

Translational Pilot Studies

These seed grants are for pilot studies encouraging **clinical-translational** research.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR FALL, 2017 SUBMISSION

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is seeking to fund pilot studies to develop **A) novel methodologies and technologies that will yield generalizable solutions to research problems that can be translated to a clinical setting, and B) innovative, multidisciplinary clinical and translational research at UB and Buffalo Translational Consortium institutions.** Focus will be on projects that: **1) allow clinical and translational researchers to generate preliminary data for submission of extramural federal and private research grant applications; 2) seek to improve clinical research design, biostatistics, clinical research ethics, informatics, or regulatory pathways; and/or 3) support the design, development, and/or validation of novel, clinically applicable devices, biomarkers, and analytical methods, and other avenues as defined by the applicant that will advance clinical and translational research. In particular, those applications that A) address healthcare disparities in under-served or under-represented populations in the Western NY region, and/or B) pair “early stage” (by NIH definition) investigators with established investigators (i.e., PIs who have a history of substantive extramural research funding), thus providing a built-in mentoring system, or applications that promote multidisciplinary collaborations will be given priority for consideration of funding.** Research that addresses healthcare disparities can be implemented across all levels of analysis, including examples such as understanding genetic or epigenetic effects on healthcare disparities, through biological and neurobiological influences on healthcare disparities, individual differences in response to drugs that may explain differential health benefits to new or commonly used pharmacological interventions, or developing unique programs that address healthcare disparities or underrepresented populations in Western New York, including T3 and T4 translational research projects. In addition, proposals that will advance ways in which creativity and innovation can be stimulated, fostered, and augmented in the design and conduct of clinical-translational research will be entertained.

These Pilot Studies are funded by our Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), as well as by institutional funds, with intended duration of *one year*, from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: You must **1) be a full-time faculty member at UB or Buffalo Translational Consortium institution; and 2) agree, if called upon, to serve as a reviewer of proposals submitted for pilot studies funding either by UB faculty or in exchange of reviews with other CTSA institutions.**

Application for Pilot Studies funding involves a two-tiered process: **1) Submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and 2) submission of a full proposal (if invited to do so, following review of LOIs).** Submission of the project for IRB and/or IACUC approval (if the project involves human or animal studies) at the time of or before submission of the full proposal is required. **This is a new requirement.**

SUBMISSION OF LETTERS OF INTENT (LOIs, 2-page limit): **First page:** 1) provide succinct title for the proposal, and 2) list the names/degrees and institutional affiliations of all Investigators involved in the project; **Second page:** provide a succinct abstract of the proposal, summarizing a) what the project entails; b) a clear statement of the translational significance of the project, the expected outcomes, and the potential applications of those outcomes; and 3) how the pilot study will lead to substantive extramural funding (e.g., an NIH RO1, R21, or comparable grant).

DUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2017, no later than 5:00 PM. Submit as a PDF; Arial, 11-point font, single-spaced text; 0.5-inch margins.

Email to: CTSA-Pilot-Studies@buffalo.edu

Subject Line: LOI CTSA Pilot Studies FALL 2017.

All submitters will be notified in early September with a decision as to whether or not their proposals have been chosen to move forward to the second tier of application submission.

SUBMISSION OF FULL APPLICATIONS (by INVITATION):

DUE DATE: DEC. 6, 2017, by 5:00 PM

Email SUBJECT LINE: CTSA Pilot Studies 2017

Submit a single pdf to: CTSA-Pilot-Studies@buffalo.edu

NOTE: If a similar proposal has been reviewed and scored, but not funded, by an *external* funding agency, you also are invited to apply, **provided your proposal meets the criteria stipulated above.** In such a case, you must include a copy of the reviews (complete summary statement) as an Appendix at the end of the proposal.

Application Format

Project Description (Arial, 11-point font, single-spaced text; 0.5-inch margins)

***Requirements:** Applicants *must* submit an [Electronic Approval Form](#) and all investigators must update their [Conflict of Interest](#) via the [Click Portal](#) at the time of full application submission. **This is a new requirement.**

Project Description should use the following template:

- Page 1:** a) Project Title; b) Names/degrees of all project investigators and their institutional affiliations; c) Abstract (300 word max); and d) five key words relevant to the research topic; e) Note on page 1 whether or not the study involves human subjects; f) Note on page 1 whether or not the study involves vertebrate animals.
- Pages 2-5 (limit 4 pages max):** a) Specific Aims; b) Background and Significance of

the project (which should include the clinical-translational relevance and potential impact on the field); **c**) a *brief* overview of Approach (avoid minutiae of methods and jargon); and **d**) study timeline with specific milestones to be accomplished and role of pilot study in securing extramural funding for a larger, forward-going project.

Additional information:

3. **References**
4. **Budget and Justification (maximum allowable: \$50,000 direct costs; there are no indirect costs) (1-page limit)**
IMPORTANT: All costs needed for project must follow the Uniform Guidance Cost Principles and must be allowable, reasonable, allocable and consistent. Faculty salaries/fringe and tuition are not allowable expenses on the pilot awards.
5. A current NIH-style biosketch for each Investigator (5-page limit per biosketch). The personal statements should make clear the role of each investigator on the project.
6. Documentation [If applicable]: **Submitted** [IRB](#) and/or [IACUC](#) materials pending approval. **This is a new requirement.**
7. **Appendix [If applicable]:** A copy of the critiques from the prior review of your submitted proposal.

NOTE: Appendices, other than funding agency reviews, are not allowed and will not be reviewed if attached.

****All documents should be assembled into a single pdf****

Review Process

Applications will be rated using the following criteria:

1. scientific merit and innovation
2. clinical significance and translational impact on the field
3. potential for securing extramural funding
4. realistic milestones and feasibility of completion within 1 year.
5. rationale and utilization of proposed budget

No clinical trials beyond phase IIA will be supported by this CTSI program.

Additional Information

The Clinical Research Office will provide two roundtable training sessions during Fall 2017 in order to provide assistance for investigators' pilot project submissions involving IRB approval.

The annual CTSI Colloquium will be held Thursday, **October 12, 2017 at the Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) 5019**. Presentations will be made by the CTSI Translational Pilot Studies and BERD Programs, and previous pilot study award recipients. Anyone interested in pilot funding is encouraged to attend.