



## CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

March 30, 2026

### UMASS CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE – SMALL CONFERENCE GRANTS

#### Introduction

We are 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, transdisciplinary teams to address a pressing health need. For the purposes of this award, a conference is defined as a symposium, think tank, workshop, or otherwise 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 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.

#### Review Process

##### Oversight

The program is overseen and administered by the UMCCTS Executive Committee. The Committee makes funding decisions based upon the scientific merits and potential impact of the proposals. The committee will review proposals to determine which projects are significantly linked to the criteria listed below. Funding decisions are based upon the scientific merits and potential impact of the proposals.

##### Eligibility

The Principal Investigator(s) must be a faculty member at a UMass campus. Cross campus and transdisciplinary collaborations between UMass faculty are strongly encouraged.

All applicants must become members of the UMCCTS. Membership is easy and entails completion of a quick, [on-line membership form](#).

##### Allowable Use of Funds

Project awards (up to \$3000) can be requested. Allowable costs include rental of necessary equipment; travel and per diem allowances; supplies needed for conduct of the conference (for use during the budget period); conference services; publication costs; funds to help defray registration costs for some select attendees (for example students); speakers' fees; meals/food/beverages (in accordance with all UMass 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 vision of the UMCCTS, which is to build healthier communities together through translational innovation.
- *Cross-Campus Collaboration* – projects must be multi-campus in orientation to qualify for funding.
- *Growth Opportunity* – projects that demonstrate the opportunity to attract and secure outside funding will be considered for funding.
- *Infrastructure Building* – projects should develop infrastructure that benefits not just this particular project but the ability of other investigators to collaborate across campuses in the future.

### **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 a single attachment (Word or PDF) to: Nate Hafer, PhD, UMCCTS Director of Operations at [nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu)

### **Deadline Date**

There is no deadline date for submission of SCG applications as this fund is on a “rolling basis”. Funding decisions are typically made 2-3 weeks after submission.

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