The Inaugural Dance Science Symposium is the first in a series of regional meetings that aim to bring together dancers and dance scientists to discuss critical and emerging research within the field of dance science and medicine. Grounded in the premise that science is not separate from art, the symposium will feature original research conducted by professional dancers who are simultaneously active in the field of dance science and medicine. The panel of speakers will reflect diversity in praxis and theory with respect to their dance training and performance histories, as well as in their respective areas of scientific inquiry and expertise. Presentations will address pertinent questions related to dance training and performance in research, as well as illustrate novel applications of dance-based practices or interventions in community contexts and/or clinical populations. The symposium will culminate in a panel discussion on the current state of research in dance science and medicine, with space for musings and insights as they relate to the next steps and evolutions for research in dance.

Speakers: Ms. Siobhan Lawless (School of Graduate Studies, SUNY Downstate Medical Center), Ms. Cecilia Fontanesi (The Graduate Center, The City University of New York), Dr. Aston K. McCullough (School of Public Health & Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Teachers College, Columbia University), and Dr. Elizabeth Coker (Tisch School of the Arts, New York University).

Organizer: Aston K. McCullough, PhD, MS, MA, CFP, Postdoctoral Research Associate, School of Public Health & Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Applied Physiology, Columbia University Teachers College

Host: Thomas Vacanti, MFA, Dance Program Director & Associate Professor, College of Humanities & Fine Arts, University of Massachusetts Amherst