NUCATS Institute
Voucher Awards
2019-2020 Application Instructions

Application Deadline: Accepted on a rolling basis

Competitive awards of **up to $2,500** will be awarded to projects that can be completed within 6 months. NUCATS voucher 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 6 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).

Request Eligibility

- The request must be for clinical or translational research projects
- The request must be to develop pilot or feasibility data that will directly lead to a grant application in the near term (<12 months from award)
  - Example: funds cannot be used solely for statistical analysis for a publication
- Gap addressed by the request should not be fundable through other sources available to the applicant, including institutional funds
- The request should be hypothesis-driven

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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<tr>
<td>Analysis of samples by a Northwestern University or affiliated core facility</td>
<td>Bridge funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis</td>
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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.

Vouchers will not be given to applicants current "active" NUCATS support. If more than one application is submitted, please rank your applications by need.

**Application Process**

The NUCATS Leadership team will conduct a review of all submitted applications.

- To apply, complete the appropriate application in REDCap (https://redcap.nubic.northwestern.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=CR7M8FLXT3).
  In 500 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 (including grant mechanism and RFA, if applicable).

- 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.

**Timeline**

- Application deadline: Rolling applications
- Award decision: 2-4 weeks after submission and review

**Questions?**

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