



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

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

FROM: Katherine Luzuriaga, MD, Director, University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science (UMCCTS)

RE: UMCCTS Small Conference Grants (SCG)

Introduction

The University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is pleased to announce a funding call for small conference grants (SCG). 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 purposes 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 science projects related to clinical and translational research. The SCG serves to spur interdisciplinary 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.

Review Process

Oversight

This grant program is managed by the Operations Committee of the UMCCTS. Initial review will be performed by the Director and Director of Operations for the UMCCTS. Proposals that pass initial screening will be forwarded to the full Operations Committee for final approval. Funding decisions are based upon the scientific merits and potential impact of the proposals.

Eligibility

As a part 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://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/signup.aspx> and completing the on-line membership form.

Allowable Use of Funds

Project awards (up to \$1,000) can be requested. Allowable costs include rental of necessary equipment; travel and per diem or subsistence allowances; supplies needed for conduct of the conference (only if received for use during the budget period); conference services; publication costs; funds to help defray registration costs for some select attendees (for example, women, racial/ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, other individuals who have been traditionally underrepresented in science, graduate students); speakers' fees; meals/food/beverages (in accordance with all UMass and UMass-Worcester policies).

Criteria for Awards

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

- *Intellectual Merit* – Reviewers will judge the likelihood that the proposed conference will have a substantial impact on the pursuit of the goals of the UMCCTS, which is to advance our understanding of biological systems, to improve the control of disease, to enhance health, and to train the next generation of clinical and translational researchers.
- *Inter-Campus Collaboration* – projects that are multi-campus in orientation will receive additional consideration 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.

Application Process

Describe in two (2) pages or less the objectives, specific program, and logistical arrangements for the conference; describe the format, including the principal topics to be covered, problems to be addressed, and developments or contributions the conference might stimulate. Explain how the conference will further the goals of the UMCCTS. Provide a detailed justification for the conference, including the scientific need, timeliness, and usefulness of the conference to the scientific community. Describe the intended outcome and deliverables from the conference. Estimate the expected size and composition of the audience, as well as the method of selection. Describe plans for publicizing the conference to all interested participants.

List the agenda and speakers (not included in the 2 page limit).

Include a budget and budget justification (not included in the 2 page limit).

Please email your application as an attachment (Word or PDF) to: Nate Hafer, PhD, UMCCTS Director of Operations at nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu

Deadline Date

There is no deadline date for submission of SCG applications as this fund is on a “rolling basis”, but obvious consideration must be taken into account to allow for an adequate review of the proposal and subsequent delivery of funding award.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to your ideas.