

# UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Newsletter

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## UMCCTS Newsletter, December 2018

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND  
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

## December 2018 Newsletter

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### FUNDING

- ~ CCTS SPARK Program (Small Pilot and Research Knowledge)
- ~ CCTS Small Conference Grants
- ~ **NEW:** Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation Award
- ~ DRIVE's EZ-BAA
- ~ **NEW:** Growing Gene and Cell Therapy RFA Winter 2019
- ~ MCCISS K12 Support and Training
- ~ **NEW:** Mentored Career Development (KL2) Award RFA
- ~ **NEW:** Multiple Sclerosis Research Grants
- ~ NCATS Funding

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**CCTS SPARK PROGRAM:** Rolling application deadline. This program's priorities are to support studies that impact clinical care and research methodologies, support students/trainees, and provide access to funds to generate pilot and preliminary data for external grant submissions. For more information, click on this link: <https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/spark-program/>

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**CCTS SMALL CONFERENCE GRANTS:** Rolling application deadline. This funding facilitates the development of faculty-to-faculty networks within the University system. Click on this link for more information: <https://umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/small-conference-grants/>

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**DAMON RUNYON CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION: Clinical Investigator Award:** The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation seeks to increase the number of young physicians entering clinical cancer research each year with a focus on disease-oriented research characterized by exceptional innovation and creativity. The foundation provides over \$600k of financial support over three years and also allots \$100k toward the retirement of medical school debt owed by the award recipient.

UMass Medical School has been invited to submit **FIVE** applications. **UMMS internal applications are due by December 21, 2018.** Please submit the following information through the Limited Submission Application [portal](#) on the Office of Research website: (1) brief summary of candidate's research plans (one page); (2) curriculum vitae; and (3) letter of support from Department Chair/Division Chief.

**Final Application deadline is February 1, 2019 by 4:00pm EST.**

Click [here](#) for more detailed information.

**DRIVE's EZ-BAA APPLICATION PROCESS:** Is now open for business! Calling all medical product developers, research teams, and companies! Those offering disruptive innovative approaches that will transform health security threats are now invited to submit abstracts using DRIVE's simplified EZ-BAA process. Applications must offer transformative innovation, products, and technologies to protect Americans from health security threats.

In-scope priority areas include:

- *Products and solutions to reduce illness and death from sepsis as part of DRIVE's Solving Sepsis Initiative;*
- *Technologies and processes to identify infections and exposures to biological and other health threats, as outlined in the Early Notification to Act, Control, and Treat (ENACT) initiative; and*
- *Tools and techniques to mitigate the damages and loss of life associated with catastrophic events*

**Download the DRIVE EZ-BAA abstract submission application, click [here](#).**  
**To learn more about the DRIVE EZ-BAA, click [here](#).**

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**GROWING GENE AND CELL THERAPY (GGACT) RFA WINTER:** The GGACT cooperative, a collaboration between Boston Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and the University of California Los Angeles, was established to support investigators in rapidly translating complex gene and cell therapies to early phase, investigator-initiated clinical trials by providing expertise in protocol development and implementation, trial and data management, and regulatory affairs, as well as utilizing established infrastructure for preclinical models of disease and testing, process development, and GMP vector production and cellular manufacturing. More information on GGACT can be found at [www.GGACT.org](http://www.GGACT.org).

Eligible applicants must be faculty at a CTSA institution that has an established pediatric stem cell transplant program. For more information, contact Maria Suarez ([maria.suarez@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:maria.suarez@childrens.harvard.edu)). Letters of Intent must be submitted no later than January 7 2019. Invited full applications will be due by March 22, 2019.

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**MCCISS K12 TRAINING GRANTS:** The Massachusetts Consortium for Cardiopulmonary Implementation Science Scholars (MCCISS) announces K12 training grants for 2019. MCCISS is an institutional K12 training grant program funded by NIH to UMass Medical School, VA CHOIR and Baystate-UMMS. The goal is to support junior investigators who are interested in becoming independent scientists in cardiopulmonary disease implementation science. *Implementation science*, an emerging discipline in the health sciences, studies the best ways to incorporate evidence-based practice into routine clinical and public health practice. Scholars pursue implementation research in prevention, management and/or treatment of heart, lung, blood and sleep diseases, such as coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, venous thromboembolism, and sleep apnea.

**MCCISS Important Dates:**

- 12.10.2018 Letters of Intent due
- 02.25.2019 Full Applications due
- 04.01.2019 Scholar Selection
- 09.01.2019 Scholar Appointments

For more information or to receive an electronic copy of the Request for Applications, please visit [www.umassmed.edu/mcciss/](http://www.umassmed.edu/mcciss/)

The Massachusetts Consortium for Cardiopulmonary Implementation Science Scholars is supported by the National Heart, Lung, And Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number K12HL138049.

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**MENTORED CAREER DEVELOPMENT (KL2) AWARD REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: BACKGROUND**

A major goal of the **University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS)** is to develop and support the next generation of leaders in clinical and translational research. Success in today's complex and competitive environment requires training that is truly transdisciplinary in nature, encompassing the full spectrum of translational research from discovery through pre-clinical development and first-in-human studies to implementation science with additional continuous feedback to basic science research. The KL2 Training Program will combine coursework, seminars, and mentored research.

**APPLICATION:** Letter of Intent due by 02.15.2019 5:00pm EST. Must be submitted in single .DOC or .PDF format with supporting documentation. Email to [CCTS@umassmed.edu](mailto:CCTS@umassmed.edu)

Interested applicants can attend an informational meeting on: **01.16.2019 from 12-1pm, Med School Building S3-825** (Vascular Surgery Conference Room). *This meeting will clarify expectations for the program and answer questions.*

<b>KL2 PROGRAM / PROPOSAL Questions</b>	<b>GRANT PREPARATION / SUBMISSION Questions</b>
Contact: KL2 Program Leaders Dr. John Keaney ( <a href="mailto:john.keaney@umassmed.edu">john.keaney@umassmed.edu</a> ) Dr. Jeroan Allison ( <a href="mailto:jeroan.allison@umassmed.edu">jeroan.allison@umassmed.edu</a> ) Dr. Milagros C. Rosal ( <a href="mailto:milagros.rosal@umassmed.edu">milagros.rosal@umassmed.edu</a> ) Dr. Javier Irazoqui ( <a href="mailto:javier.irazoqui@umassmed.edu">javier.irazoqui@umassmed.edu</a> )	Contact: Dr. Nathaniel Hafer ( <a href="mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu">nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu</a> )

For full information, visit: <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/education/KL2-training-program/>

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**MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS RESEARCH GRANTS:** The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is seeking proposals for innovative research with relevance to its [research funding priorities](#).

- ~ Pilot research grants pre-application deadline is **January 7, 2019**; full application deadline is **January 9, 2019 by 5:00pm EST**.
- ~ Research grants pre-application deadline is **February 6, 2019**; full application deadline is **February 13, 2019 at 5:00pm EST**.

For more information on research grants, click [here](#);  
for more information on pilot research grants, click [here](#).

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**NCATS FUNDING:** NCATS has announced funding opportunities to use partially developed therapeutic candidates to identify new treatments for a broad range of diseases. For full details, click on this link: <https://ncats.nih.gov/news/releases/2018/ntu-foa-2018>

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# EDUCATION

- ~ **K CLUB**
- ~ **PiPSS (Projects in Process Seminar Series)**

**K CLUB:** Meets every **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** from **4:00pm to 5:00pm** in **S2-160** to provide information and feedback on Research Career Award applications (NIH K Awards, VA Research Career Awards, CTSA K grants, etc). Participants receive feedback on their biosketch, training plans, research plan, specific aims, and a wealth of other information.

For more information, visit: <https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/education/k-club>

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**PiPSS:** The Projects in Process Seminar Series (PiPSS) is designed to give CCTS trainees and junior faculty an opportunity to present their work in a structured format and in a forum of peers and faculty, with the goal of ensuring continuous, professional feedback and cross-fertilization that is required for excellence in research. **Sessions are held monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month – October 18, 2018 through May 2, 2019 beginning at 3:30pm in ASC8.2072 (Albert Sherman Building).**

The **December 6<sup>th</sup>** speakers will be:

- **Zachary Milstone, MD/PhD** “*Epigenetic Regulation of Energy Production During Cardiac Development*”
- **Eric Schmidt, MD/PhD** “*Investigation of a Misfolded, Destabilized Profilin-1 Species as a Toxic Molecule in ALS Pathogenesis*”
- **Apurv Soni, MD/PhD** “*Predictive Algorithm to Identify Infants At-Risk for Child Undernutrition in India*”

The **December 20<sup>th</sup>** speakers will be:

- **Peter Cruz-Gordillo, MD/PhD** “*Adaptive Resistance: Towards Understanding Drug-Induced Cellular Plasticity in TNBC*”
- **Kristin Murphy, CRISP** “*Facilitating Social Emotional Learning in Young Children with Dialogic Reading and Mixed Reality Simulations*”
- **Stephanie Carreiro, K/Millennium** “*Wearable Sensors to Evaluate the Evolution of Opioid Tolerance and Dependence*”
- **Meera Sreedhara** “*Assessing the Quality of Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Policy Strategies in Community Health Improvement Plans*”

The **January 3<sup>rd</sup>** speakers will be:

- **Tyler Frantz, MD/PhD** “*Control of Pigmentation Regeneration in Danio Rerio*”

- **Alec Gramann, MD/PhD** “*BMP Signaling in Melanocyte Development and Melanoma*”
  - **Annie Hien, MD/PhD** “*Global Profiling of Translation by FXRP-Associated Ribosomes*”
  - **Michael Kiritsy, MD/PhD** “*Dissecting Host Innate Immunity in Tuberculosis Using Engineered and Natural Genetic Variation*”
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## EVENTS

- ~ **NEW: 12.07.2018 Molecular Medicine Special Seminar:**  
**Joan J. Guinovart, PhD** “*Lafora Disease: A Window into Brain Glycogen Metabolism*”
- ~ **NEW: 12.12.2018 Molecular Medicine Special Seminar:**  
**Martin Myers Jr., MD/PHD** “*Role for the Brain in the Control of Body Weight and Metabolism*”
- ~ **NEW: 02.07-08.2019 The Opioid Crisis and the Future of Addiction and Pain Therapeutics: Opportunities, Tools and Technologies**
- ~ **8th Annual UMCCTS Community Engagement and Research Symposium**

**MOLECULAR MEDICINE SPECIAL SEMINAR:** Joan J. Guinovart, PhD, Professor, University of Barcelona, will present a special seminar: “*Lafora Disease: A Window Into Brain Glycogen Metabolism*” **Friday, December 7, 2018 at Noon, Biotech Two, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.** For more information, contact Host Michael P. Czech 508.856.2255.

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**MOLECULAR MEDICINE SPECIAL SEMINAR:** Martin Myers Jr., MD/PhD, Professor, University of Michigan, will present a special seminar: “*Role for the Brain in the Control of Body Weight and Metabolism*” **Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at Noon, Biotech Two, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Seminar Room.** For more information, contact Host Michael P. Czech 508.856.2255.

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**THE OPIOID CRISIS AND THE FUTURE OF ADDICTION AND PAIN THERAPEUTICS: OPPORTUNITIES, TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES:** February 7-8, 2019, Kirschstein Auditorium, Natcher Conference Center, NIH Campus, Bethesda MD. Speakers include Nora Volkow, George Koob, Frances Collins, Eric Nestler, Paul Kenny, Garret Stuber, Michael Bruchas, Clifford Woolf, Brigitte Kieffer, Peter Kalivas, Ron Dror.

**For more information or to register by Friday, January 11, 2019, click [here](#).**

**The Opioid Crisis and the Future of Addiction and Pain Therapeutics: Opportunities, Tools, and Technologies**

February 7-8, 2019 • Natcher Auditorium • NIH Campus • Bethesda, MD



**Session Topics**

- Novel targets and pathways in pain and addiction
- Lessons learned from clinical successes and failures
- Assays to improve predictive therapeutic efficacy and abuse/addiction liability
- New technologies and methodologies
- NIH capabilities and initiatives
- Biomarkers to enable clinical trials

Sponsored by

 National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences  
**#ASSAY GUIDANCE MANUAL**

**Register by Friday, January 11 at:**  
<https://events-support.com/events/NCATS-Pain-Addiction-Symposium>

 National Institute on Drug Abuse  
 National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Led by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health, this Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative workshop is a component of the NCATS Human Cell-Based Screening Platforms and Novel Drugs to Treat Pain, Addiction and Overdose project. For more information on NCATS' role in the NIH HEAL Initiative, visit <https://ncats.nih.gov/heat>.

**8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL UMCCTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: Friday, March 22, 2019 (8:15am-1:30pm)**, UMass Medical School, Worcester MA. The goals of the UMCCTS Community Engagement and Research Symposium is to build our shared capacity to address health issues in communities throughout the Commonwealth by helping attendees: (1) network; (2) learn more about each other's work/interests; and (3) make connections and plan for future collaborative work.

*Keynote:*

*Mona N. Fouad, MD, MPH, Senior Associate Dean, Diversity and Inclusion  
University of Alabama at Birmingham.*

Proposal Status Notifications will be emailed on **December 7, 2018**

**Registration opens on January 7, 2019.**

Questions? Email [communityengagement@umassmed.edu](mailto:communityengagement@umassmed.edu).  
For more information, visit [www.umassmed.edu/ccts/community](http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/community)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- **CTSA Regulatory Expertise**
- **Diamond Portal Allows CTSA Members to Access**
- **Share Training/Assessment Materials**
- **HRPP QA/QI**
- **National Center for Data to Health (CD2H)**
- **Recruitment and Retention Toolkit**
- **UMCCTS Intake Portal**

**CTSA Regulatory Expertise:** Three North Carolina Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program hubs have collaborated to create a platform for sharing regulatory expertise and best practices. The Regulatory Guidance for Academic Research of Drugs and Devices (ReGARDD) Program provides researchers with regulatory guidance, education, and consultative support, to ultimately help them move promising products and novel discoveries to clinical trials.

ReGARDD, which is coordinated by Duke University, the Wake Forest School of Medicine, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill hubs with partner RTI International, officially launched in 2015 and has been developing since. The program builds upon the existing services and knowledge of the North Carolina CTSA Program Regulatory Groups and the Research Triangle Park (RTP).

Read the full story [here](#). Visit the ReGARDD website [here](#).

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**DIAMOND PORTAL:** To address the need for consistent training assessment and measures of competency, the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research (MICHR) has collaborated with the Ohio State University, Rochester University, and Tufts University to launch the DIAMOND Portal. It is a pioneering digital collection that serves as a sustainable, federated database for members of clinical and translational research study teams to share and access training and assessment resources. For more information, visit <https://www.michr.umich.edu/news/2018/10/15/new-diamond-portal-allows-ctsa-members-to-access-share-training-and-assessment-materials>

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**HRPP QA/QI:** The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Program is a component of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science. The program is independent of the IRB and helps study teams and investigators by conducting routine post-approval monitoring of on-going research to evaluate adherence with institutional requirements and federal regulations. If there are review findings, the QA/QI manager shares those findings with investigators and study teams, and provides direct education on the findings, including how to avoid making similar errors in the future. In order to support improvement at an institutional level, the QA/QI manager shares aggregated data from reviews with the HRPP leadership and the Research Community to identify trends and target areas for education. The program also makes [self-evaluation tools](#) available to investigators and study teams seeking to perform their own assessments. To learn more about HRPP QA/QI HRP-142, visit: <https://www.umassmed.edu/globalassets/ccts/ccts-media/irb/updated-sops-2015/hrp-142-hrpp-qa-qi-program-final.pdf>.

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**NATIONAL CENTER FOR DATA TO HEALTH (CD2H):** The goal of CD2H is to make data more meaningful, open and accessible. The CD2H supports a vibrant and evolving collaborative informative ecosystem for the CTSA program and beyond. The CD2H harnesses and expands an ecosystem for translational scientists to discover and share their software, data and other research resources within the CTSA program network. The CD2H also creates a social coding environment for translational science institutions, leveraging the community-driven DREAM challenges as a mechanism to stimulate innovation. To learn more, click [here](#).

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**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TOOLKIT:** The Trial Innovation Network accepts toolkit submissions from CTSA and reputable community health partners and provides them as a free resource to the research community. The materials on this site are designed primarily for CTSA program staffs. These



resources are intended to provide a variety of information that includes best practices and evidence-based recruitment and retention strategies. Full information can be found at

<https://trialinnovationnetwork.org/recruitment-retention-toolkit/?key-element=1681>

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**UMCCTS INTAKE PORTAL:** The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science has implemented an intake/service request portal. Currently the portal is being utilized by the Office of Clinical Research for intake of all agreements and amendments. OnCore updates/corrections and Certificates of Confidentiality. The portal can be accessed on their newly updated website at <https://www.umassmed.edu/ocr/>

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## SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORY

Have you had *your research published* that cites the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science? Has *your patent been filed* on technology developed using Center funding or resources? Did your pilot project receive external grant funding? Share it with us at [ccts@umassmed.edu](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu). Sharing your success demonstrates the importance and effect of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science at UMass!!

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**Newsletter Submissions:** *To be included in the CCTS Monthly Newsletter, please send announcements, including a link, to [ccts@umassmed.edu](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu). The newsletter is published the first business day of each month.*