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IN THE NEWS

RESEARCH FROM MCCORMICK LAB IDENTIFIES NEW LINK BETWEEN MICROBIOME AND INTESTINAL FUNCTION: DISCOVERY BRINGS SCIENTISTS CLOSER TO DEVELOPING NEW TREATMENTS FOR INFLAMMATORY DISEASES OF THE GUT

BY JIM FESSENDEN

SCIENTISTS FROM UMASS CHAN MEDICAL SCHOOL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH HAVE IDENTIFIED A NEW CONNECTION BETWEEN MOLECULES PRODUCED BY THE MICROBIOME AND THE FUNCTION OF A HUMAN PROTEIN THAT IMPACTS GUT INFLAMMATION. THESE FINDINGS OFFER A NEW DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MICROBIOME AND INTESTINAL FUNCTION, BRINGING INVESTIGATORS ONE STEP CLOSER TO UNDERSTANDING HOW A GOOD BALANCE OF MICROBES IN OUR GUTS IS LINKED TO THE BODY’S IMMUNE SYSTEM AND INTESTINAL HEALTH. IT ALSO RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW TREATMENTS TO MANAGE DEBILITATING INFLAMMATORY DISEASES OF THE GUT, SUCH AS ULCERATIVE COLITIS AND CROHN’S DISEASE.

WHAT’S NEW?

01 News
03 Events
06 Funding
07 Education

FULL ARTICLE
COMMUNITY NEWS

THE COALITION FOR A HEALTHY GREATER WORCESTER
2021-2026 COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)

The Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester has announced the completion of the 2021-2026 Community Health Improvement plan (CHIP) and award of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize.

As the convening agency for the CHIP, the Coalition hopes that you will utilize the priorities outlined as a resource to identify healthy disparity gaps and effectively address issues identified by the Greater Worcester community.

The CHIP’s Action Agenda includes:

1. Mobilizing community health services
2. Community led outreach and education
3. Trainings on principles of anti-racism, LGBTQIA+, cultural responsiveness, and empathetic communication
4. Scaling and broadening resource navigation systems
5. Recruitment, retention, and advancement strategies to diversify workforce
6. Developing publicly accessible systems to track public health indicators and illustrate trends, and increasing data driven decision making as their top goals.

To join the quarterly Action Agenda Work Plan meetings, please sign up here on the Coalition website.

K CLUB

Next Meeting
Dec. 8th & 22nd ~ 4:00-5:00 PM ~ Virtual, Zoom

K Club supports junior faculty in the development of K-level “Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award” applications. According to NIH, the award is intended to provide either progressive training or further experience in research related to biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences. The mentored approach provides the knowledge required for the K-Awardee to progress into an independent researcher over the award period.

K Club meets bi-weekly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 4-5 pm via Zoom. Attendance at K Club meetings can be for information purposes and/or for review of your application. The group meets to outline the K-Award writing process and to review material being submitted by/to the group for input. To register to attend K Club, please email Robyn.Leonard@umassmed.edu
EVENTS

UMCCTS NURSES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP: KRISTEN SETHARES
"PROMOTING HEART FAILURE SELF-CARE: INFLUENCES, INSIGHTS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY"
DECEMBER 10TH | VIRTUAL | REGISTER NOW

TRIAL INNOVATION NETWORK: COLLABORATION WEBINAR
GERMÁN CHIRIBOGA, MPH
"UTILIZATION OF NARRATIVE INTERVENTION/STORYTELLING FOR APPLICATIONS IN RESEARCH PARTICIPATION AND INFORMED CONSENT"
DECEMBER 15, 2021 | 12:00PM ET

This webinar will provide an overview of the process and application of storytelling as a tool to increase awareness about research participation among underrepresented populations. Our process includes adaptations of communications models as well as the health belief model. We combine video production with qualitative analysis to increase objectivity in preserving storytellers’ voices. REGISTER NOW
EVENTS

JOIN US FOR A WORKSHOP ON FDA INSPECTION PREPAREDNESS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

During this session we help you:

- Understand the purpose of FDA Inspections
- Identify the difference between monitoring, audits, inspections
- Examine best practices for audit preparation
- Describe the audit process and expectations
- Outline common audit findings and ways to prevent them
- Discuss post inspection activities

This workshop will include hands on activities and breakout sessions to better prepare study teams including case scenarios and review of an actual FDA 483.

Pre-registration is required - Register Here.

INTRODUCTION TO DESIGNING & CONDUCTING MIXED METHODS RESEARCH
JANUARY 5TH - MARCH 2, 2022

This is an (asynchronous) online, eight-week course that offers an introduction to mixed methods research in the health sciences. The course will address the integration of quantitative and qualitative methodologies in formulating research questions, collecting and analyzing different types of data, choosing the appropriate mixed methods designs, and interpreting mixed method research results.

For more information: Introduction to Designing & Conducting Mixed Methods Research
- Harvard Catalyst
TRANSDISCIPLINARY TRAINING IN CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH
T32 TRAINING PROGRAM

In collaboration with the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences (PQHS) has established a NHLBI-funded T32 program with the aim of producing a new generation of investigators who have the enthusiasm, knowledge, and skills to make meaningful contributions to cardiovascular research across the translational spectrum. Directed by Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD (PQHS) and Kevin Donahue, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), the program is truly transdisciplinary, with investigators working together to expand knowledge beyond discipline-based concepts, theories, and methods.

UMass Chan Medical School offers an outstanding environment for this training, with exceptional depth and breadth of well-funded cardiovascular research, experienced and involved mentors, and extensive resources for training in the full spectrum of cardiovascular research from laboratory- to population-based.

Program Activities
The program offers 4 pre-doctoral fellowship slots, 4 post-doctoral fellowship slots, and 8 short-term summer training slots for medical students per grant year.

In addition to an intensive mentored research experience, trainees will participate in didactics, seminars, journal clubs, and scientific and grant writing workshops to develop the essential skills needed to be successful investigators. Post-doctoral T32 trainees may have a maximum of 20% effort dedicated to clinical responsibilities while funded through the T32.

For Eligibility Information and to Apply
Contact the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences at 508-856-8999 or email to rebecca.gigliello@umassmed.edu.
This initiative encourages research focused on development of and testing the effectiveness of intervention approaches that utilize enhanced interpersonal strategies to strengthen and compliment efforts in suicide prevention. **MORE INFORMATION**

**RFA-MH-22-125: ENHANCED INTERPERSONAL FOCUSED STRATEGIES FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS (R34 CLINICAL TRIAL REQUIRED)**

Closing date for applications: February 18, 2022

This initiative encourages research focused on development of and testing the effectiveness of intervention approaches that utilize enhanced interpersonal strategies to strengthen and compliment efforts in suicide prevention. **MORE INFORMATION**

**RFA-AT-22-001: NIH HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS RESEARCH COLLABORATORY - PRAGMATIC AND IMPLEMENTATION TRIALS OF EMBEDDED INTERVENTIONS(UG3/UH3, CLINICAL TRIALS OPTIONAL)**

Closing date for applications: June 17, 2022

The overall goal of this initiative is to support the “real world” assessment of health care strategies and clinical practices and procedures in health care systems (HCS) that lead to improved care for underserved populations, who have suffered a disproportionate disease burden in the US. **MORE INFORMATION**

**PAR-22-069: HIGH IMPACT, INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE IN NIDDK RESEARCH AREAS (RC2 CLINICAL TRIAL OPTIONAL)**

Closing dates for applications: Ongoing through Oct. 30, 2024

This FOA seeks novel, interdisciplinary approaches in areas that address specific knowledge gaps, scientific opportunities, new technologies, data generation, or research methods designed to accelerate scientific progress in the understanding, treatment, and prevention of diseases within the mission of the NIDDK. **MORE INFORMATION**
FUNDING

PAR-22-031: DRUG DISCOVERY FOR NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS (R01 CLINICAL TRIAL NOT ALLOWED)

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: ONGOING THROUGH JAN. 7, 2025

This FOA supports the discovery of novel compounds for the prevention and treatment of nervous system disorders. NIMH and NIA wish to stimulate research in: 1) Identification, design, synthesis, and preclinical testing of compounds of candidate therapeutics; 2) Initial hit-to-lead chemistry to improve activity of compounds against the target of interest; 3) Later stage lead optimization to improve efficacy and pharmacokinetics; and 4) Initial drug metabolism and pharmacokinetic (DMPK).

MORE INFORMATION

EDUCATION

ECIRTIFICATION HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTIONS TRAINING PROGRAM: NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH UMCCTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION CORE

The UMMS IRB will now accept completion of the CIRTification program as an alternative to the CITI Program for community members who collaborate on UMMS research projects. CIRTification is a web-based human research protections training program tailored for community research partners. CIRTification Online was designed as an alternative to the CITI training program with community research partners in mind and focuses on the unique roles and responsibilities that community partners hold in health research projects. This program is specifically and only for community members that do not have an eIRB account who will work on UMMS studies. This training program takes about three hours to complete and includes audio, text and interactive activities around research involvement. Community partners will receive a certificate of completion for this training. This program has received positive feedback from local users. CIRTification was developed and is administered by the University of Illinois Chicago Center for Clinical and Translational Science. The program is available to UMMS through the UMCCTS Community Engagement and Collaboration Core (CECC) in collaboration with the IRB. Details for researchers and learners are available here.

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.