UMass Medical School researchers are about to start enrolling adolescents ages 12 through 17 in a clinical trial to test the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine made by Moderna. The vaccine has already been authorized for emergency use in adults 18 years or older by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This is the first it is being tested in a younger population. Moderna expects to enroll 3,000 adolescents at up to 15 sites nationwide. Enrollment in the trial, called TeenCove, is expected to start at the Medical School in early February.
CCTS IN THE NEWS

Adolescents and their families can visit the TeenCOVEStudy.com website for more information and to indicate their interest in participating.

“Children’s responses to vaccines can differ from those in adults,” said principal investigator Katherine Luzuriaga, MD, the UMass Memorial Health Care Chair in Biomedical Research; vice provost for clinical and translational research; professor of molecular medicine, pediatrics and medicine; and director of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science. “The goals of the trial are to evaluate the safety profile of the vaccine, to see whether adolescents make the same level of immune responses that were observed in adults and to see whether the vaccine protects against illness or infection.” To read the full article visit: [https://www.umassmed.edu/news/news-archives/2021/01/umass-medical-school-researchers-to-start-trial-of-moderna-covid-19-vaccine-in-teen/](https://www.umassmed.edu/news/news-archives/2021/01/umass-medical-school-researchers-to-start-trial-of-moderna-covid-19-vaccine-in-teen/)

EVENTS

UMCCTS COVID-19 MINI-SYMPOSIUM
APRIL 9, 2021 10:00 AM- NOON

We are pleased to announce a COVID19 mini research symposium April 9th 10-noon to highlight the exciting COVID-19 work happening at UMASS Medical School. Back in the spring of 2020, many of our faculty and trainees pivoted to work on Sars-CoV2 and COVID-19. The UMASS Medical School COVID-19 Pandemic Research Fund, the CTSA and the Worcester Foundation supported 22 pilot projects across our campus. Please mark your calendars for a 2 hr symposium where highlights of this work will be presented. Speakers include Robert Finberg, MD, Jeremy Luban, PhD, Anastasia Khvorova, PhD as well as many Pilot grant recipients.

If you are interested in presenting a short overview of your COVID19 related research please contact Kate Fitzgerald at kate.fitzgerald@umassmed.edu.
FUNDING

DRUG DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATORY:
DUE FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Drug Development Collaboratory: The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support intramural-extramural collaborations on late-stage translational science projects between NCATS Therapeutic Development Branch (TDB) and extramural researchers, for therapeutic development of small molecules, biologics, or gene therapies. The UG3 phase will provide support for late stage pre-clinical work and clinical trial planning that is conducted applicant institutions. The goal of any collaboration with TDB is to enable an IND application by the end of the UG3 phase. If UG3 milestones are met and an IND is cleared, support may be provided for an early stage clinical trials in the UH3 phase that will be conducted at the applicant institutions. Application due date: February 9, 2021
For more information visit: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-301.html

UMCCTS PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM (PPP) 2021 - REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT DUE FEBRUARY 12, 2021 BY 5PM

The UMCCTS and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) are announcing the next funding round for the Pilot Project Program (PPP). Individual project awards (up to $50,000 for 1 year) will be made on a competitive basis to enable investigators to accelerate the translation of innovative discoveries into:

• New understanding and/or diagnosis of a disease process
• New devices, therapeutics, and vaccines for the treatment and/or prevention of disease
• New standards of care in the practice of community medicine
• New approaches to community-based research demonstrating true bi-directionality between community and academia
• New methodologies to leverage institutional strengths and new initiatives
• The pursuit of high-risk, high reward studies

For more information visit: https://umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/PPP/
**FUNDING**

**SMART HEALTH & BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN THE ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & ADVANCED DATA SCIENCE (SCH):**
DUE FEB. 16, 2021 AT 5 PM

The purpose of this interagency program solicitation is to support the development of transformative high-risk, high-reward advances in computer and information science, engineering, mathematics, statistics, behavioral and/or cognitive research to address pressing questions in the biomedical and public health communities. Transformations hinge on scientific and engineering innovations by interdisciplinary teams that develop novel methods to intuitively and intelligently collect, sense, connect, analyze and interpret data from individuals, devices and systems to enable discovery and optimize health. Solutions to these complex biomedical or public health problems demand the formation of interdisciplinary teams that are ready to address these issues, while advancing fundamental science and engineering. Application due date: February 16, 2021. For more information visit: [https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21530/nsf21530.htm](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21530/nsf21530.htm)

**CURES WITHIN REACH- CLINICAL REPURPOSING RESEARCH TO IMPACT VETERANS:** DUE FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Clinical Repurposing Research to Impact Veterans: up to $50,000 to a U.S.-based institution for a repurposing clinical trial in any disease area impacting veterans, including mental health, PTSD and brain injuries. Proposal submissions due February 26, 2021. For more information visit: [https://www.cureswithinreach.org/programs/funding-opportunities-rfps/](https://www.cureswithinreach.org/programs/funding-opportunities-rfps/)

**NCATS ASPIRE: REDUCTION-TO-PRACTICE CHALLENGE**
OPENS 11/30 & DUE FEB. 28, 2021 AT 5 PM

NCATS invites innovators and multi-expert teams to participate in the NCATS ASPIRE Reduction-to-Practice Challenge. The goal is the development of a platform that scientists can use to advance their translational science relevant to development and testing of new and safer treatments of pain, opioid use disorder and overdose. NCATS anticipates that this integrated platform ultimately can be generalized to address many of the roadblocks in automated chemistry. Stage 1 of the Reduction-to-Practice Challenge opens Nov. 30, 2020, and submissions are due by Feb. 28, 2021, at 5p.m. EST. For more information visit: [https://ncats.nih.gov/aspire/2020Challenge](https://ncats.nih.gov/aspire/2020Challenge)
The Center for Advancing Point of Care Technologies (CAPCaT) is excited to share the news that our 2021 Pilot Funding Competition has opened! Our grant awards are for up to $100,000 of direct costs (+ indirect costs) over one year. Visit the Solicitations page on our website for more information https://cimit.net/web/capcat/solicitations.

CAPCaT is a UMass Medical School/UMass Lowell joint project funded by the National Institutes of Health and is specifically established to advance point of care technologies (POCT) for heart, blood, lung and sleep disorders. For more information about us, please visit our website, https://cimit.net/web/capcat/home. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact CAPCaT's project coordinator, anne.davenport@umassmed.edu.

Cures Within Reach- Cure Accelerator Live!
DUE MARCH 17, 2021

CureAccelerator Live! for Pediatric Rare Diseases: up to $50,000 for a repurposing clinical trial in any pediatric rare disease. Proposal submissions due March 17, 2021. For more information visit: https://www.cureswithinreach.org/programs/funding-opportunities-rfps/

We are seeking to hire a postdoctoral fellow to join our efforts in developing, managing, and translating the institution’s research portfolio. This is a full-time training position intended to prepare a scientist interested in moving into business development, intellectual property, preclinical therapeutic development, academic administration, policy, or similar career paths. The postdoctoral fellow will contribute to or be responsible for a range of projects within the UMCCTS related to our NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) grant. The individual will report to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Business Development and work closely with the staff of both offices. https://www.ummsjobs.com/job/5738/
EDUCATION

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING IN CANCER PREVENTION & CONTROL

The NCI-funded PRACCTIS program (Prevention and Control of Cancer: Training for Change in Individuals and Systems) at UMMS is now accepting applications for postdoctoral scholars to start January 2021 and August 2021. We train independent researchers to address critical prevention and control care delivery issues across the cancer continuum, including primary prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship, with emphasis on promoting change in individuals, providers and systems. Our faculty mentors are leaders in implementation science, health equity and low resource settings, health behavior change, health informatics, systems change and health policy, health communications, population health sciences, and prevention and intervention research. Applicants must plan to pursue an independent research career focused on cancer prevention and control, have earned a doctoral degree (PhD, ScD, MD, DO, etc.), and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. For more information contact Barbara Estabrook, Barbara.estabrook@umasmed.edu

TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE INTERAGENCY FELLOWSHIP

The Translational Science Interagency Fellowship (TSIF) is a new post doctoral fellowship opportunity developed by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Fellows will be jointly mentored by NCATS and FDA scientists on a research project of mutual interest to both organizations. Fellows in this program will develop skills of value to future careers in academia, the pharmaceutical industry and government. Applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents and have two years or less of postdoctoral training. More information about potential projects, mentors, and the application process can be found at https://ncats.nih.gov/training-education/training/TSIF . Questions about the fellowship and application process are welcome. Please contact TSIFellowship@nih.gov (link sends e-mail)

RESEARCH WITH SEXUAL & GENDER MINORITY POPULATIONS

Tufts CTSI Clinical Research Network is hosting the “Research with Sexual and Gender Minority Populations” training module which will be led by Tania D. Strout, PhD, RN, MS from Maine Medical Center. Please register at: https://ilearn.tuftsctsi.org/product?catalog=ST109_2019_Online
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.

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