

# UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Newsletter

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## UMCCTS Newsletter, November 2013

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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November 2013 Newsletter

University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**~COMING SOON~**

**UMCCTS Pilot Project Program (PPP) and Global Health 2013/2014  
Pilot Project Grant Funding Opportunity**

New this year, the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science and the Office of Global Health will pool resources for the PPP funding opportunity.

Full details of this funding program will be **announced on November 18, 2013** and will also be available at the UMCCTS grant opportunities website:

<http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/research/grantopps.aspx>.

Questions? Please contact Nate Hafer at [nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu)

**UMCCTS Small Conference Grants  
Funding Opportunity**

**Introduction**

The University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science (UMCCTS) is pleased to announce a funding call for **Small Conference Grants**. This funding opportunity is designed to leverage the convening capacity of the UMCCTS to create new, multidisciplinary teams to address a pressing health need. For the purpose of this award, a conference is defined as a symposium, educational program, seminar, workshop, or any other organized and formal meeting.

**Purpose**

The UMCCTS supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed toward life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research. This fund serves to spur inter-disciplinary collaboration and strengthen the University's research portfolio in clinical and translational research. By providing seed funding to outstanding faculty members, this fund facilitates the development of faculty-to-faculty networks within the University system, thereby leveraging the considerable expertise and resources that exist on the individual campuses. It is assumed that successful conferences will serve as a springboard to attract additional funding from extramural sources.

All UMass faculty (Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, Worcester) with an interest in clinical and translational science may apply. **Project awards of up to \$1,000 can be requested.**

**Proposals will be accepted on a "rolling basis" (no due date). Investigators will be notified of award approximately 2-3 weeks post submission.**

**Complete details, criteria to apply, and the application process** are available at the UMCCTS website: <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/research/grantopps.aspx>

**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Grand Challenges Explorations  
Accepting Proposals for Round 12**

**Grand Challenges Explorations** is now accepting proposals for its latest application round. Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies.

Of particular interest to clinical and translational science is the Explorations Topic: *The “One Health” Concept: Bringing Together Human and Animal Health*.

Initial grants will be **US \$100,000 each**, and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to US \$1 million.

Proposals are being accepted online until **November 12, 2013, 11:30 am (Pacific Standard Time)**.

**For complete information, application, and online submission:**

<http://www.grandchallenges.org/Explorations/Pages/ApplicationInstructions.aspx>

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**Charles A. King Trust  
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program**

Application guidelines are now available for the **2014 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program in the Basic Sciences and Clinical/Health Services Research**.

The primary goal of the Program is to prepare postdoctoral fellows in Massachusetts for academic careers as successful independent investigators. United States citizenship is not required.

Funding period from: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016. **Two-year fellowships range from \$43,500-\$51,000.**

**Application submission deadline:** Monday, December 16, 2013, 12:00 noon (US Eastern Time)

**Details and application materials:** [www.tmfgrants.org/King](http://www.tmfgrants.org/King)

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**EVENTS:**

**You're invited...  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual UMCCTS Community Engagement and Research Symposium**

**“COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH: EXPLORING THE REACH, IMPACT AND VALUE”**

**Friday, November 8, 2013  
8:30 am – 3:30 pm  
Albert Sherman Center, UMMS Worcester Campus**

The Symposium features a keynote address by Linda Silka, PhD, Director, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and Professor, School of Economics at the University of Maine; posters, networking for researchers and community partners, a panel discussion, and breakout sessions.

To Register (free): [http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr\\_symposium/2013/](http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium/2013/)

Questions? [communityengagement@umassmed.edu](mailto:communityengagement@umassmed.edu)

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**Bioinformatics Core and Program in Bioinformatics and Integrative Biology  
An Informal Discussion**

**“ADVANCES IN RESEARCH COMPUTING”**

**Steve Ellis**

Acting Lead Research Computing  
Information Services, UMMS

**Friday, November 8, 2013**

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Albert Sherman Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 2072  
UMMS Worcester Campus**

*Host: Manuel Garber, PhD, Director, Bioinformatics Core Facility*

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**UMMS Wellstone Center for FSH Muscular Dystrophy Research**

*invites patients, families and supporters to meet with  
FSHD researchers, clinicians and biotech partners at a:*

**“CELEBRATION OF A CLINIC AND RESEARCH CENTER  
SERVING FSHD PATIENTS IN THE NORTHEAST”**

**Saturday, November 16, 2013**

**11:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Albert Sherman Center - 1st Floor, Multi-Purpose Room  
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester campus**

Patients living with FSHD and their families and friends affected by FSHD are invited to join with researchers and clinicians to celebrate the re-location of the National Institutes of Health NICHD Senator Paul D. Wellstone Cooperative Research Center for FSHD Research headquartered at the UMMS. UMMS will highlight the opening of a new FSHD clinic in close partnership with Fairlawn Rehabilitation that will serve the clinical needs of FSHD families in New England and the Northeast and detail how patients and families can get more involved by partnering with Center researchers to develop innovative therapeutics to treat the devastating effects of FSHD.

The program will begin with an informal luncheon followed by presentations from leading FSHD researchers and clinicians to highlight the exciting research progress being made by the NIH Wellstone center to understand FSHD disease mechanisms and to develop innovative treatments through its partnerships with FSHD patients and industry. <http://www.umassmed.edu/wellstone>

**To RSVP or for more information about the Celebration**

**Please contact:** Paula Nims

Phone • 508-856-5862

Email • [Wellstone@umassmed.edu](mailto:Wellstone@umassmed.edu)

Or visit:

[www.umassmed.edu/wellstone/patientcelebration2013.aspx](http://www.umassmed.edu/wellstone/patientcelebration2013.aspx)

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## DID YOU KNOW?

### The Conquering Diseases Volunteer Recruitment Core

The Conquering Diseases Volunteer Recruitment Core can help you find research participants for your clinical trials. Would you like to list your currently recruiting study on our website? Complete and submit the form on the link and we'll publish your study on the Conquering Diseases website [https://ummsregappsdv05.ad.umassmed.edu/clinical\\_study\\_request\\_form.aspx](https://ummsregappsdv05.ad.umassmed.edu/clinical_study_request_form.aspx)

We can also feature your study in our monthly newsletter or help you recruit volunteers using our clinical research volunteer database.

Please contact Sarah Rulnick, Project Manager, [sarah.rulnick@umassmed.edu](mailto:sarah.rulnick@umassmed.edu) or 508-856-2557 to learn about our services.

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### Research Career and Writing Group ("K-Club" writing group)

The **Research Career Writing Group** ("K-Club" writing group), established in 2007, is co-lead by Drs. Doug Ziedonis and Sherry Pagoto. The group meets monthly to provide information and feedback on academic career development and on preparing a Research Career Award application (NIH K Awards, VA Research Career Awards, CTSA K12 Awards, etc.). Most faculty who participate and apply for a research career award have been very successful in getting funded (>80% success rate).

**Interested in joining?** To become a member, please contact Ms. Denise Barrett, Executive Assistant to Dr. Ziedonis, at [denise.barrett@umassmemorial.org](mailto:denise.barrett@umassmemorial.org)

K-Club website: <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/K-Club/index.aspx>

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## NEWS:

### NIH announces 15 Clinical and Translational Science Awards to help translate scientific discoveries to improved health

NIH announced the latest 2013 awards for the CTSA program. The 15 awardees are:

- Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York City
- Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
- Duke University, Durham, NC
- Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
- Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN
- Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA
- Stanford University, Stanford, CT
- Tufts University, Boston, MA
- University of Colorado, Denver, CO
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC
- University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
- University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

To read the full report and to view descriptions of these awardees and other CTSA institutions:  
<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/oct2013/ncats-22.htm>

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### **Noted in the recent issue of *umassmedNOW* Newsletter**

**Examining how cytomegalovirus spreads from mother to fetus** – UMMS identifies new insights into leading cause of birth defects associated with infection.

<http://www.umassmed.edu/news/2013/research/examining-how-cmv-spreads-from-mother-to-fetus.aspx>

*This study was funded with a pilot grant from the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science.*

**Discovery prompts new hope for pediatric HIV cure at UMMS** – Researchers refocusing efforts to replicate the results of first functional HIV cure in an infant.

<http://www.umassmed.edu/news/2013/research/discovery-prompts-new-hope-for-pediatric-hiv-cure-at-umms.aspx>

*“We have benefited from the very strong research environment here (UMMS), including the Center for AIDS Research and more recently, the Center for Clinical and Translational Science.”*

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### **UMCCTS Request for Volunteers for Educational Forum**

#### **To UMCCTS Members at the UMass Worcester Campus:**

The UMass Center for Clinical & Translational Science (UMCCTS) is looking to expand educational opportunities to assist faculty in the transition from a mentored research career to that of an independent investigator. The primary focus is to craft an educational forum to successfully compete for NIH R-series awards and the K to R transition. We are looking for a few experienced faculty interested in leading this effort. We have training materials from similar programs at other institutions, so volunteers wouldn't necessarily need to create a new program from scratch. If you are interested in leading or participating in this new initiative, please contact Drs. John Keaney ([john.keaney@umassmed.edu](mailto:john.keaney@umassmed.edu)) or Nate Hafer ([nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu)).

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***Please remember to cite the CTSA Grant # UL1TR000161 in all supported journal publications.***

***Visit our website for all the latest news, funding announcements, seminars, educational training, sign-up for membership, etc., <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts>***