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UMCCTS Newsletter, April 2019

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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**CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE**

April 2019 Newsletter

FUNDING

NEW: SCISIPBIO: A New NSF/NIH Solicitation May 8, 2019

CCTS SPARK Program (Small Pilot and Research Knowledge)

CCTS Small Conference Grants

DRIVE's EZ-BAA

NCATS Funding

What Do You Aspire To? May 31, 2019

NEW: MS Research Funding Opportunity (Career Transition Fellowship) May 8, 2019

NEW: Vilcek Foundation Cash Awards in Biomedical Science June 10, 2019

NEW: SCISIPBIO: The partners of the Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP) program at the NSF and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) have issued a joint solicitation aimed at supporting scientific analyses of important aspects of the biomedical research enterprise and fostering a diverse, innovative, productive and efficient scientific workforce. The initial target date for the program is May 8, 2019. For more information regarding the solicitation, click [here](#). For general inquiries, contact Cassidy Sugimoto (NSF) 703.292.7012, csugimot@nsf.gov or Dorit Zuk (NIGMS) 301.594.0943 zukd@mail.nih.gov.

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/>

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/>

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](#).**

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>

WHAT DO YOU ASPIRE TO? NCATS invites innovators to learn more about Design Challenges for Translational Innovation in Pain, Opioid Use Disorder, and Overdose. The goal of the ASPIRE Challenges is to reward and spur innovative and catalytic approaches toward solving the opioid crisis through (1) development of novel chemistries; (2) data-mining and analysis tools; and (3) biological assays that will revolutionize discovery, development and pre-clinical testing next generation, safer and non-addictive analgesics to treat pain, as new treatments for opioid use disorder (OUD) and overdose. For more information, click [here](#).

NEW: MS RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Career Transition Fellowship Preliminary Application due **May 8, 2019**. The National MS Society is seeking proposals from promising investigators to train and transition into research careers focused on multiple sclerosis. Preliminary applications due May 8, 2019 – full applications due August 21, 2019. Applicants must hold doctoral degree and must be in a research-oriented postdoctoral training program at an academic, government, or non-profit research institution. Awards of \$550,000 over five years will be granted to support a two-year period of advanced postdoctoral training in MS research and the first three years of research support in a new faculty appointment. For more information, click [here](#).

NEW: VILCEK FOUNDATION PRIZES IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES: The Vilcek Foundation is currently seeking applicants for the 2020 Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science. Applications accepted from FOREIGN-BORN scientists age 38 and under, from **now through June 10, 2019**. Three winners will receive a \$50,000 unrestricted cash prize and be honored at an awards ceremony in NYC (April 2020). For more information, please contact Shinnie Kim, Program Officer, at 212.472.2500 or via email at creativepromise@vilcek.org. To register, the online application can be found at www.vilcek.org.

EDUCATION

NEW: Intermediate Clinical Study Coordinator Training April 24, 2019
Transition to a Biotech Career June 2-8, 2019 (Apply by April 15)
Baystate Research and Education Day May 15, 2019
K Club
PiPSS (Projects in Process Seminar Series) April 4 and April 18, 2019
NEW: ISSR Methodology Workshops (Spring 2019 / multiple dates)

NEW: INTERMEDIATE CLINICAL STUDY COORDINATOR TRAINING. The Intermediate Clinical Study Coordinator Training Course will be held on **Wednesday, April 24, 2019 from 9:00am-3:30pm** on the ACC 7th Floor. Space is limited. If you are interested in attending this class or learning more about it, please email anne.rousell@umassmed.edu. Provide the following information: attendee name, title, department, supervisor name. If you have a colleague who may be interested in attending, please feel free to forward this email to them.

TRANSITION TO A BIOTECH CAREER! UMass Lowell is hosting a week-long course for students and post-docs to learn about careers for scientists in industry and how to best leverage their analytical PhD skill sets. For more information or to apply, click [here](#). Apply by **April 15, 2019**.

BAYSTATE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CELEBRATION DAY May 15, 2019. The Offices of Education & Research are excited to announce the Baystate Research and Education Celebration Day, May 15, 2019 at the **Chestnut Conference Center at Baystate Medical Center**. This full day of programming includes two keynote speakers, concurrent sessions on research and education throughout the day, a poster session, and an award ceremony/reception for Research and Teaching Awards. Events are open to all. For more information, contact Susan.Decelle@baystatehealth.org. To nominate someone for the Research Translation Award, contact Jennifer.Pacheco@baystatehealth.org. To nominate someone for a BERTS Education Award (deadline is April 1, 2019), contact Elizabeth.Coleman@baystatehealth.org.

K CLUB: Meets **every other 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>

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 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month – October 18, 2018 through May 2, 2019 beginning at 3:30pm in ASC8.2072 (Albert Sherman Building).**

April 4 presentations:

→ **Benjamin Helfand, MD/PhD** “*Measurement in Health: Advancing Assessment of Delirium*”

- **Oghomwen Igiesuorobo, MD/PhD** *"The Role of Slow-Wave-Sleep in Memory Processes"*
- **Nicholas Peterson, MD/PhD** *"Pathogen Sensing by Nuclear Hormone Receptors in C. elegans Intestinal Epithelial Cells"*
- **Henry Pratt, MD/PhD** *"ENCODE Phase III: Building an Encyclopedia of Cis-Regulatory Elements for Human and Mouse"*

April 18 presentations:

- **Andriana M. Foiles Sifuentes, T** *"Oral Health and Nursing Home Residents with Dementia"*
- **Matt Harkey, T** *"To Be Announced"*
- **Essa Hariri, T** *"Non-Platelet Thromboxane Generation and Cardiac Hemodynamics"*
- **Tomas Rodriguez, MD/PhD** *"To Be Announced"*

ISSR METHODOLOGY WORKSHOPS / SPRING-SUMMER 2019: New free workshops being offered in Amherst this spring (see list below). For more information or to register, click [here](#).

- **Meeting Ethnography:** Qualitative Research in Meeting-Rich Settings: **June 3-4** / 9am-2pm / Instructor Jen Sandler
- **Qualitative Research Design and Methods:** **June 5-7** / 9am-3pm / Instructors: Chrystal George Mwangi and Ezekiel Kimball
- **De-Mystifying Public Engagement:** **June 10-12** / 9am-4pm / Instructor Ezra Markowitz
- **Introduction to Qualitative Interviewing:** **June 13-14** / 9am-3pm / Instructor Chrystal George Mwangi and Ezekiel Kimball
- **Getting Started With Bayesian Statistics:** **June 20-21** / 9am-4pm / Instructors Jeff Starns and Andrea Cataldo
- **Causal Inference with Graphical Models:** **June 25-26** / 9am-4pm / Instructor David Jensen
- **Organizing and Analyzing Qualitative Data with NVivo 11 for Windows:** **July 9-11** / 9am-1pm / Instructor Eric Griffith

EVENTS

AAMC Grant Writers Workshop June 27, 2019

14th Annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities June 6-7, 2019

Un-Meeting on Rural Health and Health Equity April 8, 2019

M.C. Chang Distinguished Lecture: Arthur Caplan, PhD June 6, 2019

NEW: RE(ACT) Congress America, May 8-11, 2019

NEW: Lunch and Learn – An Introduction to Drug Development April 10, 2019

AAMC GRANT WRITERS WORKSHOP: June 27, 2019. This intensive one-day workshop is open to those actively working on both K and R NIH grant proposals. Additional virtual online learning sessions and continued peer review will be available over 2-3 months to strengthen proposals. **Registration is open, applications are due April 11, 2019.** For more information, please contact minfac@aamc.org.

14th ANNUAL TEXAS CONFERENCE ON HEALTH DISPARITIES: June 6-7, 2019. *“Social Epigenomics & Health Disparities.”* Evidence based approaches that identify mechanisms by which social experiences at various stages of life, both positive and negative, affect gene function and thereby influence health in racial/ethnic minority and health disparity population. The conference will feature nationally renowned speakers and will highlight evidence-based clinical, community and policy approaches to improving maternal and child health across the United States. **To learn more, click [here](#).**

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.*

NEW: M.C. CHANG DISTINGUISHED LECTURE: June 6, 2019 4:00pm-5:00pm, ASC Auditorium. Speaker: Arthur Caplan, PhD, Professor of Bioethics, Founding Head of the Division of Medical Ethics, NYU School of Medicine. Discussion and reception immediately following the seminar. For more information, contact Dr. Thoru Pederson 508.856.8667 or Dr. George Witman, 508.856.4038.

NEW: RE(ACT) CONGRESS AMERICA: May 8-11, 2019. Join rare disease research leaders in May for the first RE(ACT) Congress America. NCATS is hosting the first 2019 RE(ACT) Congress America event that brings together leading scientific experts, patients, and advocates to discuss rare diseases research. The goal is to facilitate and promote international scientific cooperation. The event takes place in Toronto and is the first to be held in North America. For more information, click [here](#).

NEW: LUNCH AND LEARN – AN INTRODUCTION TO DRUG DEVELOPMENT: April 10, 2019. Please join Samuel Chuang, PhD, Director of Scientific Advisory Services at Charles River who will present *“An Introduction to Drug Development - A Case Study: Things that make you go Hmmm.....”* **Wednesday, April 10, 2019 12:00-1:00pm** (Seminar) and **1:00-1:30pm** (Career Chat), Albert Sherman Center AS6.2072. Lunch will be provided.

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**

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](#).

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>

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>.

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](#).

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TOOLKIT: The Trial Innovation Network accepts toolkit submissions from CTSA's 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>

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/>

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. Sharing your success demonstrates the importance and effect of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science at UMass.

A FOND FAREWELL



The UMCCTS is losing one of their own...After almost nine years of service as our fantastic Academic Administrator, Sumner Smith has decided to retire! Well, he is retiring from his position here at the school, but he already has a jam-packed summer and fall with activities that will take him along the Appalachian Trail, skiing in Colorado, and plenty of other stuff to keep him active and fit! We want to sincerely thank Sumner for all that he has done to help the CCTS grow and prosper and for paving the way for our new Academic Administrator. We wish you the very best Sumner - Happy Trails!

Newsletter Submissions: To be included in the CCTS Monthly Newsletter, please send announcements, including a link, to ccts@umassmed.edu. The newsletter is published the first week of each month.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO *CITE* in all presentations and journal publications:
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