Purpose
Taipei Medical University along with the Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative (CTSC) is pleased to offer a collaborative pilot award opportunity to promote translational research projects through team science*. The objective is to accelerate laboratory discoveries into new treatments and to foster the education of highly skilled scientists and engineers to encourage the next generation of global scientific and engineering leaders. The target areas for funding are Oncology, and Neurosciences including traumatic brain injury, stroke and dementia (including Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Huntington’s, etc. disease). Supported technologies may include devices, drugs, diagnostics and software or a combination.

Taipei Medical University (TMU) and the Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative (CTSC) 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 CWRU/CTSC and TMU 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 physicians, scientists, and engineers, supporting the movement of promising technologies to clinical application, providing access to valuable core technologies and services in a collaborative and service-oriented fashion and to enhance the collaborative Team Science* approach to conducting research.

The CWRU CTSC and TMU 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. 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. Thus, research that envisions or creates a stronger potential for intellectual property is encouraged. In addition, funded investigators and projects will be paired for collaboration opportunities with TMU investigators where additional funds will be made available on the TMU side. Investigators must be open to and assist in developing relevant international collaborations during the funded award period as a condition of the award. These details will be worked out in the context of award negotiation for investigators recommended for funding after the review process.

* Team Science is a collaborative and multidisciplinary research effort that joins together researchers to explore a specific research problem with specific targeted goals. Team Science collaborations can join together individuals from departments, other institutions, community organizations, and/or other organizations that typically do not interact with one another.

Scope of Proposals
Consideration will be given to proposals representing a new collaboration for translational research or provide opportunities for collaboration with TMU consistent
with the goals of TMU and the CTSC. A new collaboration is one where the investigators have never worked together on a research project before. 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 TMU and CTSC resources that has been reviewed very positively at a national level. TMU and the CTSC welcome 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. The ultimate goal of TMU and the CTSC Pilot Award program is to focus on outcomes which will save, extend, and improve patient lives.

**Funding**

Funding for these Pilot Awards will be granted by both TMU and the CTSC. Grants will be awarded in the funding cycle as established by TMU and the CTSC. **TMU and CTSC Pilot Awards will fund up to $50,000, and may be requested for up to 1 year of support. TMU collaborators will be eligible to apply for an additional $25,000 for their part of the project, for a total of up to $75,000.**

Taipei Medical University and Case Western Reserve University will serve as the fiscal entity through which TMU and CTSC 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. Awardees are encouraged to supplement awards with additional private and institutional funds.

**Eligibility**

The PI is required to be a full-time faculty member (or the equivalent) from University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland Clinic, Case Western Reserve University, MetroHealth Medical Center, and Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and eligible to be a PI for an NIH grant. The eligible TMU team member(s) will be selected after the pre-proposal is reviewed. Initial introductions will be made in time to allow investigators to discuss full proposal ideas with the selected collaborator. TMU collaborators will also have an opportunity to apply for separate funds to support the collaborative project from their end.

Other eligibility requirements include:
- The institution of record will be the PI’s primary institution
- Only one investigator can be named PI, co-PIs are not permitted
- Proposals from new investigators (non-tenured, less than 6 years as faculty) are strongly encouraged
- Co-investigators must be from different schools, institutions, or departments
Proposal must present intellectual contribution by each named investigator

Pre-Proposals
Investigators interested in submitting applications to the TMU-CTSC Pilot Program must first submit a pre-proposal to the scientific review committee. Selected proposals will be invited to submit a full application. Once selected, these pre-proposals will be partnered with a TMU collaborator and introductions will be made. Investigators will be expected to discuss proposal ideas with their collaborator and incorporate any appropriate changes into the full proposal. Full proposals will be expanded versions of the pre-proposals, so please be as complete and succinct as possible in the pre-proposal stage.

The template for Pre-Proposals can be found HERE or HERE, please follow the directions provided and submit online. All pre-proposals must be submitted through Webgrants. If you have any questions about how to use webgrants, please contact WebGrants support at webgrants-support@case.edu or call 216-368-4669.

Deadlines (pre-proposal deadline extended!)
The deadline is 11:59pm on January 26, 2018. Investigators will be invited to submit full proposals by March 15, 2018 with a deadline for full proposals to be April 15, 2018.

Review Process
Proposals will be reviewed by the TMU-CTSC scientific review committee. Reviewers will rate pre-proposals according to the NIH Scoring Scale and provide comments as appropriate via WebGrants. The committee will take into consideration the following:

- Significance, originality, scientific merit, and translational nature of the proposal
- Feasibility
- Likelihood of future success
- Budget justification
- Partnership goals
- Overall rating of the proposal