



# CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



## IN THE NEWS

### **“ALL OF US RESEARCH PROGRAM” AT UMASS CHAN MEDICAL SCHOOL UPDATE**

IN 2018, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) LAUNCHED THE ALL OF US RESEARCH PROGRAM. THE GOAL OF ALL OF US IS TO GATHER THE PARTICIPANT DATA NEEDED TO MOVE TOWARD A PRECISION HEALTHCARE MODEL. PRECISION HEALTH IS A TAILORED APPROACH TO HEALTHCARE, WHICH FOCUSES ON INDIVIDUAL PATIENT NEEDS BASED ON THEIR GENETIC MAKE-UP.

THE PROGRAM WILL ENROLL AT LEAST 1 MILLION AMERICANS IN A LONG-TERM STUDY OF HEALTH AND DISEASE, WHERE THEIR INDIVIDUAL HEALTH RECORDS, WEARABLE HEALTH SENSOR DATA, HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRES, BLOOD SAMPLES AND DNA SEQUENCE WILL BE RECORDED IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER RESEARCH THAT AIMS TO KEEP PEOPLE HEALTHY AND MANAGE CHRONIC ILLNESS. IN ADDITION, THE PROGRAM EXPECTS TO ENROLL AT LEAST HALF OF THE 1 MILLION PARTICIPANTS FROM TRADITIONALLY UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS.

## WHAT'S NEW?

**01***News***03***Events***06***Funding***07***Education*

# NEWS

Last month, we featured the NIH Director's Blog, "All of Us: Release of Nearly 100,000 Whole Genome Sequences Sets Stage for New Discoveries" article in our newsletter. This month we followed up with Mara Epstein, ScD, the Principal Investigator for the All of Us Program here at the UMass Chan Medical School for an update on the Central Massachusetts sites.

Together with our clinical partner, Reliant Medial Group, we manage two full time enrollment clinic sites: currently, one in Worcester and one in Auburn. We plan to rotate through additional clinical sites over the next few years to allow for easy enrollment throughout Worcester County.

As of April 17th, more than 4,700 participants from the Central MA area have enrolled in the All of Us Research Program. Overall, 59% of our local participants fall into at least one group that is under-represented in biomedical research. At our site, we have a special focus on enrolling older adults (aged 65+), a population that is often left out of clinical trials and other medical research studies.

Central MA/UMass Chan Participants:

- Minority participation 17%
- Rural participation 1%
- Older adult participation 34%



After a long pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited to get back to engaging with people in our community. Since we launched in 2018, we have participated in interviews for TV, radio and podcasts; presented at local community organizations and churches; and engaged with attendees at a variety of community events. Some of our upcoming events include:

- Grafton Garden Club Plant Sale and Raffle - May 7, 2022 from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM on the Grafton Common
- New Life (Nueva Vida) Health Fair - June 25, 2022 from 12:00-4:00 PM at Centro de Adoración Vida Nueva (9 Piedmont Street Worcester, MA 01610)

To speak with our enrollment staff, please call (508) 595-2267. Or to register online please visit: <https://joinallofus.org/UMassMedical>

In addition to enrolling in the program, researchers at UMass Chan may be interested in learning more about the datasets available through the Researcher Workbench at this website: <https://www.researchallofus.org/data-tools/workbench/>

The All of Us Research Program has the potential to help develop a more personalized approach to medicine and change the future of medical care. The newly released datasets, including genomics data on thousands of All of Us participants, will be a great resource for researchers, and help advance medical research for years to come.



# EVENTS

## UMCCTS: NURSES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 3RD

Carrie- Ellen Briere

*From Bedside to Bench and Back Again: A Nurse Scientist's Career Trajectory in Translational Research*

May 3rd 11-12 PM

The Nurses Special Interest Group, part of the UMCCTS, is hosting this webinar series and encourages nurse scientists, clinicians and individuals from all UMCCTS campuses and disciplines to attend.

Dr. Briere is a neonatal nurse who focuses on the biology of human milk and its involvement with infant health, growth, and development. Her career began at the bedside supporting families to meet their human milk feeding goals and has grown to focus on the biological components of milk which are beneficial to infant health. In this presentation Dr. Briere will talk about expanding her research expertise to include basic science analyses and the importance of nurses in the research laboratory.



### ZOOM LINK

<https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/92945202369?pwd=dk5vK3V0SXRjdWJsVVJ4SDR3V3YrUT09>  
Password: 273584

## POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCES: OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM



Presented by:  
Dr. Rachel Shelton, ScD, MPH

Zoom Link:  
<https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/95013364343?pwd=Yi9Xc2Z3anFxeTFJcHZjY1V0QUVKQT09>  
Password: 717383





## EVENTS

### THE 2022 UMCCTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: COLLATERAL DAMAGE DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IMPACT ON YOUTH, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY CARE MAY 9, 2022 | 12:30 - 1:30 PM

#### Kathy Sanders, MD

Deputy Commissioner MA Department of Mental Health (DMH)

At the beginning of the COVID shutdown in March 2020 (remote work and school), there was a decrease in people seeking behavioral help in Emergency Departments. Then in June 2020, a surge of behavioral health presentations to Emergency Departments was noted to be 3-4 times the usual number for all age groups with notably long boarding episodes for children and adolescents. This surge in behavioral health need has continued at a higher demand throughout 2021 creating a crisis of care in Emergency Departments.



This talk will focus on Massachusetts' State response to this increased need for acute behavioral healthcare since June 2020 and how this crisis is shaping the State's response to community access to behavioral healthcare into the future. [REGISTER](#)

WITH OPENING REMARKS BY BROOKE DOYLE, MED COMMISSIONER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

### CROSS-CTSA SPECIAL SEMINAR COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TOPROMOTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EQUITY: A CALL TO ACTION

MAY 25, 2022 4:00-6:00 ET

Hear from experts about community-engaged interventions that promote behavioral health equity, the role of community/patient engagement in advancing behavioral health research, as well as community perspectives. [REGISTER](#)





# EVENTS

## FUNDAMENTALS OF CLINICAL RESEARCH

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS IN JUNE 2022



### **Bruce Barton, Ph.D. and Robert Goldberg, Ph.D.**

#### **Observational Investigations: Cross Sectional & Case-Control Studies**

Tuesday, June 7th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

#### **Observational Investigations: Prospective Studies**

Thursday, June 9th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

#### **Randomized Clinical Trials: Introduction and Theory**

Tuesday, June 14th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

#### **Randomized Clinical Trials: Implementation and Conduct**

Thursday, June 16th 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

#### **Randomized Clinical Trials: Analysis and Publication**

Tuesday, June 21st 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

#### **Effective Scientific Writing**

Thursday, June 23rd 8:00-9:30 a.m. via zoom

Zoom Link:

<https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/99382043396?pwd=dUF4NkxJMXE1RUI3dWpHU1duZ0ltZz09>

Password: 524517





## EVENTS

### UMCCTS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

JUNE 10TH | 9AM - 5 PM | VIRTUAL



The UMass Center for Clinical & Translational Science will host their annual Research Symposium featuring an overview of the in-house research being conducted on COVID, digital health, and cancer. [AGENDA](#)



## K CLUB

### Next Meeting

**May 11th & 25th ~ 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.ed](mailto:Robyn.Leonard@umassmed.ed)

# EVENTS



## UMCCTS PROJECTS IN PROCESS SEMINAR SERIES (PIPSS)

FRIDAYS, JANUARY 7TH- MAY 6TH, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM



As part of the T, K, MSCI, and Millennium programs, the annual Projects in Process Seminar Series (PiPSS) will take place January through May 2022 on Friday mornings via Zoom. We look forward to hearing about our scholars/trainees progress on their research projects.

We encourage scholars, mentors and faculty to join us at as many PiPSS presentations as possible. This is a great opportunity for scholars to get to know others interested in or who hold research positions. In addition, presentations on CCTS core resources will also be included.

**Zoom Link:** [https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/99081667635?](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/99081667635?pwd=RE9MUGIOTG9uNzloRWxJYTJOazdwUT09)  
[pwd=RE9MUGIOTG9uNzloRWxJYTJOazdwUT09](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/99081667635?pwd=RE9MUGIOTG9uNzloRWxJYTJOazdwUT09)

**Password:** 396027

**May 6, 2022**

**Drs. Barton, Zai & Ugur**

Quantitative Methods Core  
Biomedical Informatics Core &  
TriNetX





# FUNDING

## **NOT-NS-22-083: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PUBLISH A FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CLINICAL TRIAL READINESS FOR RARE NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASES**

ESTIMATED POST DATE: APRIL 15, 2022

ESTIMATED APPLICATION DUE DATE: AUGUST 18, 2022

This forecasted FOA will support clinical studies that address critical needs for clinical trial readiness in rare neurological and neuromuscular diseases. These studies should result in clinically validated biomarkers and clinical outcome assessment measures appropriate for use in upcoming clinical trials, enhancing the quality and increasing the likelihood of success of clinical trials in these rare diseases. [MORE INFO](#)

## **RFA-OD-22-005: RADX-UP - SOCIAL, ETHICAL, AND BEHAVIORAL IMPLICATIONS (SEBI) RESEARCH ON DISPARITIES IN COVID-19 TESTING AMONG UNDERSERVED AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: MAY 2, 2022

The goals of this RADx-UP FOA are to conduct social, ethical, and behavioral implications (SEBI) research to understand and reduce barriers to COVID-19 testing, as well as COVID-19 disparities that arise from barriers to testing among underserved and vulnerable populations. (U01 Clinical Trial Optional) [MORE INFORMATION](#)

## **RFA-OD-22-006: RADX-UP COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH ON RAPID SARS-COV-2 TESTING AMONG UNDERSERVED AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: MAY 2, 2022

This FOA aims to implement and rigorously evaluate SARS-CoV-2 rapid testing strategies in communities experiencing COVID-19 health disparities. Two-year Rapid Testing Research Projects will evaluate (1) rapid testing interventions to prevent and control COVID-19 transmission among underserved and vulnerable populations and (2) partnership-driven research to implement and evaluate rapid testing and reduce COVID-19 disparities. (U01 Clinical Trial Optional) [MORE INFORMATION](#)

## **PAR-22-089: DEVELOPMENT OF BIOMARKERS OR BIOMARKER SIGNATURES FOR NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS**

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS: MAY 7, 2025

This FOA promotes the discovery and/or early evaluation of strong candidate biomarkers and biomarker signatures that can be used as tools to facilitate the clinical development of neurotherapeutics and their use in clinical practice. The goal of this initiative is to deliver candidate biomarkers or biomarker signatures that are ready for definitive analytical and clinical validation studies. (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional)

[MORE INFORMATION](#)





# FUNDING

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO PUBLISH FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH IN HEALTH

(R01 Clinical Trial Optional)  
(R21 Clinical Trial Optional)  
(R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Estimated Post Date: May 8, 2022

Estimated Application Due Date: June 5, 2022 (R01) and June 16, 2022 (R21)

This suite of forecasted FOAs comprises reissues of PAR-19-274, PAR-19-275, and PAR-19-276, supporting dissemination and implementation (D&I) research in health.

More Info: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=338334>,  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=338336>,  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=338335>

### PAR-22-101: CLINICAL TRIAL READINESS FOR RARE DISEASES, DISORDERS, AND SYNDROMES

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS:

MAY 17, 2022 WITH ONGOING CYCLES THROUGH OCTOBER 17, 2024

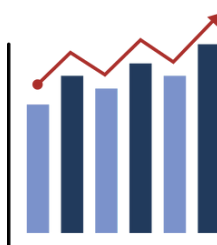
These FOAs support clinical projects addressing critical needs for clinical trial readiness in rare diseases. The initiative seeks applications that enable efficient and effective movement of candidate therapeutics or diagnostics towards clinical trials, develop and test rigorous biomarkers and clinical outcome assessment measures, and/or define the presentation and course of a rare disease. (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) [MORE INFO](#)

### PAR-22-100: CLINICAL TRIAL READINESS FOR RARE DISEASES, DISORDERS, AND SYNDROMES

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS:

MAY 17, 2022 WITH ONGOING CYCLES THROUGH OCTOBER 17, 2024

These FOAs support clinical projects addressing critical needs for clinical trial readiness in rare diseases. The initiative seeks applications that enable efficient and effective movement of candidate therapeutics or diagnostics towards clinical trials, develop and test rigorous biomarkers and clinical outcome assessment measures, and/or define the presentation and course of a rare disease. (R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) [MORE INFO](#)





# FUNDING



Phase 2 of the Somatic Cell Genome Editing (SCGE) program has been launched with a total budget of \$225 million over the next 5 years. The goal of this phase is to accelerate the development of genome-editing therapeutic agents by facilitating IND-enabling studies, establishing pathways to regulatory approval, and disseminating successful strategies for initiating first in human clinical trials. To accomplish this, we are currently seeking applications for the following initiatives:

- RFA-RM-22-014: Technologies and Assays for Therapeutic Genome Editing INDs (U01)
- RFA-RM-22-015: IND-enabling Studies of Somatic Genome Editing Therapeutic Leads (U19)
- RFA-RM-22-016: Platform Clinical Trials of Somatic Genome Editing for Multiple Diseases (UG3/UH3)
- RFA-RM-22-017: Somatic Cell Genome Editing Translational Coordination and Dissemination Center (U24)

Key deadlines (for all initiatives):

Letter of Intent: 06/17/2022

Application Receipt Date: 07/19/2022

Interested in learning more?

SCGE will host an informational webinar on 05/04/2022. In the meantime, check out <https://www.commonfund.nih.gov/editing> to learn more.

## 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."*



# FUNDING

## UMCCTS/NCATS DIVERSITY & RE-ENTRY SUPPLEMENTS

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST DUE: AUGUST 15TH



The University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) aims to develop and support the next generation of leaders in clinical and translational science with special emphasis on supporting diversity candidates and those looking to re-enter the field. Therefore, we are requesting expressions of interest from individuals wishing to apply for a NCATS/NIH Diversity or Re-Entry Supplements.

Purpose: Diversity supplements aim to enhance the diversity of the biomedical research workforce by providing support for mentored research experiences for candidates from underrepresented groups.

Purpose: Re-entry supplements provide support for a mentored research experience for high-potential individuals seeking to re-enter active research careers after an interruption for family responsibilities or other qualifying circumstances. [MORE INFO](#)



# EDUCATION



## 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](mailto:rebecca.gigliello@umassmed.edu).

Applications will be reviewed and appointments will be made on a rolling basis. Send completed applications on or before June 1, 2022 by 5:00 pm EST to:  
[Rebecca.Gigliello@umassmed.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Gigliello@umassmed.edu)



**UMass Chan**  
MEDICAL SCHOOL



# EDUCATION



## POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP FOCUSING ON HEALTH EQUITY IN CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL

PRACCTIS, an NCI-funded T32 program at UMMS is now accepting applications for postdoctoral scholars to start in August 2022. 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. We are seeking a postdoctoral trainee to further our emphasis on addressing health equity in cancer prevention and control. Our faculty mentors are leaders in health equity and low resource settings, health behavior change, implementation science, 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](#) and [Website](#) or contact Barbara Estabrook, [Barbara.estabrook@umassmed.edu](mailto:Barbara.estabrook@umassmed.edu)

## 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](#).





# CENTER FOR CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

UMASS CCTS NEWSLETTER



## **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](mailto: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](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu). The newsletter is published the first week of each month.



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