Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research (T32)  
Request for Trainee Applications

For UMass Worcester Applicants only...

The University of Massachusetts Medical School has a cardiovascular T32 training grant entitled, "Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research" under the direction and senior leadership of Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, and John F. Keaney, Jr., MD, Mary C. Defeudis Chair in Biomedical Research, Director, Heart and Vascular Center of Excellence, Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Medicine. The program represents a wonderful opportunity for the institution to promote the entire spectrum (T0-T2+) of cardiovascular research on the UMMS campus. A request is issued for applications from trainees who wish to become part of this exciting program at the post-doctoral level. New trainees will join 3 other current trainees in the program.

Deadline date for applications: Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Click here for eligibility and complete instructions.

UMass Amherst Institute for Applied Life Sciences (IALS)  
2016 Seed Grant Program  
Accepting Applications

The 2016 IALS Seed Grant Program is a new funding program designed to support proof-of-concept translational science to catalyze human health-related product development.

The 2016 IALS Seed Grant Program aims to accelerate translational pre-clinical studies towards therapeutic candidates, diagnostics or health monitoring products that improve human health and well-being. Product candidates can include small molecule, peptide, protein or antibody therapeutics; medical devices as well as health care related software, tools, and apps.

Deadline date for applications: Friday, April 1, 2016

Click here for complete information and application.

Innovations in Patient Recruitment Program  
Request for Proposals

A goal of the University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is to support UMass researchers'human subjects research through technological innovations. In collaboration with the UMCCTS Informatics Core and the Special Population Resource Center, this request for letters of intent seeks proposals for innovative techniques to identify and engage research participants,
particularly among historically hard-to-reach patient populations. Innovative methods for recruiting such patients need to be identified, supported, and disseminated to the larger UMass research community. The intent of the funding is to support ongoing or future research projects that utilize innovative patient recruitment methodology. Applicants are especially encouraged to 1) demonstrate community input/buy-in of the recruitment strategy, 2) take advantage of other UMCCTS cores and services (partial listing at the end of this announcement) and 3) form multi-campus, transdisciplinary teams.

Deadline date for applications: Thursday, April 7, 2016

Click here for complete information and eligibility.

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science
6th Annual Research Retreat

Call for Poster Abstracts!

The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) 6th Annual Research Retreat will be held on Friday, May 20, 2016 at the Albert Sherman Center, University of MA Medical School.

UMCCTS is requesting a call for poster abstract proposals to be presented during the Poster Session of the Retreat from 12:30-2:00 pm in the Faculty Conference Room/Medical School Lobby.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to showcase your poster to a large audience of attendees (400+) from all 5-UMass campuses. This will be an excellent networking event!

Poster space is limited so please submit your poster abstract today!

Poster abstract proposals are due on or before Thursday, March 31, 2016. Learn More

DID YOU KNOW?

Congratulations to our Educational and Pilot Grant Awardees!

One of the major goals of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science is to foster research for junior faculty investigators and pre- and post-doctoral fellows through pilot funding grant opportunities. The UMCCTS is also looking at ways to generate more funding opportunities through collaborative relationships with industry. We welcome ideas to engender future funding for investigators who are interested in clinical and translational science. Please contact Nate Hafer, PhD, Director of Operations, if you are interested in partnering with UMCCTS to develop a collaborative funding opportunity or with any suggestions/comments. We appreciate your input and support!

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate our current awardees!

Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowship Training Program (TL1)
Matthew Alcusky, PharmD, MS (Post) (UMMS)  Neglected by the Evidence: Pharmacoepidemiologic Research in Older Adults with Cardiovascular Disease
Vijaya Daniel, MD, MPH (Post) (UMMHC)  Microbial Determinants of Gastrointestinal Perforation Incidence and Outcomes
Alec Gramann, MD (Pre) (UMMS)  Evaluating Anti-GDF6 Treatment as Potential Therapy for Advanced Melanoma and Breast Cancer
Apurv Soni, MD (Pre) (UMMS)  Understanding Predictors and Trends of Maternal and Child-Health in India at an Individual, Community, and Population Level
Mentored Career Development (KL2) Training Program

Stephanie Carreiro, MD (UMMHC)  
Mara Epstein, ScD (UMMS)

iSense: Wearable Biosensors to Evaluate the Evolution of Opioid Tolerance  
Population-based Research on Monoclonal Gamopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS)

Community Research Innovative Scholars Program

Lorraine S. Cordeiro, PhD, MPH (Amherst)  
Sovanna Pouv (community partner)

Food Security, Health Risks, and Nutrition Education Among Immigrant and Refugee Women in the United States  
Adapting and Piloting a Physical Activity Program for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder  
UMass Dartmouth Grows: Ecological and Equity Based Approaches to Food Justice  
Community-based Yoga to Improve Adherence to Weight Loss Recommendations

UMCCTS-Voyager Therapeutics Collaborative Special Pilot Project Program

Christian Mueller, PhD and Neil Aronin, MD (UMMS)  
Michael Green, MD (UMMS)

Development of a Mammalian-based Regulated Promoter for microRNA Expression  
Systematic Investigation of a Muscle-specific AAV9 Capsid Variant for Efficacious, Safe, and Reversible Delivery of Therapeutic Secreted Tumor Suppressor Proteins

Welcome!

Teresa Zash, Director of Operations
UMMS Office of Global Health

We're extremely pleased to welcome Teresa Zash, JD/LLM, as the new Director of Operations in the UMMS Office of Global Health. As the OGH Director of Operations, Teresa will provide oversight for OGH activities and the implementation of OGH sponsored programs. She will also ensure that we have a comprehensive set of enabling platforms for global health projects that optimize efficiency, compliance, and impact.

Teresa can be reached by email at Teresa.Zash@umassmed.edu or through the Office of Global Health at 508-856-2840. We hope that you will take the opportunity to introduce yourself to Teresa and to welcome her to UMass.

Read More

CHEAR: Children's Health Exposure Analysis Resource

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) established CHEAR to advance our understanding of the impact of the environment on children's health and development.

CHEAR provides selected children's health researchers access to laboratory and data analysis services to add or expand environmental exposures as a component of their research.
comprised of concurrent mini symposia, poster session, and oral presentations, with panel discussion featuring the work of researchers from across the 5-UMass campuses. Retreat attendees will include a diverse group of investigators, faculty, clinicians, nurses, community agencies, students, and staff ranging from basic scientists to population health and community-based researchers.

Don't miss out on this exciting educational opportunity! This will be a great venue for collaboration and networking too!

Exposures measured by CHEAR will cover the breadth of the “exposome,” which encompasses all environmental exposures including chemical, physical, and biological stressors, as well as lifestyle and social environments, from conception through adolescence.

Learn More

Call for Nominations for the 2016 Marion Spencer Fay Award

The Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership of Drexel University College of Medicine invites you to nominate a woman physician and/or scientist who has made an exceptionally significant contribution to health care as a practitioner, medical educator, administrator and/or research scientist. This award is intended to recognize past contributions and support the ongoing work of an outstanding woman physician or scientist. Consideration will be given to the nominee’s future potential. Learn More

Call for Abstracts

Advancing the Science of Community Engaged Research: Innovative and Effective Methods of Engagement

Hosted by Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Meharry Medical College

The Advancing the Science of Community Engaged Research organizing committee invites you to submit poster abstracts and/or learning lab proposals for the 2016 Conference. Poster abstracts and learning labs are due April 30, 2016. Conference will be held August 25-26, 2016, Washington, DC

Learn More

EVENTS

Molecular Medicine Special Seminar

Andrew S. Greenberg, M.D.
Senior Scientist and Laboratory Director
Obesity and Metabolism Laboratory
Tufts Medical Center

"The Role of Acyl CoA synthetase 4 in Obesity-Associated Adipocyte Dysfunction"

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
12:00 pm
UMCCTS Team Science Webinar Series

Nancy J. Cooke, PhD
Professor & Program Chair, Human Systems Engineering
The Polytechnic School, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering
Arizona State University

Science Director, Cognitive Engineering Research Institute

"Enhancing the Effectiveness of Team Science"

Thursday, March 24, 2016
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm (EST)
WEBINAR

The National Academies recently released a report titled "Enhancing the Effectiveness of Team Science." This presentation will provide an overview on the report and will summarize changes to the practice of science, particularly the growth of team-based collaboration as an integral component of the research enterprise. It will also cover some of the challenges of team-based research such as team member diversity, the need for deep knowledge integration, the potential for goal misalignment, conducting research with very large groups of scientists, and geographic dispersion of team members. These challenges can be addressed through application of research on science and non-science teams. Specifically, those engaged in collaborative research can enhance the effectiveness of science teams through interventions relevant to team composition, professional development of team members, and leadership. Suggestions for enhancing the effectiveness of geographically dispersed teams and for aligning university promotion and tenure criteria with collaborative research will also be covered.

Register now for this educational and informative webinar!

For past UMCCTS Team Science Webinar Series presentations - please click here

5th Annual
M2D2 $100K Challenge
2016 Showcase

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
5:00 - 9:00 pm

UMass Lowell University Crossing
Moloney Hall
220 Pawtucket Street, 2nd Floor
Lowell, MA 01854

The Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) will be hosting the 5th Annual M2D2 $100K Challenge 2016 Showcase Event. Novel Bio-Tech and Medical device technologies will be presented, along with a poster session and networking session.

Register Now for this exciting event!
Education series continues!

Ann Kwong, PhD
CEO and Founder, TREK Therapeutics and InnovaTID Pharmaceuticals
Pharma experience includes Shering Plough, Vertex

"Selecting the Unmet Medical Need to Address: It's Not as Simple as it Sounds"

Thursday, March 31, 2016
Albert Sherman Center, 2nd Floor Auditorium
University of Massachusetts Medical School

3:30 - 4:30 pm - Lecture and Case Study
4:30- 5:30 pm - Networking (drinks and hors d'oeuvres)

Introductory Lecture: For a pharmaceutical company, deciding what indications to attack is a complex decision based on the size of the medical need, health economics, funding, government and NGOs, market size, epidemiology, return on investment, unintended consequences of philanthropic work, the probability of success (POS), commercial opportunity, scientific knowledge and the size of the company. This lecture discusses some of the factors that go into the equation and how different companies have come up with different responses.

Case Study: This lecture will describe how a scientist worked backwards from the targeted unmet medical need to design the assays and criteria used to design and define a clinical candidate.

Register Now for this informative and educational lecture! This event will be a great opportunity for networking and collaboration! Register today! Space is limited.

Autism Awareness and Acceptance CELEBRATION

Friday, April 1, 2016
University of Massachusetts Medical School

8:00-9:00 am - Department of Pediatric Grand Rounds
Amphitheater I (2nd and 3rd floors, Medical School)
Connie Kasari, PhD
"Early interventions for autism spectrum disorder: Active ingredients and deployment to the community"

5:30 - 8:00 pm - Family Activities and Provider Fair
Albert Sherman Center, 1st floor, UMMS

For more information contact:
Connie Kasari, PhD, Autism Resource Center
ChildResearch@umassmed.edu
508-835-4278
Inaugural Melvin S. Cutler Lecture

Sir Michael Marmot
Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health
University College London (UCL)
Director, UCL Institute of Health Equity
Leading expert on health inequalities both in the UK and globally.

"The Health Gap: The Challenge of an Unequal World"

Tuesday, April 12, 2016
12:00 - 1:00 pm
Faculty Conference Room, 1st floor Medical School Entrance
University of Massachusetts Medical School

A reception will follow in the Medical School Lobby

Advance registration is requested, please email ghs@umassmed.edu

Dr. Marmot will be available to sign copies his book during the reception.

WPI Healthcare Delivery Institute (HDI)
Healthcare and Medical Robotics Innovation Forum
Friday, April 8, 2016
8:15 am - 2:00 pm
60 Prescott Street
Worcester, MA 01609

Click here for complete information and to register

Boston University Clinical and Translational Science Institute
5th Annual Translational Research Symposium
Monday, March 28, 2016
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Metcalf Hall, George Sherman Union
775 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

Click here for complete information and to register

Human Research Protection Program (HRPP)
Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Clinical Research Professionals Group (CRPG) Meetings:
Wednesday, April 13, 2016
12:30 - 1:30 pm
Lazare Auditorium, S1-607, UMMS, Worcester

Learn More
Do you have an interest in developing and translating a new or improved medical device or diagnostic test? Are you a clinician who sees a clinical need for devices? Are you an engineer who needs access to more business acumen or a clinical partner to move forward? The Medical Device Development course is an opportunity to explore and navigate the principles underlying the challenges of medical device and diagnostics development, including technology transfer, the regulatory process, and commercialization. This two-day intensive course addresses how researchers can identify clinical need, evaluate and validate novel technologies, improve on existing medical devices and technologies, and conduct pre-clinical and clinical studies and post-market surveillance. In addition, the course is an opportunity to network with local experts who reflect the diversity of careers in this field.

Applications due: Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Learn More

Are you applying for a NIH career development ("K") award or your first research ("R") grant?

This workshop will provide an overview of NIH and the grant review process, including a demonstration of a grant review panel, key steps in writing a grant, and the details of K and R awards. In an interactive session you will work with colleagues to draft an effective specific aims page for your application.

Presenters:
Joan M. Lakoski, PhD (American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy)
Robert J. Milner, PhD (UMMS)

Register now for this informative workshop!

If you are not at UMMS, please email, Susan.Tremallo@umassmed.edu

Sponsored by the UMMS Office of Research and Faculty Affairs and Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Grantwriting Coaching Group

The National Institute of Health (NIH)-funded National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) was created to address the unmet need for greater diversity in the biomedical and behavioral research workforce. Grantwriting Coaching Groups for Postdocs and Junior Faculty Actively Writing NIH-style Proposals is one of four professional development-training programs that is committed to increasing the number of people from diverse backgrounds successfully obtaining NIH grants.

The kickoff event for the first grantwriting cohort in the Southeast region will take place May 18-20, 2016 at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA.

Postdocs and Junior Faculty developing an NIH or NIH-style research grant proposal, learn more about applying as a mentee by clicking here.

Senior Faculty wishing to apply as a coach-in-training for the next cohort, click here.

March 2016 Events
FUNDING and TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NIH NCATS SBIR/STTR Applications

The NIH, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) has several open Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program funding opportunities designed to help advance and commercialize translational research technologies. NCATS encourages applications in these research areas of interest: drug discovery and development, diagnosis and devices, bioinformatics and information technology and clinical research.

Unless otherwise noted, current funding opportunities have an application deadline of April 5, 2016 at 5:00 pm local time.

A Quicker Path to Zika Virus Funding

Through a recently issued funding opportunity announcement (FOA) titled Rapid Assessment of Zika Virus (ZIKV) Complications (R21), NIAID and its partner institutes seek exploratory and developmental research projects on Zika virus and its complications. Topics of concern include a possible association with severe microcephaly in the babies of infected pregnant women and the potential clinical impact of transfusion-transmission of ZIKV.

The FOA lists 40 high-priority research areas, and the list is not exhaustive. Example topics include:

- Strategies to prevent transmission of ZIKV to the fetus after infection in the mother
- Responses and immunological interactions with other flaviviruses
- Novel diagnostic, vaccine, and therapeutic strategies against ZIKV

Note that clinical trials are outside the scope of this FOA.

For complete details, read the February 19, 2016 Guide announcement.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
The Moore Inventor Fellows Program

Limited Submission Opportunity

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation is launching a competition to identify outstanding inventors who harness science and technology to address critical issues of scientific research, strengthen environmental conservation, or improve
The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) was founded in 2006 to enhance clinical and translational research across the five University of Massachusetts campuses and our clinical partner, UMass Memorial Health Care. With the receipt of an NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) in 2010, and its successful renewal in 2015, the UMCCTS joined a network of 62 NIH-funded centers collaborating to transform the conduct of clinical and translational research across the U.S. Other key partners include our patients and communities, foundations, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, and members of the venture capital and philanthropic communities.

We encourage you to browse through our website to learn more about how the UMCCTS catalyzes clinical and translational research through education and training, pilot funding programs, cores, and services. Please remember to cite the CTSA Grant # UL1-TR001453 in all supported journal publications.