

11/5/2009

## CENTER FOR TRANSLATIONAL INNOVATION PILOT GRANT REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The Center for Translational Innovation (CTI) at the NUCATS Institute is dedicated to spurring and supporting new innovative translational research and accelerating the commercialization of biomedical technologies through hands-on assistance, direct pilot funding, and educational seminars.

### *Pilot Grant Initiative*

The purpose of the **Pilot Grant Initiative** is to promote **new** translational research projects that will attract future funding. For the scope of this pilot competition, translational research may include laboratory-based research with clear clinical impact; development of measures or markers of disease presence, severity, or improvement; and development of drugs, devices, or interventions to treat disease or to improve health – including the translation of previous research in animals to pilot clinical studies. Examples of past awardees can be found at <http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/news>.

### *Aims of the pilot grant program*

- Address important unmet clinical needs
- Provide seed funding for *novel*, high-risk ideas
- Foster new interdisciplinary and cross-college, cross-institution collaborations
- Provide funds to develop proof of concept data
- Fund milestone driven projects

### *Eligibility Requirements*

**1. Who may apply:** All **current** (at the time of application) full time faculty at Northwestern University, and full time investigators based at Children's Memorial and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago are eligible to apply. Young investigators and proposals with co-investigators are especially encouraged, as are proposals from multiple institutions or schools, and those with new collaborators. Limit 1 project per PI per submission cycle. For projects involving post-docs and students on visas, proof that the visa extends through the duration of the project period will be required before the award is made. **Only one resubmission is allowed** unless specifically invited by NUCATS. **Co-PIs are not allowed.**

**2. Project Timing:** Projects should be for one year or less. **Unless** IRB, IACUC, or NUCHSCR or other approvals are required, project start date should be assumed to be no later than March 1, 2010. **Funds will not be released until NUCATS is satisfied all required approvals are in place.**

**3. Amount of award:** We will fund awards up to \$50,000 but encourage proposals for lesser amounts and will require strict justification of budgets. A budget meeting may be held with participation from the PI, their respective department and/or research administrator, and financial administrators from the NUCATS institute. If necessary, minor adjustments to the requested budget will be made at that meeting. The total number of grants awarded depends on the number, cost and quality of applications, but we anticipate funding a minimum of 5 awards annually over 2 funding cycles.

### *Important Dates*

- Full proposals are due **on Sunday, Dec 6th, 2009. There will be no extensions.**
- Funding decisions will be announced in mid to late January 2010.

- The estimated start date for projects is **March 1, 2010**.

## ***Review Process***

The CTI has recruited a pool of internal and external reviewers. Any external reviewers will be subject to confidentiality agreements. Reviewers will focus on the criteria listed below. CTI staff will participate in the review process, but will not score proposals.

## ***Proposal Submission Instructions***

**This competition will use a web based submission process – paper and email submissions are not allowed.** An [NU NetID](#) is required for access. Failure to follow instructions will result in rejection of your application. Submission requires upload of two documents in .pdf format. Free PDF conversion tools can be found at [www.pdf995.com](http://www.pdf995.com). Templates for those documents can be downloaded from the web submission tool. Applications in progress can be saved and returned to later. Applicants can track application progress and will be able to view reviewer feedback through the web tool. Current applications will be archived and viewable to the applicant in the future. Access the web submission tool and full instructions at: <http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/pilots>.

## ***Post Award Requirements***

NU faculty selected for awards will be required to submit OSR-1 and OSR-100 forms before awards are finalized. Awardees will be required to submit a final report due one month after the funding period ends, including a one page report detailing actual project expenditures. Informal progress checks by NUCATS staff may occur on a quarterly or bi-annual basis. Awardees agree to complete brief periodic surveys to help NUCATS track key metrics. Annual updates are required until the project and its logical extensions have either been abandoned or reached completion. The NUCATS Institute should be notified when any related invention disclosures and/or patent applications are filed. Presentation of the results of the project at a future NUCATS Institute event is expected. Awardees will also be expected to participate in the review pool for future applications, when possible.

Any publications or presentations of work should include the following acknowledgement: “This publication was made possible by Grant Number UL1 RR025741 from the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and NIH Roadmap for Medical Research. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of NCRR or NIH.” A PUBMED Central ID should be sent to NUCATS so the publication may be incorporated into our bibliography and files [as required by the NIH](#).

## ***Application Evaluation Criteria***

- Scope of the proposed work elaborates specific and attainable goals, there is a corresponding timeline, and there are clearly defined anticipated results
- Innovation of central premise of proposal
- Novelty and newness of proposed work
- Impact of work (ranging from incremental to revolutionary) in the clinic
- Strength of the team
- Investigator has identified appropriate infrastructure to conduct the project
- Reasonable and realistic budget
- Future funding potential



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Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute

## *Inquiries*

Jim Bray

Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute

750 N. Lake Shore Dr., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

Chicago, IL 60611

Office: 312-503-1941

Cell: 773-209-5529

Email: [j-bray@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-bray@northwestern.edu)