NUCATS Institute
Pilot Awards
2019-2020 Request for Applications

Application Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2019 at 11:59pm CT

Competitive awards of up to $30,000 will be awarded to projects that can be completed within 12 months. NUCATS pilot funding is open to all eligible investigators, described below, but is particularly targeted at:

- Projects where the potential for strong clinical or translational impact on human health is clear and can be completed in the proposed timeframe (within 12 months);
- Junior faculty who have not yet established a significant funding base;
- Projects involving critical steps in the device and drug development pathway; and
- A need, while critical to translational science, that is too small to be suitable for conventional research funding mechanisms (e.g., biostatistics support for the development of preliminary data).

Priority Areas
Although applications are encouraged from across the broad domains of clinical and translational science research, we are especially interested in applications covering the following priority areas for Fall 2019 funding:

- Projects with high likelihood of translation to clinical or population health impact
- Projects that align with the Chicago Department of Public Health’s Healthy Chicago 2.0 (Executive Summary)/Healthy Chicago 2025 goals
- Studies that address health disparities/health equity

Allowable and Non-allowable Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Expense Examples</th>
<th>Non-allowable Expense Examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Consultation with faculty statisticians and statistical analysts in the Biostatistics Collaboration Center</td>
<td>≠ Design/printing of materials</td>
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<td>• Regulatory support from NUCATS</td>
<td>≠ Event expenses</td>
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<td>• Computational Cluster CPU time to run specific analyses</td>
<td>≠ Consultants</td>
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<td>• Participant recruitment stipends</td>
<td>≠ Technology development</td>
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<td>• Laboratory or hospital tests (e.g. CBCs)</td>
<td>≠ Staff/student/faculty salary</td>
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<td>• Analysis of samples by a Northwestern University or affiliated core facility</td>
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<td>• Bridge funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis</td>
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Note: Pilot funds cannot be used for clinical trials beyond phase IIA.

Note: Exceptions to the maximum award limit may be considered in cases for which significant scientific opportunity can be demonstrated; requests must be pre-approved by the NUCATS director or deputy director.
**Applicant Eligibility**

All applicants must be NUCATS members and either:

- Faculty in one of the NUCATS partner institutions (Northwestern University, Northwestern Memorial HealthCare, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago or Shirley Ryan AbilityLab), engaged in research and eligible to apply for follow-on external grant funding.

OR

- An individual (such as community/practice partners, students, trainees, post-doctoral fellows, residents and fellows) who is collaborating with a NUCATS member who meets the aforementioned requirements. This individual may be a co-investigator, but not a PI.

Biosketches for both investigators should be submitted during the application process.

Priority will be given to applicants without current "active" NUCATS support. If more than one application is submitted in a given round, please rank your applications by need.

**Application Process**

The NUCATS Pilot program team will conduct an initial administrative review, and then the NUCATS Pilot Award Review Panel will conduct a second layer of review depending on domain of the request.

- To apply, complete the appropriate application in Competitions ([https://grants.nubic.northwestern.edu](https://grants.nubic.northwestern.edu)). In 1,000 words or less, you must provide your project’s:
  - significance,
  - hypothesis,
  - aims,
  - analysis plan,
  - impact,
  - deliverables,
  - lack of alternate funding, and
  - plans for future funding.

- Complete and upload the required, additional cover sheet.

- Verify that the submitted budget clearly indicates (when applicable):
  - specific line-item estimates from the applicable NU cores and/or resources;
  - separate budget expenses/amounts for the academic and community co-PIs.

- If you are requesting services from Lurie Children’s Hospital, please contact the Office of Research before submitting.

**Prior Approval Requirement**

Our funding agency requires additional documentation prior to the release of funds. You will be required to cite our grant in your IRB or IACUC documentation and related publications, and we will need to forward your IRB or IACUC approval, protocol, and consent form to the NIH prior to the commencement of the project.

**Timeline**

- Application deadline: Monday, November 4, 2019 at 11:59pm CT
- Award decision: December 2019
- Earliest anticipated start date: January 2020

**Questions?**

Please direct questions about the pilot program to Abby Cosentino-Boehm at a-cosentino-boehm@northwestern.edu.