, attendees were able to choose from six concurrent break-out sessions, take part in networking tables during lunch, and view close to 100 posters featuring a wide range of clinical and translational research. Materials from the retreat, including posters, will soon be available to view and download in the UMCCTS collection in [eScholarship@UMMS](mailto:eScholarship@UMMS), the digital archive of UMMS research and scholarly work.



Some comments below from the evaluation:

Both the mini-symposia were rewarding and well worth the trip.

Hotez gave a remarkable and impactful presentation that continues to influence my thoughts today.

The poster session was strong and presenters at the posters I attended were excellent. Presenters understood their topic and the questions they were asked. They were able to discuss their methodology and results, overall conclusions, and next steps.

*(The retreat provides a) fundamental moment for 'cross-contamination' and 'cross-fertilization'!*

The retreat had a lot of value for me as I am interested in applying to medical school and it offered a chance to experience some lectures and interactions with a type of medicine I am not too familiar with. I was able to learn a lot about a subject that now, since I have a better understanding of the scope of the field, is very interesting.

## Innovations in Patient Recruitment Program

### Request for Applications



The goal of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science is to support UMass researchers' human subjects research through technological innovations. In collaboration with the UMCCTS Informatics Core and the Science Participation Resource Center, this opportunity seeks proposals for leveraging UMMS data-lake driven innovation techniques to identify and engage research participants, particularly among historically hard-to-reach patient populations.

Applications due June 30, 2017

[Learn More](#)



## Pre- and Post-Doctoral Fellowship (TL1) Training Program in Clinical and Translational Science

### Request for Trainee Applications

The Pre- and Post-Doctoral Fellowship (TL1) Training Program is requesting applications from trainees who wish to become part of this exciting program at either the post-doctoral or pre-doctoral (graduate student) levels.

The TL1 Program will engage pre- post-doctoral fellows in training across the entire translational spectrum to participate in a common clinical and translational science program on our University of Massachusetts Medical School campus.

**Deadline for applications: September 15, 2017**

[Learn More](#)

## 2016 Review

Training Program  
(TL1) Awardees



**6** Trainees (3 Post-Doctoral, 3 Pre-Doctoral) \ **4** Publications  
**17** Meeting Abstracts or Presentations \ **4** Grant Proposals



### Alec Gramann, BS

**Evaluating Anti-GDF6 Treatment as Potential Therapy for Advanced Melanoma**

Mr. Gramann and collaborators at MassBiologics have isolated antibodies that bind GDF6 and are now testing their strength of binding to identify candidates suitable for tests of anti-tumor activity.

### Jacob Hunnicut, MPH

**Building the Evidence Base to Improve Pain Management in Nursing Home Residents with Cancer**

Mr. Hunnicut is learning advanced epidemiologic methods to perform research that will better understand the issues around the safe use of opioids in nursing homes.



### Matthew Alculsky, PharmD, MS

**Neglected by the Evidence: Pharmacoepidemiologic Research in Older Adults with Cardiovascular Disease**

Dr. Alculsky is working in areas of research analyzing "big data" to discover questions related to pharmacologic therapy practices in older adults that have yet to be investigated.

### Vijaya Daniel, MD, MPH

**Microbial Determinants of Gastrointestinal Perforation Incidence and Outcomes**

In addition to completing her surgical residency, Dr. Daniel focused the past year on developing the statistical analysis and writing skills necessary to begin a career as an active clinical researcher.



### Jonathan Green, MD

**Implementation of Mobile Technology in an Adolescent Weight Center**

Dr. Green is developing research to determine the effectiveness of smartphone technology, social media, and mobile fitness applications in to assist in the clinical care of adolescents being treated for morbid obesity.

### Apurv Soni, BA

**Understanding Predictors and Trends of Maternal and Child-Health in India at an Individual, Community, and Population Level: Challenges and Opportunities for Improvement**

Mr. Soni is analyzing large, national datasets to determine areas for improvement in the welfare of at-risk children in India and reduce maternal and child-health disparities.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

## SAVE-THE-DATE

### 7th Annual Community Engagement and Research Symposium



The 7th Annual Community Engagement and Research Symposium is part of the five-campus clinical and translational science movement across the University of Massachusetts. It is sponsored by the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science [Community Engagement and Research](#) component.

**March 9, 2018**

**8:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Albert Sherman Center**

**University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester**

The goal of the symposium is to build our shared capacity to address health issues in communities throughout Massachusetts by creating opportunities for people to meet each other, learn more about each other's work and interests, and make connections and plan for future collaborative work.

Audience: Community leaders, faculty and staff from all 5 UMass campuses and other organizations and institutions interested in partnered research.

## EVENTS



## June 2017 Events

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

### Clinical Research Professionals Group (CRPG) Meetings:



**Wed. July 12, 2017**

1:00–2:00 pm

Lazare Auditorium, S1–607  
UMass Medical School

**Wed. August 16, 2017**

1:00–2:00 pm

Lazare Auditorium, S1–607  
UMass Medical School

**Th. September 14, 2017**

2:00–3:00 pm

Hiatt Auditorium, S1–608  
UMass Medical School

[Learn More](#)





Horae Gene Therapy Center  
红瑞基因治疗中心

**Seminar Announcement**

**Yuyu Niu, PhD**

Professor and Associate Director  
Yunnan Key Laboratory of Primate Biomedical Research  
Institute of Primate Translational Medicine  
Kunming University of Science and Technology, China

***“Bridge to Clinic:  
Genetically Modified Primates  
for Biotherapy”***

**Monday, June 19, 2017  
1:00 – 2:00 pm  
ASC Conference Room – AS6-2072**

Hosted by Guangping Gao, PhD  
*Coffee and cookies will be provided*

Hackathon | What | When | Who | How | Where

# UMASS MEDICAL SCHOOL HACKATHON '17

## NGS DATA SCIENCE

Next Generation Sequencing Data Analysis and Visualization

July 15<sup>th</sup>-July 16<sup>th</sup>

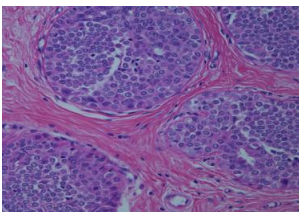
Albert Sherman Center, UMASS Medical School Campus  
Coders | Viz People | Life Scientists

UMASS [Apply](#)

For more details and to register visit:  
<https://hackathon.umassmed.edu/#/>

Please register using Chrome

### TRAINING and FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



#### 2017 Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research Grant Program

#### Request for Proposals 2017

The [Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research](#) at the Baystate Medical Center is partnering with the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences to invite research

proposals addressing the diverse needs facing patients and clinicians. Environmental factors are responsible for more than 70% of breast cancer risk. These include lifestyle and reproductive factors (pregnancy, obesity, shift-work) as well as exposure to environmental chemicals. Although inherited risk alleles contribute a smaller proportion of overall risk, these define pathways that render the breast epithelium vulnerable to carcinogenesis. Mechanistic studies designed to understand the complex interactions that alter risk of breast cancer or regulate progression to invasive and metastatic disease are needed to develop approaches to limit the burden of breast cancer. This includes more precise diagnostic tools and therapies as well as interventions designed to improve the lives of breast cancer survivors. Faculty at Baystate Medical Ctr, UMass Amherst and UMass Medical School are eligible to apply

**Deadline for Application Submission: August 4, 2017**

[Read More](#)

## UMCCTS SPARK Program

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science SPARK (Small Pilot and Research Knowledge) Program provides pilot funding for hypothesis-driven clinical and translational research, as well as access to the [Clinical Research Center](#) and other [UMCCTS cores](#). The UMCCTS's priorities are to support studies that impact clinical care and research methodologies, support students and trainees, and provide access to funds to generate pilot and preliminary data for external grant submissions.

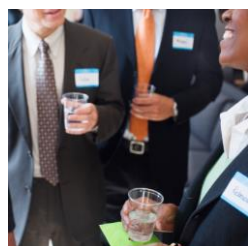


**UMass Medical School investigators, including students, fellows, and staff are eligible for funding.** Collaborations with external collaborators, including those from other UMass campuses is encouraged. Students and fellows may be designated as the PI on UMCCTS resource requests and should list the mentor on the application and upload a letter of support. Only one PI may be designated on a request.

**No Deadline Date – Rolling Basis**

Questions? Contact [Nate Hafer, PhD](#)

[Read More](#)



## Small Conference Grants are Available!

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science offers [Small Conference Grants \(SCG\)](#) designed to leverage the convening capacity of the UMCCTS to create new, multidisciplinary teams to address a pressing health need. The conference can be a symposium, educational program, seminar, workshop or any other organized and formal



meeting. The goal of the SCG is to facilitate networking opportunities between faculty that focus on clinical and translational research.

### No Deadline Date – Rolling Basis

If you have an idea for an event that a SCG could help fund, visit the UMCCTS website for more information and RFA or contact [Nate Hafer, PhD](#), Director of Operations, UMCCTS.



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

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, services and collaboration.



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