



CCTS Partner Network Multidisciplinary Pilot Program Request for Applications

The mission of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) is to reduce disparities in diseases disproportionately represented within the Deep South as we accelerate discovery to improve human health. Through the **CCTS Partner Network Multidisciplinary Pilot Program**, we seek to develop the future research workforce in a spirit that fosters collaboration, team science, and innovative discovery. The CCTS seeks full applications that address scientific questions consistent with the Center's mission at any "stage of research along the path from the biological basis of health and disease to interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public" as described in NCATS' Translational Science Spectrum (<https://ncats.nih.gov/translation/spectrum>). Proposals to investigate the operational principles underlying each step of the translational process are encouraged. Special consideration will be given to those projects that bring together investigators across two or more partner institutions. Priority will also be given to applications that address scientific questions of particular importance to the health of our communities, including health disparities and health challenges across the life course, as well as applications that involve community-based participatory research (CBPR), medical device development, population health investigation or innovative approaches to promote efficiency in participant recruitment to clinical studies.

Key Dates

Posted Date	September 6, 2016
Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)	September 7, 2016
Letter of Intent Due Date	October 17, 2016, 5pm CT
Full Application Due Date (invitation required)	January 16, 2017, 5pm CT
Scientific Merit Review	January – February, 2017
Advisory Council & NIH Review	March, 2017
Earliest Start Date	April 1, 2017
Expiration Date	December 31, 2016

FULL APPLICATION GUIDE:

Application guidelines are available on the CCTS website: <http://www.uab.edu/ccts/researchcommons> – click on Pilot Funding. As part of this Full Application, please complete the subsequent pages, which include:

- Title of project, Principal Investigator name, institution and academic unit
- Co-sponsorship Letters of Support
- NIH biographical sketch of the principle investigator including research support (new format, http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424R-R_biosketchsample_VerC.docx)
- Lay Summary – 2500 characters
- Research Strategy – 4 pages, 11pt Arial font, 0.5" margins. References do not count in the page limitation.
- Rigor, Reproducibility & Transparency: Authentication of Reagents – 1 page
- CCTS Consultation Summary
- Budget, Budget Justification – please follow PHS298 Form Page 4

Please do not include a cover letter or abstract – they will not be reviewed.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications should follow the specifications provided and are due electronically as a single PDF to CCTS Research Commons (ccts@uab.edu) by 5pm CT, Monday, January 9, 2017. Applications will be reviewed for scientific merit, mission alignment and eligibility by content experts drawn from CCTS Partner Network and the CTSA Consortium.

QUESTIONS

Visit the CCTS Research Commons (<http://www.uab.edu/ccts/researchcommons> – click on Pilot Funding) or contact us (205.934.7442; ccts@uab.edu).

TITLE OF PROJECT

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ACADEMIC TITLE: _____

INSTITUTION: _____

SCHOOL: _____

DIVISION/DEPARTMENT/OTHER: _____

CO-SPONSORSHIP

Applicants are expected to identify at least one non-CCTS co-sponsor with shared scientific interests. A co-sponsor may include a school, a department, a division, a University-wide Interdisciplinary Research Center, etc., or a combination thereof, based at the PI's home institution. As part of the Full Application, please list all potential co-sponsors in the designated application form. If you have questions about potential co-sponsors, please contact the CCTS Research Commons (ccts@uab.edu; 205.934.7442).

Please append formal letter(s) of support that reflect financial commitment(s) as part of the single PDF application.

BIOSKETCH

Only the Principal Investigator's biosketch is requested. This document should conform to the new NIH requirements ([NOT-OD-15-032](#); Version C, OMB No. 0925-0001/0002 (Rev. 08/12)).

Please append the PI's Biosketch as part of the single PDF application.

LAY SUMMARY

(Limit: 2500 characters, including spaces)

Applicants need to provide a lay summary of the research plan that is targeted to a general, non-scientific audience. The text should be easily readable, minimizing jargon, acronyms, complex grammatical structures or complicated concepts. The applicant should use everyday words and positive phrasing. For additional guidance, please see: <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/more/news/10-tips-for-writing-a-lay-summary/>

Please append the Lay Summary as part of the single PDF application.

RESEARCH STRATEGY

Please insert up to four (4) pages (excluding references) describing the experimental plan. This section should be organized as follows:

1. SIGNIFICANCE

- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- Rigor, Reproducibility & Transparency: Describe the general strengths and weaknesses of the prior research being cited as crucial to support the application. Consider discussing the rigor of previous experimental designs, as well as the incorporation of relevant biological variables and authentication of key resources.
- Please provide a clear and concise description of the central theme and goals of the program.
- Articulate how this project aligns with the mission of the CCTS. Please explain how this project addresses a disparate health challenge that may affect a special population (for example, tails of the lifespan [pediatric or geriatric], a group defined by ancestry, a disease disproportionately observed in our region, etc.).
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
- Please comment on how the proposed work fits the definition of Translational Research. Translational research refers to the multidirectional and multidisciplinary integration of fundamental, patient-oriented, and population-based research, with the goal of improving health and health care delivery.

2. INNOVATION

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

3. APPROACH

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Unless addressed separately in Item 15 (Resource Sharing Plan), include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
- Describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work. Please comment on how this work will set the stage for future, extramural support.
- Rigor, Reproducibility & Transparency: Emphasize how the experimental design and methods proposed will achieve robust and unbiased results.
- Rigor, Reproducibility & Transparency: Explain how relevant biological variables, such as the ones noted above, are factored into research designs, analyses, and reporting in vertebrate animal and human studies. Strong justification from the scientific literature, preliminary data or other relevant considerations must be provided for applications proposing to study only one sex.

4. REFERENCES CITED (outside of 4 page limit)

- Provide a bibliography of all references cited. Each reference must include the names of all authors, the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication.

Please append page(s) of the Research Strategy as part of the single PDF Application.

RIGOR, REPRODUCIBILITY & TRANSPARENCY: AUTHENTICATION OF REAGENTS

(Limit: 1 page)

The authentication plan should state in one (1) page or less how you will authenticate key resources, including the frequency, as needed for your research. Briefly describe methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies -- Key biological and/or chemical resources include, but are not limited to, cell lines, specialty chemicals, antibodies and other biologics. Note: Do not include authentication data in your plan.

Please append the Authentication of Reagents Page as part of the single PDF application.

CCTS CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Applicants invited to the second phase are expected to engage expert consultation specific to the proposed aims and related to project design, regulatory considerations and other discipline-specific issues that have bearing on the study design. Budgeting of any core service or shared expertise requires sign-off by that facility. Please connect with these groups through CCTS Research Commons (ccts@uab.edu; 205.934.7442).

CCTS Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) – Required

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

STATISTICIAN NAME: _____

Panels Done Quickly – Required

DATE OF PANEL: _____

PEER REVIEWER NAMES: _____

CCTS Clinical Services – As applicable

NAME OF CORE FACILITY / RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP: CCTS Clinical Research Support Program _____

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE NAME: _____

If budgeted services, FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: _____

NAME OF CORE FACILITY / RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP: CCTS Clinical Research Unit / Nursing _____

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE NAME: _____

If budgeted services, FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: _____

NAME OF CORE FACILITY / RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP: CCTS Child Health Research Unit

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE NAME: _____

If budgeted services, FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: _____

NAME OF CORE FACILITY / RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP: CCTS Phase I Unit

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE NAME: _____

If budgeted services, FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: _____

NAME OF CORE FACILITY / RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP: CCTS Bionutrition

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE NAME: _____

If budgeted services, FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: _____

NAME OF CORE FACILITY / RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP: CCTS Specimen Processing & Analytic Nexus a/o Biorepository

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE NAME: _____

If budgeted services, FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: _____

CCTS Informatics – As applicable

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

INFORMATICIST NAME: _____

Other Shared Facility – As applicable

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE NAME: _____

If budgeted services, FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: _____

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE NAME: _____

If budgeted services, FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: _____

DATE OF CONSULTATION: _____

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE NAME: _____

If budgeted services, FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: _____

BUDGET

Applicants may request up to \$60,000 Direct Costs with the CCTS Hub committing up to half. Co-sponsoring funds are expected to match CCTS funds. Awards are limited to 12 months in duration. Applicants should follow the format of the [PHS398 Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period](#)

Budgets are very specific to any given project and represent the financial implementation of the scientific aims. Please see RFA for additional guidance.

Please append the Budget as part of the single PDF application.

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

All budget expenses should be well justified. Please see the [NIH Guidelines](#) for more information on what should be included in a detailed budget justification. Pilot projects are not required to budget indirect costs (though they will be part of the award at the institution's current, published rate). The Budget Justification should be organized as follows; If funding is not requested in any particular category, please indicate "Not Applicable."

PERSONNEL

CONSULTANT COSTS

Not Applicable

EQUIPMENT

SUPPLIES

TRAVEL

Not Applicable

INPATIENT CARE

OUTPATIENT CARE

OTHER EXPENSES

Please append the Budget Justification as part of the single PDF application.