



## CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

**DATE:** January 7, 2016

**TO:** All UMass Faculty with an Interest in Clinical & Translational Science

**FROM:** Katherine Luzuriaga, MD, Director, UMass Center for Clinical & Translational Science

**RE:** UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund 2016 – Request for Letters of Intent

### **Introduction**

The University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is pleased to announce a funding call for the UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund (LSMF) 2016. The UMass LSMF supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed towards life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research.

As in past years, the LSMF is coordinated with the UMass President's Office Science and Technology (S&T) Initiatives Fund.

### **Purposes**

#### **UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund**

The UMass LSMF supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed toward life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research. Current and future projects supported by this fund are envisioned to advance the therapeutic, device, intervention, etc., under study along the translational pipeline. The fund serves to spur inter-campus collaboration and strengthen the University's research portfolio in clinical and translational research. To support this mission, projects must include at least one investigator from the UMass Worcester campus and a collaborator from at least one of the other UMass campuses. 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 projects will attract additional funding from extramural sources.

#### **UMass President's Office Science and Technology (S&T) Initiatives Fund**

*The 2016 S&T Initiatives Fund announcement will be released in the first quarter of 2016.*

The S&T Initiatives Fund is a tool to catalyze research collaborations among UMass campuses and with other partners to create impact and economic engagement at many levels. It will provide resources to support well-established faculty who have a proven track record of securing external funding and who are positioned to attract major research and development funding opportunities for the University as part of an overall strategy to grow and strengthen the University's R&D enterprise. The intent of the program is to focus on areas of strategic importance to campus research and to the state and its Innovation Economy (e.g., clean energy, digital healthcare, life sciences, IT and "big data," cyber security, advanced manufacturing, medical devices and the like). Key criteria also include catalyzing partnerships with other UMass campuses, other research institutions and Massachusetts industry.

**Applicants interested in the S&T Initiatives Fund can read more here:** <https://www.umassp.edu/funding-opportunities/science-and-technology-fund>

### **LSMF and S&T Review Process**

Proposals for projects that are inter-campus, directed toward life sciences, and include at least one investigator from the Worcester campus may be eligible for either the Life Sciences Moment Fund or the S&T Fund. Applicants **SHOULD NOT** submit the same proposal to both funds. Instead, if you have questions about which fund is most appropriate for your proposal please contact Nate Hafer, PhD, Director of Operations, UMCCTS ([nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu))

As part of an integrated review process, proposals may be shared across grant programs based on appropriateness of mission and availability of funds.

### **Eligibility**

As the Life Sciences Moment Fund (LSMF) is a pilot program of the UMCCTS, all faculty members interested in applying to the fund must first become members of the UMCCTS.

Membership is free, easy, and entails visiting the UMCCTS website at <http://umassmed.edu/ccts/footer/membership/> and completing the on-line membership form. A number of benefits are associated with joining the UMCCTS and include:

- Access to internal pilot grants offered by the center
- Access to core facilities and services operated through the center
- On-campus faculty rates for those UMCCTS cores operating on a fee-for-service basis, and
- Opportunities to participate in education, training and scientific programs sponsored by the center

### **Allowable Use of Funds**

Individual project awards (\$50,000 to \$75,000 for 1 year) will be made on a competitive basis to enable investigators to accelerate the translation of innovative, cutting edge research into:

- New understanding and/or diagnosis of a disease process
- New devices, therapeutics, and vaccines for the treatment and/or prevention of disease
- Support for junior investigators
- New standards of care in the practice of community medicine
- New approaches to community-based research demonstrating true bi-directionality between community and academia
- New methodologies to leverage institutional strengths and new initiatives, and/or
- The pursuit of high-risk, high reward studies

The intent of the funding is to speed up the rate of progress to move a research project, clinical finding or other discovery into a broader network of activities, while maximizing the breadth of *interdisciplinary* skills applied to the research question. We are particularly interested in proposals which feature a clinical scientist working with a basic scientist.

Thank you for your interest in clinical and translational science. We look forward to your ideas.

## **DEFINITIONS OF CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH**

NIH defines *Clinical Research* as:

- Patient-oriented research. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Patient-oriented research includes: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) therapeutic interventions, (c) clinical trials, or (d) development of new technologies.
- Epidemiological and behavioral studies.
- Outcomes research and health services research.

*Translational Research* as:

- The process of applying ideas, insights, and discoveries generated through basic scientific inquiry to the treatment or prevention of human disease.

### **Oversight**

The UMass LSMF is overseen and administered by the Steering Committee of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (<http://umassmed.edu/globalassets/center-for-clinical-translational-science/homepage/review-committees/umccts-steering-review-committee.pdf>). The Steering Committee makes funding decisions based upon the scientific merits and potential impact of the proposals.

## Criteria for Awards

The evaluation criteria that are used to review proposals include the following:

- **Intellectual Merit** – projects that include all efforts to enhance the impact of scholarly endeavors on benefiting the human condition, which for the purposes of this fund will include enabling technologies, will be considered for funding
- **Inter-Campus Collaboration** – projects that are multi-campus in orientation and involve at least one collaborator from the Medical School will be considered for funding
- **Growth Opportunity** – projects that demonstrate the opportunity to be leveraged to attract and secure outside funding from federal, state, industry, foundation and other sources will be considered for funding
- **Use of UMCCTS Resources** - Applicants will receive added consideration from the reviewers if they plan to use one or more of the research resources available through the UMCCTS (<http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts>)

## Application and Review Process

### **Letters of Intent – Due date Friday, March 4, 2016**

Describe in two (2) pages or less the work that has motivated you to apply for this particular fund; the collaborating PI(s) and the role of each in the project; and the importance of the collaboration. The LOI review process seeks to make two determinations:

1. That the project meets one of more of the definitions of clinical and translational research defined above.
2. That the availability of Life Sciences Moment funding would accelerate the translation of innovative, cutting edge clinical research into:
  - New understanding and/or diagnosis of a disease process
  - New devices, therapeutics, and vaccines for the treatment and/or prevention of disease
  - Support for junior investigators
  - New standards of care in the practice of community medicine
  - New approaches to community-based research demonstrating true bi-directionality between community and academia
  - New methodologies to leverage institutional strengths and new initiatives, and/or
  - The pursuit of high-risk, high reward studies

Letters of Intent (LOI) will be reviewed by the UMCCTS Steering Committee to determine which projects are inter-campus in orientation and significantly linked to the criteria listed above. Based on this review, the most promising projects will be selected for full proposal submission. Full proposals will be subject to a standard NIH-type study section assessment.

**Please email your Letter of Intent (2 pages or less) as an attachment (Word or PDF) to [ccts@umassmed.edu](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu) on or before Friday, March 4, 2016 by 5:00 pm (EST)**

Full proposals will be due on Friday, May 6, 2016 for those selected finalists.

## Application Timeline

<b>Request for Letters of Intent</b>	<b>Thursday, January 7, 2016</b>
<b>Letters of Intent Due</b>	<b>Friday, March 4, 2016</b>
<b>Letters of Intent Finalists Notified</b>	<b>Monday, March 21, 2016</b>
<b>Full Proposals Due</b>	<b>Friday, May 6, 2016</b>
<b>Project Start Date</b>	<b>Friday, July 1, 2016</b>

### **Partial List of CCTS Resources Available for LSMF Applicants**

More information about these resources can be found at <http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts> or by contacting Nate Hafer at [nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu)

- Massachusetts Integrated Clinical Academic Research Database (MICARD)
- REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture)
- Informatics Core
- Quantitative Methods Core
- Regulatory Consultation
- Clinical Research Center
- Investigational Drug Service (Pharmacy)
- Conquering Diseases Biorepository
- Conquering Diseases Volunteer Recruitment Core
- Community Engagement resources and consultation services
- Special Population Resource Center
- Small Molecule Screening Core
- Structure-Based Drug Design Core