

PBRN Shared Resource Practice-Based Research Micro Grant Program Application

The PBRN Shared Resource (PBRNSR) seeks to catalyze research through the establishment of an easily accessible program for small pilot studies led by practice-based research network (PBRN) members, PBRN leaders, and/or community partners; particularly pilots focused on clinical translational research in community settings. The goals of the PBRN Shared Resource are to train PBRN clinical and translational researchers, develop bi-directional relationships, and enhance knowledge about research through involving community clinicians and members in research endeavors. The goal of the PBRNSR Micro Grant Program is to develop and support practice-based research networks, ultimately improving patient care in Northeast Ohio by fostering research ideas into translatable and facilitating research findings translated into changes in medical practice.

Brief pilot study grant applications developed by community members, PBRN members or practices, and/or PBRN network leaders, with the assistance of the PBRN Shared Resource (when needed), will be accepted on a rolling basis. Pre-applications will be submitted for preliminary review, followed by a meeting with the applicant and PBRNSR representative to finalize the project and create a finalized proposal. Finalized proposals will be submitted for peer review by the Community Micro Grant Review Committee, which consists of members of the Community Partnership Committee, the PBRNSR Steering Committee, the CRU Steering Committee, and CTSC researchers who are working with or have potential to develop collegial research relationships with community practices, organizations or groups.

Pilot studies will generally be funded for \$2,500. Studies that involve collaboration among more than one PBRN, collaboration with a community agency or group, or collaboration with a CTSC academic investigator may apply for a maximum of \$5,000. We anticipate that many projects will be able to be accomplished for less than the maximum, and encourage both applicants and reviewers to look for ways to maximize the yield of limited funds. Case Western Reserve University will serve as the fiscal entity through which monies will be distributed. The amount of the pilot award will be dependent on the scope and type of the project.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Practices currently in or willing to join CTSC-affiliated PBRNs or community organizations (existing or newly created) affiliated with the CTSC will be eligible to apply.
- Proposals from new or inexperienced investigators are **strongly encouraged**.
- 1 page pre-application (Page 3 of this document) will be submitted via **email to pbrn@case.edu or by fax to 216-368-4348** for preliminary review.
- Following pre-application submission PBRN Shared Resource staff will contact the applicant to arrange a meeting with a Shared Resource Director to finalize the project proposal.

Finalized proposals (2 pages) should include the following:

- Background
- Description of the study hypothesis, design, expected results
- Ethics and/ IRB Research Plan
- Expected timeline (including any necessary IRB submissions) and feasibility
- Relevance and benefit to PBRN development and translational research
- Budget (as appendix, excluded from page limit)

NOTES

Proposals including a new collaboration (the investigators have never worked together on a research project) or developing translational research infrastructure consistent with PBRNSR goals are preferred.

REVIEW PROCESS AND AWARD NOTIFICATION

Finalized projects will undergo peer review. The reviewer(s) will take into consideration the following:

- 1) Significance, originality, scientific merit and translational nature of the proposed project
- 2) Direct relevance to PBRN Shared Resource goals and operations

Priority will be given to applications that:

- 1) Involve both a PBRN and a community group or organization
- 2) Develop new relationships between community practices or groups and academic investigators
- 3) Generate new knowledge of community and practice relevance

Funding decisions will be delivered electronically (by email) within six weeks of the finalized project submission date. Awards are made on a rolling basis, for a maximum funding period of one year.

FUNDING AND REPORTING GUIDELINES

The fiscal year for funding runs from June 1st to May 31st. If, at the May 1st project progress report deadline, it is anticipated that funds will remain unexpended at the close of the CTSC grant year (May 31st), it is requested that this is indicated in the May 1st progress report in order for arrangements to extend funding into the next grant year be made.

Grantees are required to submit interim progress reports at the following intervals:

- 6 months following notification of funding
- May 1st (regardless of funding date)
- Final report at the completion of the award

Progress reports should describe how funds have been expended, what results have been obtained, and how the findings are informing plans for subsequent research.

CONDITIONS

- Initial funding period will be from notification of award through May 31st. Requests for funding extensions into the following CTSC grant year must be made in the May 1st progress report, for a maximum funding period of 1 calendar year from award notification.
- Award requests may include:
 - Supplies, personnel, technical/ software, etc.
- **Publication Citation: The Cleveland Translational Science Collaborative (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."

**PBRN Shared Resource Micro Grant Program
Pre-Application Form**

Investigator Name:

Organization:

Address:

Best Contact Number:

Fax:

Best Email Address:

Additional contact person and title (if applicable): _____

- 1) **Working Project Title:**

- 2) **What is the research question(s)?**

- 3) **What is already known about this question? What will your study add?**

- 4) **Who are the participants of the study?**

- 5) **What are the key variables for the study? How will they be measured?**

- 6) **What are the feasibility issues for getting the study done?**

- 7) **Why is this study worth doing?**

Responses may be emailed to pbrn@case.edu or faxed to [216-368-4348](tel:216-368-4348). Please call Michelle Hamilton/the PBRN Shared Resource at 216-496-2134 with questions.

PBRN Shared Resource Micro Grant Program

Project Proposal

The Project Proposal may be completed at the time of pre-application submission, if desired, but is not required. The PBRN Shared Resource staff is available to assist with completion of all forms, including the Pre-Application Form and Project Proposal Form at pbrn@case.edu or [216-496-2134](tel:216-496-2134).

Proposals must include (approximately 2 pages):

- Background
- Description of the study hypothesis, design, expected results
- Ethics and/ IRB Research Plan
- Expected timeline (including any necessary IRB submissions) and feasibility
- Budget
- Relevance and benefit to PBRN development and translational research

Appendix

PILOT PROJECT EXAMPLES

- A PBRN member interested in understanding the epidemiology of infections in families obtained external funding of less than \$1000 to hire his office nurse to conduct after-hours telephone follow-up with patients from his primary care practice. This resulted in a publication with implications for addressing antibiotic overuse. This physician is interested in conducting another study of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus* in his and other network practices.
- A needs assessment developed by an organization to learn what programs should be added to their case management services for newly diagnosed kidney failure patients. The assessment would involve interviewing new dialysis patients to pinpoint what education and support could be used prior to placement on dialysis. In addition, primary care and renal physicians able to identify eligible patients would need to be identified. Such a pilot project would be eligible for up to the \$5,000 maximum award as it engages both a PBRN and a community organization.
- The Department of Community Dentistry at Case Western Reserve University has been involved in educating urban and inner-ring suburban children in Cleveland about dental care, including a dental sealant program and a study on xylitol and its effects on preventing tooth decay. The programs have been successful in the schools, but the administrators have found that parental follow up is a problem. One investigator has approached the CTSC Community Engagement Core to talk about setting up parental focus groups to talk about the problems they have in accessing dental care in their neighborhoods.

Selected PBRNs affiliated with the PBRN Shared Resource

Research Association of Practices (RAP)

Established in 1992, the purpose of RAP is to develop and use novel research methods to understand and improve practice. RAP is guided by a Board of Directors of 10 practicing clinicians, who are directly involved in approving study proposals, developing new projects, and helping plan and design study protocols. A series of studies of preventive service delivery have been conducted in RAP over the past decade. This line of inquiry began with multi-method observational studies that provided a fundamental understanding of primary care practice. That understanding has then progressed to translation into interventions to improve practice.

Safety Net Providers' Strategic Alliance (SNPSA)

This safety net practice PBRN includes MetroHealth Community Health Centers, federally qualified community health centers, free-clinics, and health clinics for the homeless. SNPSA clinicians and administrator steering committee members each meet monthly to plan project development, implementation, interpretation, dissemination and application of findings. Through their participation in the study development process, SNPSA clinicians receive training in research design and practice-based research methods. SNPSA members also seek to use their findings to support health policy advocacy to close gaps in the safety net.

Cleveland Clinic Ambulatory Research Network (CleAR-eN)

CleAR-eN is made up of area family physicians operating in six Cleveland Clinic Family Health Centers. Established under grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), CleAR-eN allows clinician researchers to meet regularly to discuss research methods and concepts with the intent to conduct multiple projects chosen by the group.

Community Research for Oral Wellness Network (CROWN)

CROWN is a network of general dentists in northern Ohio who have partnered with the Department of Community Dentistry at Case Western Reserve University. Network involvement provides a unique opportunity for practicing dentists to suggest research ideas as well as conduct research in the office. To date, CROWN has addressed topics including the delivery of preventive services, oral cancer screenings and executive coaching. Additional studies are continuously under development in collaboration with network members.

LifeDermNet

Affiliated with The Murdough Family Center for Psoriasis, LifeDermNet is committed to helping develop improved therapeutic approaches without the traditional drawbacks of current major therapies for psoriasis; the Dermatology faculty at Murdough Family Center for Psoriasis has established a full spectrum of projects to benefit patients who suffer from psoriasis. The Murdough Family Center is one of a few centers worldwide with psoriasis awards from the National Institutes of Health, the Dermatology Foundation, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to research how psoriasis lesions are caused, to develop new (low side-effect) treatments for psoriasis, to incorporate both psoriasis research and treatment efforts of the medical center, and to create new community interfaces and approaches to both the mind and the body aspects of psoriasis.

The Advanced Practice Nurse Ambulatory Research Consortium (APN-ARC)

APN-ARC was initiated in August of 2006 and currently consists of 261 members including Advanced Practice Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Midwives practicing in ambulatory care settings throughout Ohio. In addition to network members, APN-ARC has a board of directors consisting of 10 Advanced Practice Nurses representing Family Medicine, Women's Health, Pediatrics, and Adult Medicine. The board meets quarterly to discuss current and upcoming research projects.

Pediatric Practice Network/ Rainbow Research Network (RRN)

The recently rejuvenated Rainbow Research Network is a consortium of 216 pediatric primary care physicians in 81 practices affiliated with Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital of Cleveland. RRN is committed to promoting opportunities for pediatric clinical faculty members to participate in research, facilitating and promoting opportunities for full-time faculty to conduct office-based research, and increasing collaboration and a sense of partnership among pediatric department faculty and pediatric community clinicians. The network has focused on reducing childhood obesity, diagnosing and treating otitis media, and diagnosing behavioral problems in children.

Community Oncology Network

This PBRN of 6 community-based cancer care clinics has conducted numerous cancer prevention and control studies examining topics in cancer survivorship, quality of life, and informed consent for clinical trials.

Behavioral Health Research Network

This developing PBRN's mission is to improve the integration and delivery of primary care-based behavioral health services by generating new knowledge and translating research into practice. Its members are behavioral health care providers and primary care clinicians working in the 5 federally qualified health centers and free clinics that constitute the SNPSA.

Long-Term Care Network

This developing PBRN seeks to improve the delivery of health care services to patients at 6 northeast Ohio long-term care facilities.