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UMCCTS Newsletter, April 2020

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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April 2020 Newsletter

COVID - 19

UMMS updates regarding human subjects research during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here: <https://umassmed.edu/ccts/covid-19/>. This website is updated frequently.

BARDA Opportunities for Coronavirus Researchers: To support ongoing U.S. Government COVID-19 medical countermeasure development efforts, BARDA is pleased to open their EZ BAA program and seeks abstract submissions for the following critical areas of interest: (1) AOI #4.1-A: Molecular Diagnostic Assay for SARS-CoV-2 virus on existing FDA-cleared platform; (2) AOI #4.1-B: Point-of-Care Diagnostic Assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 virus; (3) AOI #4.1-C: Diagnostic Assay for detection of COVID-19 disease; (4) AOI #4.3: COVID-19 Vaccine; and (5) AOI #4.4: Advanced Manufacturing Technologies. Please see the updated solicitation [BAA-20-100-SOL-0002](#) for more information including program manager contact info. Submissions close June 30 at 5pm EST.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

We welcome two new employees to the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science:



Kaethe Giaquinto, BSN, RN joined us on February 18th as a Research Nurse Coordinator II in the Clinical Research Center (CRC). In this position, Kaethe will provide nursing support for research and clinical studies and will work with Investigators and research staff to assist in all aspects of clinical trials and research in the CRC. Kaethe comes to us with more than 12 years of nursing experience at UMass Memorial and Medical School in the department of Cardiology.



Eric Stratton, MPH, MTS joined us on February 24th as the new Quality Assurance Manager and will assume leadership of the CRPG. Eric is joining us after having spent the past 8 years at the Boston University School of Medicine. During that time he served as the Director for Clinical Trials in the Department of Rheumatology, a member of the leadership committee for the BU Research Professionals Network, and instructor in the School of Public Health.

Please continue to submit requests for CRC services using our new Translational Research Accelerator (TRAc) portal which provides a single point of coordinated access to UMCCTS cores and services <https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/request-services/>

FUNDING

CCTS SPARK Program (Small Pilot and Research Knowledge)

CCTS Small Conference Grants

ADDF-Harrington Scholar Award: LOIs Due [April 20, 2020](#)

Wake Forest Primate Program Feasibility Study: LOIs Due [April 27, 2020](#)

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/>

ADDF-HARRINGTON SCHOLAR AWARD: The Harrington Discovery Institute (HDI) and the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) invite you (PhD or MD or equivalent required for eligibility) to submit an LOI for the **2020 ADDF-Harrington Scholar Award**. This grant is designed to accelerate the translation of academic discoveries into medicines for treating, preventing, or curing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Of particular interest are targets related to **proteostasis** and **neurovascular health**. Researchers working on drug development programs that are relevant to, but not presently focused on, the Alzheimer's field are encouraged to apply. In addition to grant funding, HDI provides guidance and oversight in all aspects of drug development, while taking no rights to intellectual property, which is retained by you/your institution. To submit an online application, click [here](#). **LOIs are due by [April 20, 2020](#)**. For more information or application questions, contact grants@alzdiscovery.org or HDIQuestions@HarringtonDiscovery.org. For scientific inquiries, contact Meriel Owen, PhD, ADDF at mowen@alzdiscovery.org.

WAKE FOREST PRIMATE PROGRAM: The Wake Forest Primate Program is pleased to offer two awards in 2020, each with a budget cap of \$20,000. Scientific requests that translate preclinical or clinical observations and encourage non-destructive studies will be considered. One award aims to target proposals that investigate blood pressure, hypertension, or vascular biology. A second award is open to all categories of research. Applications are open to faculty members or KL2 scholars of CTSA supported institutions. To submit a Letter of Intent by **April 27, 2020**, click [here](#). For guidance in developing a proposal, please email primates@wakehealth.edu.

EDUCATION

K Club: Ongoing

PiPSS: Projects in Process Seminar Series

Point-of-Care Technology Survey: Healthcare Provider Input Needed

K CLUB: Meets **every other Wednesday** from **4:00pm to 5:00pm** in **S2-121** 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, please visit:

<https://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/education/k-club>

PiPSS-PROJECTS IN PROCESS SEMINAR SERIES: 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 on Fridays beginning in **December 2019 through May 2020**. Sessions are held virtually for the remainder of the year. Join us via **ZOOM: <https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/5682209338>** or **Dial In 646.876.9923; Meeting ID 568.220.9338**.

The April 10th speakers will be:

- **11:00am Syed Ali** *“Local Gentamicin for Open Tibia Fractures in Sub-Saharan Africa”*
- **11:30am Daniel F. Leiva** *“to be announced”*

The April 17th speakers will be:

- **11:00am Domenic Gessler** *“Modifying N-Acetylaspartate to Control Neurometabolism and Cellular Populations in the CNS”*
- **11:30am Sarah Forrester** *“Similarities and Differences in the Association of Accelerated Aging and Telomere Length with Cardiovascular Outcomes in CARDIA”*

The April 24th speakers will be:

- **11:00am Asil Oztekin & Murtaza Nasir** *“Machine Learning-Based Outcome Prediction & Hypotheses Generation for Substance Use Disorder Treatment”*
- **11:30am Aaron Bergman** *“Integrating Trauma-Informed Care into Obstetric Settings via Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs”*

POINT OF CARE TECHNOLOGY SURVEY: HEALTHCARE PROVIDER INPUT NEEDED: Researchers at UMass Medical School focused on heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders (CAPCaT) have created a brief survey that will help inform how to support promising new technologies and want to understand your experiences with point-of-care technologies and where you think new devices are most needed. They need input from healthcare providers to identify the best opportunities for technology to complement healthcare. Compensation will be provided for completing the survey (\$20). Contact Nate Hafer with questions: nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu. Take the survey here: <https://arcsapps.umassmed.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=4MYFWTARA9>

EVENTS

Translational Science 2020: April 15-16, 2020

Baystate Medical Center Research & Education Celebration: June 3, 2020

RNA Therapeutics Symposium From Concept to Clinic: June 24-26, 2020

TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE 2020: At Translational Science 2020, we want to shine a spotlight on the most innovative, forward-thinking research in the field. Share your original research and help us create a meeting where people can enhance their personal development and learning process. Abstracts will be accepted in the following tracks: basic; methodology; data science; biostatistics; informatics; commercialization; entrepreneurship; digital health; social media; education; mentoring; professional and career development; health equity; community engagement; mechanistic basic to clinical; regulatory

science; team science; translational science; policy and health outcomes science. **To learn more about Translational Science 2020, which will be held virtually on April 15-16, 2020, click [here](#).**

BAYSTATE MEDICAL CENTER RESEARCH & EDUCATION CELEBRATION: Please join Baystate Medical Center for their annual Research & Education Celebration to be held on **June 3, 2020** in the Chestnut Conference Center and Health Sciences Library from 8am through 3pm. Speakers include Amber Barnato, MD, MPH, MS, Professor of The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice and Down Boatright, MD, MBA, Yale-New Haven Hospital Department of Emergency Medicine. To submit a poster, please email Susan Decelle (susan.decelle@baystatehealth.org) for information regarding the required electronic format for submission. For more information, please email: academicweek@baystatehealth.org.

RNA THERAPEUTICS SYMPOSIUM-FROM CONCEPT TO CLINIC: Registration for the 3rd Annual RNA Therapeutics From Concept to Clinic to be held **June 24-26, 2020** is now open. Keynote speakers are Katherine High, President/Head of Research and Development of Spark Therapeutics and Michael Rosbash, Peter Gruber Endowed Chair in Neuroscience, Professor of Biology HHMI, Brandeis University. To learn more and reserve your spot, click [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

UMCCTS Clinical Research Center Now Hiring: Three Positions

CTSA Regulatory Expertise

Diamond Portal

HRPP QA/QI

National Center for Data to Health (CD2H)

Recruitment and Retention Toolkit

UMCCTS CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER NOW HIRING: THREE POSITIONS

The Clinical Research Center (CRC) is dedicated to providing efficient, reliable, and high-quality study support for UMass clinical investigators. We currently have two job openings within the CRC and are looking for excellent candidates to help complete our team.

Regulatory Coordinator <https://www.ummsjobs.com/job/5213/>

Clinical Research Coordinator II (CRC) <https://www.ummsjobs.com/job/4784/>

Senior Research Nurse <https://www.ummsjobs.com/job/5000/>

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 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>

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.

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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