

Center of Excellence in Apoptosis Research

Call for UMass Amherst Faculty and Baystate Medical Center Clinician Membership

The Center of Excellence in Apoptosis Research (CEAR) is housed within the Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute (www.PVLSI.org), a joint venture of Baystate Medical Center and UMass Amherst. CEAR's primary mission is to conduct interdisciplinary research on the signaling pathways that regulate apoptosis in a tissue-specific manner and to help translate this research into new diagnostic tools and therapeutic interventions. This effort will help address important health concerns, advance basic research and contribute to regional and state economic development.

CEAR is designed to be an effective vehicle for bringing together a broad range of engineers, scientists and clinicians throughout western Massachusetts with interests in apoptosis, especially as it relates to biomedical applications. In addition to diagnostics or therapeutics directly focused on measuring or controlling apoptosis, biomedical applications in which apoptosis plays a significant role may include emerging technologies such as: biochemical assays, genetic screens, tissue engineering, cell therapy, stem cells, and cell transplantation.

Membership in CEAR is open to all PVLSI, Baystate Health and UMass Amherst life scientists, physical scientists, engineers, and clinicians with a general interest in cell death or the potential to bring new technologies to the discipline.

Benefits of CEAR membership include:

- Facilitated access to state, federal, and private funding opportunities
- Targeted industry representation via the new CEAR Director for Business Development
- Stronger, more visible cell death research community
- Access to CEAR grant programs, including:
 - Pilot grants program
 - Interdisciplinary postdoctoral fellows program
- Access to PVLSI facilities and staff
- Participate in identifying strategic research foci for new faculty and clinician-scientist recruitment through the John Adams Biomedical Investigator program

Responsibilities of CEAR membership:

- Participate in the development of our research community. Areas of participation may include member meetings, informal research talks, symposia, and meetings with industry scientists.
- Inform CEAR administration of all awards, invention disclosures, and other developments relevant to our funding partner, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative John Adams Innovation Institute, as well as to support CEAR marketing and business development efforts.

For more information about membership, contact Lawrence M. Schwartz, PhD, Science Director, PVLSI and Director of CEAR (schwartz@bio.umass.edu, 413.545.2435).