Announcement: Pilot Awards for Translational and Clinical Studies

The mission of Georgetown-Howard University Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS) and the national Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA) programs includes the continued promotion of interdisciplinary research that translates basic findings into clinical applications and the generation of advances that contribute to improving the process of research.

Please Note: With the recent receipt of our new competitive CTSA and a short year for the first year of funding, we have a unique situation where we have more than the usual amount of pilot funds but only 6 months to spend them. Therefore we have a short time line for submitting, a reduced maximum length for the narrative (4 pages), and a requirement for institutional cost sharing if the award is to go beyond March 31, 2016. We also encourage applications that are supplements to existing projects.

2015 Pilot Translational and Clinical Studies (PTCS) Funding Priorities

A major focus of the new CTSA is to advance transformation of the research process. Although studies will have additional, complementary scientific goals, new PTCS studies will be required to variably develop, utilize and evaluate one of the following translational methodologies.

1. Novel Approaches for Engaging and Recruiting Special and Underserved Populations:
   Examples:
   - Utilization of community based participatory research methods where community stakeholders are engaged in collaboration.
   - Utilization of social media to recruit and/or retain participants.

2. Application of Translational Laboratory Technologies to Clinical Research
   Examples:
   - Incorporation of high throughput, discovery oriented, assays (i.e …omics) , and/or other cutting edge technologies (e.g. interrogation of electronic health records, advanced statistical modeling) into clinical research projects

3. Novel Approaches to Team Science
   Examples:
   - Evaluation of team building approaches and their effectiveness
   - Evaluation of interdisciplinary team science impact on research outcomes

Funding Opportunity Description

Award Amount: up to $50,000

Duration: 4- 6 months, option of extending with institutional support
Review Criteria

Applications will be peer reviewed and evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Utilization and evaluation of the translational methodologies in the new priority themes/categories**
- **Use of an interdisciplinary approach.** Representation of researchers with expertise in basic and clinical sciences and/or populations, services/patient oriented outcomes, and the likelihood of effective collaborations will be evaluated. The project *per se* may be interdisciplinary either in its conceptualization and/or application.
- **Inclusion of investigators/collaborators from multiple participating institutions.** Meaningful engagement of investigators from multiple GHUCCTS institutions (Georgetown University, Howard University, MedStar, DC Veterans Administration Medical Center, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory).
- **Addressing a health-relevant problem with potential to impact quality of life, morbidity, mortality, and/or public health.** Given the location and missions of GHUCCTS, pilot projects that address health disparities and/or problems specific to under-served and over-burdened populations (e.g., urban minorities, disabled veterans, elderly populations, etc.) will be given additional prioritization.
- **Promising direction for future extramural funding.**
- **Collaborations between junior and senior investigators.** For experienced investigators, utilization of junior investigator/trainees; for junior investigators, adequate/appropriate mentoring and consultation.
- **Approach** Will the proposed methods achieve the aims, etc.
- **Significance** If successful will the project move the field forward.
- **Innovation** Could apply to the approach, technology or its application to a novel focus.

Requirements for All Applications

Applying for support will require electronic submission of:

- A limit of four (4) pages (single spaced, 11-point font, 0.5-inch margins) for description of Aims, Background and Clinical and Translational Impact, Supporting Preliminary Studies, Design and Methods. If the study involves human subjects a description of human subject considerations is not subject to this limit.
- Current NIH biographic sketch for each investigator and/or mentor(s).
- Budget and budgetary justification clearly identifying consortium budget details and total by using NIH budget pages (no more than four pages – salary support for PIs is not an allowable cost, but salary support for research personnel is allowable). Justification should include all identified investigators responsibilities toward achieving project aims.
• Commentary from the applicant’s institution’s executive leader for GHUCCTS as well as a division chief and/or department chair supportive of the proposed pilot study, assuring that appropriate time and resources will be made available to successful applicants. (standard form provided on GHUCCTS website)

• Consistent with NIH policies, IRB or IACUC approval or exemption, as well as conflict of interest review will be required prior to transmission of funds and project implementation. Investigators will be assisted in preparing regulatory materials in parallel with the request for PCSP support. Because of the short time line we strongly encourage preparation of regulatory documents as soon as possible.

Because of the extremely short time line applications are due no later than COB Monday, November 2, 2015.

Please complete the Intent to Submit Form (Due not later than October 16th 2015): Link to Form

Applications Submissions are on-line: Link to Application

Additional Information

Requests for information, including clarification about GHUCCTS resources available for pilot studies and questions about the preparation and submission of applications for pilot studies, can be obtained from the GHUCCTS Navigator: Yejide Obisesan, HU CTSA Navigator (yejide.obisesan@howard.edu; Howard University Clinical Research Unit, 4-West Howard University Hospital, 2041 Georgia Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20059)