

# UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Newsletter

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## UMCCTS Newsletter, January 2019

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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**CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND  
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE**

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## January 2019 Newsletter

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# FUNDING

- ~ CCTS SPARK Program (Small Pilot and Research Knowledge)
- ~ CCTS Small Conference Grants
- ~ Mentored Career Development (KL2) Award RFA Jan 16 2019 Informational Meeting
- ~ **NEW:** The CD2H \$100k Idea Competition (Call for Proposals) February 15, 2019 Deadline
- ~ **NEW:** Charles A. King Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program
- ~ **NEW:** CIMIT (Consortia for Improving Medicine with Innovation & Technology) Funding
- ~ DRIVE's EZ-BAA
- ~ Growing Gene and Cell Therapy RFA Winter 2019 (LOIs due January 7, 2019)
- ~ **NEW:** Immuno-Oncology Translation Network (IOTN) – Three Funding Opportunities
- ~ MCCISS K12 Support and Training
- ~ Multiple Sclerosis Research Grants (January 7, 2019 first deadline)
- ~ NCATS Funding
- ~ **NEW:** NIH Fast-Track Funding Opportunity for Pain Management (Feb. 1 2019 App Deadline)

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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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**MENTORED CAREER DEVELOPMENT (KL2) AWARD REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:** 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 combines coursework, seminars, and mentored research.

Informational meeting: **January 16, 2019 at noon** (Med School Building S3-825 – Vascular Surgery Conference Room). Letters of Intent are due by **February 15, 2019 5:00pm EST**. Submit as single .DOC or .PDF with supporting documentation. Email to [CCTS@umassmed.edu](mailto:CCTS@umassmed.edu)

<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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**CD2H \$100K IDEA COMPETITION:** The CTSA Program's National Center for Data to Health (CD2H) is excited to announce the launch of the CD2H Idea Competition: an opportunity to turn your scientific question into a DREAM Challenge to be tackled by teams around the world. If selected, your idea will receive up to a \$100,000 subcontract to run the DREAM Challenge in collaboration with the CD2H.

**Deadline to submit initial proposal is February 15 2019 (Friday).** Initial 1-to-2 page proposals must include a letter of support from your CTSA Hub principal investigator. Six semi-finalists will be selected and invited to further develop their proposals on March 8, 2019. CD2H will announce the winner and award up to a \$100k subcontract by May 17, 2019.

**Eligibility:** Proposals can be submitted by any researcher, clinician, or staff member affiliated with an institution that has a CTSA Hub with a current UL1 award. Sites that currently receive subcontracts from CD2H are not eligible.

For more information and submission guidelines, click [here](#).

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**CHARLES A. KING TRUST POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM:** **Apply NOW** for the 2019 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program in the Basic Sciences and Clinical/Health Services Research. The primary goal is to provide fellowships to Massachusetts' postdoctoral fellows to investigate the causes of diseases in human beings, and/or improve methods of treatment for human diseases. US citizenship is *not* required.

**Eligibility:**

**Basic Science:** By September 1, 2019, applicants must have completed a minimum of three years, but not more than five years, of full-time postdoctoral research. For more information about the Basic Science program, click [here](#).

**Clinical/Health Services Research:** By September 1, 2019, applicants must have no more than five years of employment since completion of residency training or three to five years of postdoctoral employment. For more information about the Clinical/Health Services program, click [here](#).

**Application Deadline: March 1 2019 (Friday by 3:00pm EST)**

**Award Amount: Two-year grants from \$104,008 to \$117,760 total**  
**Funding Period: September 1 2019 through August 31 2021**

*For further information or questions, contact Lindsey Phelan, Grants Office, at [LPhelan@hria.org](mailto:LPhelan@hria.org).*

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**CIMIT FUNDING:** The Consortia for Improving Medicine with Innovation and Technology, in partnership with TRISH (Translational Research Institute for Space Health at Baylor University) announces eight (8) new solicitation opportunities aimed at protecting and optimizing human health and performance during long-duration space exploration missions. Companies with existing medical products, or those still in development, may be awarded up to \$250k to augment ongoing development efforts. TRISH's funds can be used to advance the development and make a product viable for use in long-duration space flight (e.g. by miniaturizing, reducing power and/or packaging, simplifying use, extending shelf life, etc.) which will also make it a more robust and successful commercial product. This is a rapid response and unique opportunity to send your device to space. **Apply no later than January 25, 2019, with notification by February 15, 2019.** To learn more, contact Dr. Steve Schachter at CIMIT ([sschacht@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:sschacht@bidmc.harvard.edu)) or click [here](#).

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**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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**IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY TRANSLATION NETWORK (IOTN): OPPORTUNITY ONE** (*Cancer Immunoprevention Research Projects (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)*) The NIH has released two new FOAs associated with Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot Initiative intended to accelerate cancer research. Specifically, these FOAs seek to support the creation of a translational science network devoted exclusively to immunotherapy approached to treat and prevent adult cancers. Applications to [RFA-CA-19-014](#) and [RFA-CA-19-015](#) are due by **Thursday, February 8, 2019 5pm EST**. To learn more about Cancer Moonshot, click [here](#).

**OPPORTUNITY TWO** (*Cancer Immunoprevention Research Projects UG3/UH3*): The purpose of this FOA, associated with the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot Initiative, is to support UG3/UH3 Cancer Immunoprevention Phased Award Projects. Applicants responding to this FOA must apply for both the UG3 and UH3 phases together in a single application. Applications are due **Monday, February 11, 2019 by 5pm EST**. To learn more, click [here](#).

**OPPORTUNITY THREE** (*Immuno-engineering to Improve Immunotherapy (i3) Centers (U54 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)*): The purpose of this FOA is to develop immune-engineering to improve immunotherapy (i3) centers, as new components of the IOTN. The i3 centers will be comprised of multi-disciplinary teams focused on developing and employing engineered immunotherapy approached to design more durable, widely accessible, and less toxic immunoprevention and immunotherapy strategies. Applications are due **Monday, February 11, 2019 by 5pm EST**. To learn more, click [here](#).

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**MCCISS K12 TRAINING GRANTS:** The Massachusetts Consortium for Cardiopulmonary Implementation Science Scholars (MCCISS) announces K12 training grants for 2019.

**MCCISS Important Dates:**

- 02.25.2019 Full Applications due
- 04.01.2019 Scholar Selection
- 09.01.2019 Scholar Appointments

For more information, 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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**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](#).*

**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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**NIH FAST-TRACK FUNDING (for Pain Management):** CCTS encourages investigators through our Partner Network to consider applying to a new Helping to End Addiction Long-Term (HEAL) FOA, RFA-NS-19-021. The opportunity funds well-controlled trials in specific pain conditions to evaluate preventive strategies or interventions with the goal of providing clinicians with information about the effectiveness of treatments or management strategies to reduce opioid use and pain associated with many types of diseases or conditions. **Applications are due February 1 2019** (Friday); include letter of support from CCTS (contact [Frannie Horn](#)).

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## EDUCATION

- ~ **K CLUB**
  - ~ **NEW: NYCRIN Spring 2019 Regional I-CORPS Short Course (February 8 and 11, 2019)**
  - ~ **PiPSS (Projects in Process Seminar Series) January 17, 2019**
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**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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**NYCRIN SPRING 2019 REGIONAL I-CORPS SHORT COURSE:** A **4-week accelerated program** utilizing the Lean Launchpad Methodology. Teams get “out of the building” and talk with potential customers to discover how their technology could effectively ‘solve’ customers’ unmet needs. The curriculum focuses on customer development with emphasis on the Right Hand Side of the Business Model Canvas.

**Important Dates:**    **February 8 and 11, 2019 - KICKOFF**  
                                  **February 15, 22; March 1, 2019 - ONLINE WEBEX**  
                                  **March 8, 2019 - IN PERSON FINALE**

Kickoff and Finale take place at the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC), 85 St Nicholas Terrace, New York NY 10031. For more information, click [here](#). **Applications due by January 4, 2019.**

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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).**

**JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup>** presentations:

- **David Chiriboga, FDSP** “Successful Implementation of an Electronic Laboratory Information System in Liberia in the Aftermath of the Ebola Outbreak”
- **Melissa Anderson, K** “Next Steps: Signs of Safety Version 2.0”
- **Mara Epstein, K** “Population-Based Research in Monoclonal Gammopathies: Current and Future Directions”
- **Abigail Smith, MD/PhD** “Too Much JNK: Investigating the Role of the c-Jun N-terminal Kinase Pathway in Polycystic Kidney Disease”

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## EVENTS

- ~ **UPDATE:** 8th Annual UMCCTS Community Engagement and Research Symposium **Call for Posters**
- ~ **The Opioid Crisis and the Future of Addiction and Pain Therapeutics: Opportunities, Tools and Technologies, February 7-9, 2018**
- ~ **NEW:** Bridge to Success Research in Progress Workgroup, January 8, 2019
- ~ **NEW:** Cancer Biology Program Research Retreat February 13, 2019 **Call for Speakers/Posters**
- ~ **NEW:** Program in Molecular Medicine In-House Seminar Series: Ellen M. Gravallesse, M.D.
- ~ **NEW:** TS19: March 5-8, 2019 Washington DC
- ~ **NEW:** Un-Meeting on Rural Health and Health Equity, April 8, 2019

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**8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL UMCCTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: Friday, March 22, 2019 (8:15am-1:30pm)**, UMass Medical School Albert Sherman Center, 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.*

**Registration opens on January 7, 2019**

**Visit our website to learn more: <https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/community>**

**\*\* CALL FOR POSTERS \*\***

**Who Can Submit a Poster Abstract?**

- Community organizations

- Research teams describing their research in any stage of the research process
- Researchers seeking research partners
- Students and/or community members, trainees

To **submit** your **poster abstract electronically**, click [here](#). Be sure to include:

- Title of poster
- Author name(s), affiliation(s), and contact information
- Abstract/Program description - not to exceed 250 words

**Notification Date:** If your poster is accepted, you will receive notification by February 15, 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)**

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**BRIDGE TO SUCCESS: Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 12:30-1:30pm - AS9.2072.** The Bridge Research in Progress workgroup provides an informal setting for new and experienced researchers to share nascent ideas or research-in-progress and to receive just-in-time feedback. Do you have an emerging idea for a grant or manuscript? Come share your research ideas and let us help you! Our January presenter is Matthew Harkey, PhD/ATC, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Division of Epidemiology “*Predictors of Longitudinal Trajectories of Objective Physical Function Alterations in Individuals with or at Risk for Knee Osteoarthritis*”

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**CANCER BIOLOGY PROGRAM RESEARCH RETREAT (Call for Speakers and/or Posters): February 13, 2019 8:30am-5:00pm.** Please join us for an all-day research retreat hosted by the UMMS Cancer Biology Program to be held at College of the Holy Cross, Hogan Center Ballroom, 1 College Street, Worcester MA 01610. Keynote speaker is *Dr. Kornelia Polyak of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute*, along with talks by various UMMS faculty, post-docs and graduate students, and a poster session. **If you are interested in speaking at this event or in presenting a poster, please click [here](#) for further information.**

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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](#).**

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**PROGRAM IN MOLECULAR MEDICINE:** In-House Seminar Series presents Ellen M. Gravallesse, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine “*Role of DNA Sensor Pathways in Arthritis and Bone Remodeling.*” **Monday, January 7 2019**, Noon, Molecular Medicine Seminar Room, Biotech II, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Call 508.856.2255 for more information.

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**TS19:** The premiere translational science meeting of the year will be held in **Washington DC on March 5-8, 2019**. Come network and learn from researchers of all skill sets and experience levels across the clinical and translational science spectrum. *To learn more, click [here](#).*

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**UN-MEETING ON RURAL HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY: Monday, April 8, 2019** in Gainesville FL. This event focuses on catalyzing new collaborations to bridge the translational science and agricultural extension sectors to improve rural health and achieve health equity. An evening welcome reception on Sunday, April 7 will precede the Un-Meeting. More details coming early 2019!

*Hosted by the University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute  
and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.*

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## DID YOU KNOW?

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

**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.*