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UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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Protecting children from COVID and getting to herd immunity will depend on children getting vaccinated. But the existing vaccines aren’t designed for most kids. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson’s vaccines can only be given to those 18 and older, and Pfizer’s vaccine can only be given to people ages 16 and older. That’s why volunteers like 15-year-old Zoe Campbell and her 12-year-old sister Esme are testing the safety of Moderna’s vaccine for children in a trial at UMass Medical School in Worcester.
EVENTS

PROJECTS IN PROCESS SEMINAR SERIES (PiPSS)
FRIDAYS MARCH 5TH TO JUNE 11TH 2021

We cordially invite you to attend the virtual Projects in Process Seminar Series (PiPSS) taking place on Friday afternoons from 11 AM to 12 PM. The series will feature presentations from our TL1, Millennium, MSCI and KL2 scholars on their various research projects.

Zoom Link:
https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/98699860149?pwd=MWlyanlueDBBR05MNE90azRIZHVWUT09

Contact Melissa Corash at Melissa.BrewerCorash@umassmed.edu for further details.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 2nd</td>
<td>Julie Hugunin - Healthcare Utilization in Youth with Serious Mental Illness</td>
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<td>April 9th</td>
<td>Maryum Zaidi - Association of electronic portals usage to perceived patient-centered communication in patients with a diagnosis of cancer</td>
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<td>Max Hazeltine</td>
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<td>April 16th</td>
<td>Jinying Chen - Assessing Pain in Post-discharge Cardiovascular Patients</td>
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<td>Zachary Dyer</td>
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<td>Catherine Nagawa</td>
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**EVENTS**

**UMASS- CCTS: PREPARING FOR MEDIA INTERVIEWS**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 26TH**

UMASS CCTS- Community Engagement & Collaboration Core virtual workshop "Preparing for Media Interviews" will provide practical advice and hands-on exercises to speak with reporters, have your views represented accurately and bring your expertise to the public.

Getting rid of jargon is only the first step. We'll help you figure out your talking points, tell a story with your research, and build relationships with reporters. You’ll have a plan at the end of the workshop.

Bring a study that you’d like to be quoted on in the media. [Click here to register.]

**UMCCTS COVID-19 MINI-SYMPOSIUM**  
**APRIL 9, 2021**  
**NEW TIME- 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM**

We cordially invite you to attend the COVID-19 Research Mini-Symposium, April 9, 2021 from 9am-12:30pm.

This symposium will feature talks from UMMS faculty including Robert Finberg, MD, Anastasia Khvorova, PhD, Jeremy Luban, MD as well as a selection of the grantees supported by the COVID19 Pandemic Research Fund, the CTSA and the Worcester Foundation.

Zoom Link:  
https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/97976710225?pwd=OXkwL2NXbmNpMklWbXVaRk5eM20zZz09

Please contact Kate Fitzgerald at kate.fitzgerald@umassmed.edu for further details.
Dr. Julia Hua Fang, 2012 award recipient from UMass CTSA Pilot Project Program (PPP) received a patent titled “System and methods for trajectory pattern recognition”. This patent is built upon Dr. Fang’s long-term studies, including her PPP-award-derived NIHR01 DISC project, in trajectory pattern recognition for incomplete longitudinal data, broadly time series and data streams. Quoted abstract from the Patent: "A multiple imputation (MI) based fuzzy clustering with visualization-aided MI validation that improves the accuracy and the stability of identified patterns, generally the structure of HD [high-dimensional] data with missing values."

The invention reduces uncertainty of unsupervised learning for incomplete longitudinal data, improves the accuracy and the stability of identified patterns, generally the structure of high-dimensional (HD) data with missing values. It provides visualization-aided MI validation, dynamically displays and clusters correlated high-dimensional, longitudinal data with missing values.

The improved accuracy and stability of longitudinal trajectory patterns can be used for a variety of analytic, assessment and prediction purposes. It has been tested in longitudinal RCT and observational studies, and various data and outcomes, such as substance use, infectious and immunology data, dietary pattern, obesity, incidence of diabetes, and CVD, etc. These data are shared by Dr. Fang’s investigative teams at UMMS and her national collaborators. Generally, this invention could be used for all types of trajectory pattern recognition, including but not limited to longitudinal trials, observational study, EHR and biosensor data. People could also explore its applications in microbiome and genomics, health risks and policy studies such as those involving Medicare and medicaid data.

Beyond its use in biomedical and precision health areas, this invention can be used for consumer behavior and business intelligence, e.g., consumer behavior data that pertains to investment and credit risk by evaluating the effectiveness of contrarians' investment in preferred stocks using big data, shopping, and marketing behavior in e-commerce. Additionally, this invention can be used for real-time data stream analyses, autonomous vehicle trajectory, security and fraud detection including image authentication, and trajectory recovery, etc.
TOOLS & APPLICATIONS

RedCap is a user friendly tool for building online surveys and databases which is utilized most often in the field of clinical research.

There is a self-paced REDCap [online training wiki] available for REDCap users.

Request a REDCap account by [clicking here].
Request REDCap support by [creating a ticket] here.

The DL&I Incubator team is pleased to announce the launch of Training Opportunities To Augment Learning (TOTAL), a digital app that allows biomedical trainees to attend career and professional development events held at Boston University and eight Boston-based partner institutions. [Click here] to read more.

JOB POSTING

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW,
UMASS CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE (UMCCTS) & THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION OFFICE (BDI)

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/](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@umassmed.edu.

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

CITE & SUBMIT

Please cite the NIH CTSA award any time you use The UMMS Center for Clinical and Translational Science resources, services and facilities or received funding through the Center. “The project described is supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health, through Grant UL1 TR001453, (or TL1 TR001454, or KL2 TR001455, as appropriate). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.”
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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