

**Cleveland CTSC Announcement of
Annual Pilot Grant Competition
Pilot Research Support for Investigators**

The Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative (CTSC) and the Case Coulter Translational Research Partnership (CCTRP), Case Western Reserve University seeks to support innovative translational research projects focused upon the invention, preclinical development and/or first in man studies of novel therapeutic agents, biomedical devices and diagnostics designed to address unmet clinical needs. The mission of the CTSC and the CCTRP pilot program is to transform translational research not only by providing funding, but also by promoting basic and clinical investigator collaboration, increasing effective collaborations between biomedical engineers and clinicians, supporting the movement of promising technologies to clinical application, and providing access to valuable core technologies and services in a collaborative and service-oriented fashion.

The CTSC and CCTRP will provide seed money to faculty in multidisciplinary programs for Pilot Projects that will lead to efficient use of resources and support of inter-institutional, clinical translational research in the City of Cleveland. Investigators in the basic science and clinical departments at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth Medical Center, and University Hospitals are eligible. Priorities of the program are to facilitate development of enabling technologies, new therapeutic, diagnostic or outcomes assessment approaches and/or devices, novel cross-disciplinary collaborative programs, and promote research in the community. Thus, research which envisions or creates a stronger potential for intellectual property is encouraged.

The CTSC and CCTRP Annual Pilot Awards will **range from \$25,000 to \$75,000**, and may be requested for up to 1 year of support. Deadline for submission is **MAY 1st. Funding for the Annual Pilot Grant Awards will be granted by both the CTSC and CCTRP.**

Grants will be awarded in the annual funding cycle as funds permit. While new proposals from young investigators and clinical research scholars (e.g., KL2) are encouraged, proposals in this RFA will also be considered if the award would substantially enhance a current non-federally funded pilot project or if the award would provide start-up funding for a proposal to a federal agency for the use of CTSC and CCTRP resources that has been reviewed very positively at a national level. The CTSC and CCTRP welcomes proposals that propose interactions among its affiliated institutions or with corporate partners, and the matching of funds that would increase the number or enhance the financing of these awards. Awards to an established investigator will need to have a plan to engage an early career faculty member or investigator who is on a path towards being a clinical scientist and support the movement of promising technologies to clinical application and developing sustainable processes. CCTRP projects are expected to have a Biomedical Engineering faculty member as a co-PI.

Case Western Reserve University will serve as the fiscal entity through which CTSC and CCTRP monies will be distributed and awards administered. The amount of the pilot award will be dependent on the scope and type of the project. Awards may involve the incorporation of novel methodologies for translational studies and use of CTSC resources. It should be noted that the amount of awards may be enhanced from private and institutional funds to support transformative approaches or the training of early career colleagues.

The ultimate goal of the CTSC and CCTRP Pilot Award program is to focus on outcomes which will save, extend, and improve patient lives in Northeast Ohio.

REQUIREMENTS

- Application will be submitted electronically no later than May 1st via WebGrants (<http://webgrants.case.edu/>).
- Only one investigator can be named as PI. Additional collaborating investigators will be named co-investigators.
- Institution of record for a proposal is the PI's primary institution
- Applications may only be submitted by faculty members from member institutions and must include co-investigators from different schools or colleges or institutions. If the co-investigators are from the same school or college or institution, they must be from different departments and a case made in the application that the project is indeed interdisciplinary and new.
- The proposal must clearly present the intellectual contribution by each-investigator. A project where one of the investigators is simply providing access (to data, specimens or patients) is less acceptable than one where there is knowledge or skill sets that enhance the research.
- **If a CTSC Core is utilized, documented consultation from the CTSC Core director or his/her designee for each CTSC Core is required.**
- **Information provided electronically must include**
 - **A short summary of the work directed to the lay public (500 characters based on Arial, font 11, ½ " margins)**
 - **NIH biosketch of the PI and co-investigators**
 - **Dollar amounts of support currently available to the investigator**
 - **Active IRB/IACUC approval letter, if IRB/IACUC is required for your study**
 - **Detailed budget**
 - **Justification of use of the CTSC Core(s)**
 - **Research proposal (.pdf uploaded file, maximum 5 pages based on Arial, font 11, ½" margins) will include:**
 - **Background**
 - **Description of the study hypothesis, design, expected results, expected timeline, and feasibility.**
 - **Relevance and benefit to the CTSC/Translational Research**
- More than one proposal per faculty member acting as a co-investigator may be submitted; however, a faculty member is only eligible to receive one award as a co-investigator.
- Proposals from new investigators are **strongly encouraged**. For the purposes of this RFP, a new investigator is defined as a faculty member who is not tenured and who has not been a faculty member at Case or any other institution for more than six years in aggregate. The review panel can assign extra weight to a proposal from a new investigator to enhance opportunity for funding.
- Prefer proposals that represent a new collaboration or that develop infrastructure for translational research consistent with the goals of the CTSC. A new collaboration is one where the investigators have never worked together on a research project before.
- Proposals that simply build on existing collaborations are discouraged unless the proposed project represents a new direction for this collaboration or a substantial innovation. In such a case, the proposal should clearly describe the new direction or the transformative technology proposed by the existing collaboration (see below) and its translational agenda.

CONDITIONS

- Grant period will be from June 1st of the funding year to May 31st of the following year.
- An award request may include:

- maximum of \$5,000 in salary support for each investigator (must be at least two interdisciplinary investigators); however, established investigators are ineligible for this support
- up to \$30,000/year to support research assistants or personnel
- up to \$40,000/year for incorporation of CTSC genetics/genomics/ epigenomics/ proteomics threads, infrastructure, or novel phenotyping and outcome measures such as imaging and new clinical measures (including personal, social, and/or biomedical informatics.)
- Carryover of funds is **not** allowed

No funds will be provided for secretarial personnel, office equipment and supplies, tuition, travel, purchasing and binding of periodicals and books, dues and membership fees in scientific societies, honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers, recruiting and relocation expenses, office and laboratory furniture, rental of office or laboratory space, per diem charges for hospital beds, non-medical or personnel services to patients, construction or building maintenance, or major alterations.

NOTES:

1. The CTSC uses WebGrants online application software.
2. If this is your first time using WebGrants, you will need to register online at <http://webgrants.case.edu>. Once you have registered, you will receive an email with your user name and password.
3. Researchers should start the web-based application process and become familiar with the system one week prior to the submission deadline. The application may be saved without submission.
4. For reference guides go to, <http://casemed.case.edu/ctsc/investigators/tools.cfm>

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Go to WebGrants (<http://webgrants.case.edu/>)
- Login (If you are a new user, you will need to register first.)
- Click on "Funding Opportunities"
- Click on "CTSC Annual Pilot Grants yyyy"
- Click on "Start a New Application"
- Fill in the title of your proposal and Click on "Save"
- Click on "Go to Application Forms"
- Complete all forms (can do in multiple sessions)
- Once all forms are completed and conform to form instruction, submit your application **no later than May 1st**.
- WebGrants questions or problems?
 - Contact Richard Forsyth via email rjf92@case.edu or call 216 212 7293.

Publication Citation

As a reminder, the CTSC must receive acknowledgement on relevant publications. Please include the following text: "This publication was made possible by the Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland Clinic CTSA Grant Number UL1 RR024989 from the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a component of the National Institutes of Health 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.

REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by the CTSC Pilot Project review committee in collaboration with the CTSC Scientific Research Committee. When appropriate, external reviewers will be used by the Committee. Reviewers will provide a concise written report to the Committee. In making a decision, the Committee will take into consideration the following, with the heaviest weighting given to items 1-3:

1. Significance, originality, scientific merit and translational nature of the proposed project.
2. Direct relevance to CTSC goals and operations.
3. The applicant's ability to perform the proposed research, within the time frame allotted.
4. Budget justification.
5. Appropriateness of the exploratory activities and the likelihood that their completion will provide the basis for future successful funding and/or operational success within the CTSC framework.

The review committee would like to emphasize the importance of (a) providing a plan for CTSC resource use or enhancement; (b) specifying plans for how the project will lead to funding from other federal and non-federal granting agencies.

REPORTING GUIDELINES

Grantees are required to submit an interim report at 6 monthly intervals and a final report at the completion of the award summarizing major activities and research findings. They will also be required to provide information on the funding status of the research initiated with this grant as well as related publications in each of the succeeding four years. Presentation of the findings will take place once a year at a CTSA retreat.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION IS May 1st.