CTSI Pilot Project Awards
Request for Applications (RFA):

Non Patient-Oriented Clinical/Translational Research

Timeline

Application Deadline: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 by 5 p.m.
Notice of Awards: Wednesday, September 28, 2016
Award Funding Period (up to 12 months): September 28, 2016 – September 27, 2017

Purpose

The UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute provides intramural awards to support the growth of interdisciplinary and investigator-initiated clinical and translational research across UF’s broad range of scientific disciplines. It is expected that all research supported by CTSI Pilot Project Awards will result in one or more publications in a peer-reviewed journal and will provide critical preliminary data to support extramural applications.

This RFA supports clinical and translational research pilots in which an investigator (or colleague) does not directly interact with human subjects, such as clinical research conducted on material of human origin (e.g., tissues, specimens, cognitive phenomena); epidemiological and behavioral studies; outcomes research and health services research; and the development of new technologies and methodologies. Three types of 12-month awards are available through this RFA: Trainee, Junior Faculty, and Novel Methods and Technologies.

Areas of particular interest for this RFA include, but are not limited to, the development of novel methodologies for clinical and translational research.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a UF faculty member or UF trainee (resident, graduate student, post doc, fellow) at the time of award. See “Guidelines by Type of Award” for additional details.
- Applicants can only submit one application for which they are the principal investigator, but individuals can be listed as co-investigators on more than one proposal.
- Recipients of previous CTSI pilot awards are eligible to apply for awards to support fundamentally new research projects, providing awards are at least two years apart.

Awardee Requirements

- Awardees must be in compliance with all IRB or IACUC policies. Applicants whose proposals will require IRB or IACUC approvals should demonstrate they have taken preliminary steps to prepare submissions so minimal time will be lost in securing approvals.
- Any pilot projects involving model organisms and/or genome-wide association studies (GWAS) must comply with National Institutes of Health policies on sharing model organisms and GWAS.

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1 For NIH definitions of clinical and translational research please see: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm)
• Awardees must submit progress reports on the scientific and fiscal status of the project 6 months and 12 months after the notice of award is received.

• Awardees are expected to present their research during the annual UF CTSI Research Day in the form of a poster or presentation. Awardees are also expected to present the results of their research at scientific meetings and publish findings in peer-reviewed journals.

• In accordance with NIH requirements:
  o All presentations and publications resulting from work funded by a CTSI Pilot Award must include a funding citation. The following language should be used: “Research reported in this publication was supported by the University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute, which is supported in part by the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences under award number UL1 TR001427. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.”
  o Awardees must ensure that electronic versions of any peer-reviewed manuscripts arising from CTSI-funded research and accepted for publication are deposited in PubMed Central, the NIH's digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature. See http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-033.html.

• Awardees must notify the CTSI at CTSI-TraditionalRFA-L@lists.ufl.edu during the funding period if there is a significant change in the scope of work that would affect the outcome of the project or necessitate re-budgeting.

Review Process and Criteria

All proposals will be triaged for feasibility and responsiveness to the RFA. Proposals that are accepted will be referred for scientific review.

Scientific Reviews: The CTSI will conduct a scientific review of all accepted applications. Reviewers will use NIH review criteria to score submissions based on scientific merit.

Funding Decisions: In addition to scientific review scores, the CTSI will consider the following criteria in making its funding decisions, specifically whether proposals:

• Are multidisciplinary, collaborative and/or inter-institutional in the clinical and translational research enterprise;
• Encourage the development or use of emerging methodologies and technologies that may affect future research;
• Allow rapid acquisition and/or analysis of proof-of-principle data to proceed with full-scale investigations;
• Support the participation of clinical and translational science trainees;
• Show significant promise in securing external funding;
• Provide insights that could be generalizable to other projects or could lead to the adoption of best practices in the prevention and treatment of disease.

Budgeting and Spending Requirements

• Funds can only be used for direct costs.
• Funds cannot be used to support faculty salaries or major equipment purchases.
• Funds are non-transferable.
- Funds must be used in the 12-month period following their release. Any un-spent funds will be returned to the CTSI at the end of the 12-month funding period.
- Funds must be used for the activities detailed in the application.
- Funds requested for CTSI services will be provided as non-transferable credit.
- Continued funding during the award period is contingent on compliance with awardee requirements and adequate progress in meeting the project timeline.

Total Available Funding and Award Amounts

The CTSI will make a total of up to $150,000 available through this RFA depending on the quality of submissions and budget availability. Maximum amounts available for each type of award are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Award</th>
<th>Amount Available</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trainee</td>
<td>up to $7,500 per award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Faculty</td>
<td>up to $20,000 per award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novel Methods and Technologies</td>
<td>up to $25,000 per award</td>
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Guidelines by Type of Award

**Trainees** (resident, graduate student, postdoc or fellow) who have been engaged for at least one year in a terminal certificate or degree program are eligible to apply for an award of up to $7,500. This includes individuals seeking an MS, MPH or PhD with an emphasis in clinical/translational science (including those enrolled in a T32 program). Trainees must be conducting research under the auspices of a mentor. The qualifications of the mentor are a factor in the review process. Trainees should include a biosketch and letter of support from their mentor(s).

**Junior Faculty** at the Assistant Professor level are eligible to compete for an award of up to $20,000. Junior Faculty should include a biosketch and letter of support from their mentor(s).

**Novel Methods and Technologies** awards encourage development of novel methods and technologies relevant to clinical/translational science. A maximum of $25,000 will be awarded for each project. Funding will support new methodological (e.g., biostatistics, ethics) or technological (e.g., medical device, analytical instrumentation) developments.

Application Instructions

Applications must include a cover sheet signed by the principal investigator and the PI's department chair; abstract; brief description of translational impact; brief description of how the proposal would lead to external support; mentoring plan (for trainees and junior faculty); project proposal/research plan; key personnel and biosketches; budget, justification and cost estimates; and letters of support if applicable. Download the application form for complete instructions. Proposals that are incomplete or otherwise do not follow instructions will be returned to the investigator without review.

Contact for Questions

Please email questions to CTSI-TraditionalRFA-L@lists.ufl.edu. Applicants are encouraged to visit the CTSI website to learn about additional CTSI services available to facilitate research at UF. A list of CTSI services and contacts can be found at: www.ctsi.ufl.edu/research.