UF-FSU CTSA Hub

UF+FSU CTSA Hub
Request for Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) Pilot Applications
Cycle 1, 2025–26

Timeline

RFA Announced	Thursday, January 29, 2026
CTS Pilot Information Session (optional) Registration Required (see details below)	Wednesday, February 11, 2026
LOI Deadline	Friday, February 20, 2026
Full Application Submission Invitations Sent	Friday, February 27, 2026
For Applicants Invited to Apply **ONLY**	
Pilot Design Studios	Monday, March 09 – Friday, March 20, 2026
R-Connect: Feasibility Review	Monday, March 09 – Friday, March 20, 2026
Application Deadline	Friday, April 17, 2026
Notice of Awards	Friday, May 15, 2026
Anticipated Start Date*	Monday, June 01, 2026
Anticipated Funding Period**	Monday, June 01, 2026 – Tuesday, June 30, 2027***

*For studies including human-subjects or animal research, IRB/IACUC and NIH Prior Approval documents are required no later than Monday, June 01, 2026.
**IRB/IACUC and NIH Prior Approval must be obtained prior to funding being released and study start up.
***This is a 12-month award; NCE/cost extensions are **not** allowed.

Background & Purpose

The UF+FSU CTSA Hub provides intramural awards to support the growth of interdisciplinary and investigator-initiated clinical and translational science across a broad range of disciplines. The CTS Pilot Program is seeking translational science proposals focused on **advancing the development and application of reusable CTS tools**. This includes frameworks and methods designed to accelerate CTS.

Successful applicants will describe how the pilot will create practical, scalable resources and/or methods that can be adopted and adapted by other investigators across research settings and patient populations. Priority will be given to proposals that optimize the conduct of multisite clinical trials, reduce clinical trial participant burden, and/or optimize translation of findings into clinical practice/community settings. In addition, priority will also be given to proposals that optimize access to and use of novel data and/or enhance workforce development, as well as projects that address change management (e.g., multi-site implementation, differences in practices or patient populations; drivers of variation in change management approaches).

Projects may represent a distinct new effort or may be embedded as a component of an existing project (e.g., an R01 or similar mechanism), provided the pilot clearly focuses on the development, testing, or evaluation of a

reusable tool. Special consideration will be given to submissions that cross-collaborate between UF (in Gainesville and/or Jacksonville) and FSU. Use of Hub resources is encouraged and can be identified by working with the Hub R-Connect Team https://www.ctsi.ufl.edu/research/.

Examples of reusable CTS tools:

- Digital twin models, including models of both systems and processes
- Novel data linkage, including linking phenotypic and genetic data
- Tools to evaluate the impact of agentic workflows, risks, and safety events
- Models and tools for the novel use of unstructured data that can be generalizable to multiple patient populations
- Linking national databases to the UF Health Integrated Data Repository and/or the OneFlorida+ Data Trust
- Health communication frameworks and tools to support translation of findings into practice and patient/provider education
- Practice facilitation models and implementation support packages to translate findings into practice
- Evaluation tools to assess uptake and scale-up of evidence-based best practices
- Frameworks to compare AI tools against current clinical performance and/or deployed models for local benchmarking
- Development of standardized, validated bioassays (i.e., immune profiling, biomarker analyses, pharmacodynamic assays) that can be reproducibly used and scaled across clinical trial settings
- Process development SOPs, workflows, or assays enabling standardized and scalable workflows for investigational new drug development
- Innovative preclinical model development (organoids, explants, or other experimental systems) that accelerate translational research and enhance reproducibility

Who can apply?

- Individuals at UF or FSU holding the rank of assistant, associate, or full professor, both tenure-track and non-tenure-track (including research and clinical professors), are eligible to serve as the Principal Investigator (PI). Individuals who are lecturers, instructors, research scientists, or trainees are eligible to be co-investigators (Co-Is).
- Applicants may only submit one application for which they are the Principal Investigator, but individuals may be listed as Co-Investigators on more than one proposal. Clinical/scientific advisory roles on more than one application are also allowed.
- Recipients of previous UF + FSU CTSA Hub pilot awards are eligible to apply, provided this pilot award will support a fundamentally new research project, but only if the previous project is complete.

What are the budgetary allowances?

Up to **eight** CTS pilots budgeted at $25,000 to $50,000 each in total direct costs will be awarded, contingent on the type of project proposed. All funds are expected to be expended within the award period.

Budget and timeline appropriateness are a key basis for evaluation of the application.

Allowable costs for pilot projects adhere to general NIH grant policies and federal cost principles, primarily defined by the NIH Grants Policy Statement and the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200). There are exceptions noted below.

- Funds for pilot projects with human subjects or animal research will not be released until all regulatory and NIH Prior Approvals are received.
- Pilot awardees will not accrue Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs.
- Funds remain under the Dept ID of the CTSI for UF PIs and for FSU PIs a subaward will be released to FSU.
- Funds can only be used for direct costs.
- Funds cannot be used to support faculty salaries, student tuition, or other education-related expenses.
- Funds cannot be used for the following: major equipment purchases, desktop or laptop computers, mobile devices, software, or licensing fees.
- Funds cannot be used for conference registration and related travel expenses.

- Funds cannot be used for manuscript submissions.
- Funds are non-transferable.
- Funds must be used for the activities detailed in the application and final approved budget.
- Funds requested for CTSI services will be provided as a non-transferable credit.
- Continued funding during the award period is contingent upon compliance with awardee requirements and adequate progress in meeting the project timeline.
- Funds remaining at the end of the 12-month award will be returned to the UF + FSU CTSA Hub CTS Pilot Program.
- No Cost Sharing: Cost sharing (where the home institution contributes funds to the same project) is not allowed for these pilot projects.
- No Mixed Funds: Recipient organizations are not permitted to "mix and match" sources of funding that have different prior approval requirements, such as partially funding a pilot with direct NIH funding and voluntary uncommitted cost sharing.
- Sole Source of Funding: The pilot project must be entirely supported with the direct NIH funds provided by the specific UM1 grant award.

CTS Pilot Information Session (optional).

The CTS Pilot Information Session will provide prospective applicants with an overview of the UF + FSU CTSA Hub CTS Pilot Program and guidance on how to submit a competitive application. The session will cover the program's goals and priorities, with a focus on funding translational science projects that advance reusable clinical and translational science (CTS) tools, methods, and frameworks. Attendees will learn about eligibility requirements, allowable budgets, and key timeline milestones, including the required Letter of Intent and full application process. The session will also review expectations for stakeholder engagement, use of CTSI Hub resources, and required components such as Pilot Design Studios and R-Connect feasibility reviews. Ample time will be provided for questions to help investigators assess fit, clarify requirements, and prepare for upcoming deadlines.

Facilitation: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. – noon via Zoom
Registration Required: **https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/L2m31uWZReyf3F3xwsuVAQ**

What is the application process?

1. Pre-Application (LOI)

The pre-application (Letter of Intent) is a required step before applicants can be invited to submit a full application. This serves as an initial screening to determine eligibility and fit for the program. Only those who submit a complete pre-application may be invited to submit a full application.

Required Materials for the Pre-Application (LOI)

- **Letter of Intent (no more than one page)**
  - Name, e-mail address, college, dept. and telephone number of the Principal Investigator
  - Descriptive title of proposed research
  - Overall aim and brief research overview
- **NIH SciENcv Biosketch**
  - Principal Investigator

Pre-Application (LOI) Submission

- No later than **Friday, February 20, 2026**
- **Submit to** CTSI_Pilot-Awards-l@lists.ufl.edu

2. Proposal Submission

Only invited applicants may submit a complete application. Applicants are required to utilize both the Pilot Design Studios and R-Connect: Feasibility Review in the development of their application. These activities can occur concurrently.

- **Pilot Design Studios:** Applicants will be asked to present their proposed pilots at a CTSI Design Studio that will be attended by faculty and community scientists to provide feedback about the pilot that the applicants may elect to incorporate into their proposals.

- **R-Connect: Feasibility Review:** R-Connect is a dynamic initiative designed to streamline and enhance the research process for investigators and research staff. Our expert committee will conduct reviews using a range of tools and resources, including cohort discovery tools, study endpoint simulations, community consultation studios, and community scientists' assessments. Submit your request for review through the **UF+FSU CTSA Hub R-Connect portal**.
- **Full Application Submission:** Applicants must submit the full application to the CTSI Pilot Funding listserv (CTSI_Pilot-Awards-l@lists.ufl.edu) by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026.**

Will support from other entities enhance the potential for funding?

Leveraging funding from this award by combining resources from other entities is encouraged but not required. **All projects must include a commitment to stakeholder engagement.** Advancing translational science requires mutually beneficial collaborations among scientists, clinicians, research participants, and stakeholders who have a wide range of expertise and perspectives on scientific and operational roadblocks. These partnerships and collaborations across individuals and organizations provide diverse expertise, capabilities, and perspectives that are essential for successful translation.

Proposal Review Criteria

Funding determination and application selection conducted by the CTS Pilot Scientific Review Committee and will be based on:

1. Significance related to the gap that the resource, tool, or method will address
2. Innovation
3. Investigators
4. UF and FSU project team
5. Approach
6. Potential for the development of practical, scalable resources and/or methods that can be adopted and adapted by other investigators across research settings and patient populations
7. Potential use cases for CTS tool or method
8. Potential for pilot to lead to CTSA RC2, other NIH funding, or other competitive funding (e.g., NSF, PCORI)
9. Use of hub resources and services

When will applicants receive notification of award?

Notification of award is expected by **Friday, May 15, 2026**. Projects will be set up and managed by the UF-FSU CTSI Research Administration teams.

Publication Acknowledgement

All publications shall acknowledge, *"Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Center For Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number UM1TR005128. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health. This manuscript is the result of funding in whole or in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It is subject to the NIH Public Access Policy. Through acceptance of this federal funding, NIH has been given a right to make this manuscript publicly available in PubMed Central upon the Official Date of Publication, as defined by NIH,"* along with the assigned UM1 grant number and must be in PMCID compliance.

Shared Resource Acknowledgement

All publications utilizing UF+FSU CTSA Hub resources shall acknowledge, "*The authors wish to acknowledge the support of the UF+FSU CTSA Hub, which is supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through award number UM1TR005128. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health*," and must be in PMCID compliance.

Questions

Please direct all questions about the application process, budget requirements, research scope, or other science-related inquiries, as well as consultation requests, to **CTSI_Pilot-Awards-l@lists.ufl.edu**.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the CTSI Research Services page to learn more about additional services available to facilitate research at UF and the FSU Health Research Connections page to learn more about additional services available to facilitate research at FSU.