Summary
A key component of the CTSC and of the entire CTSA initiative is a peer-reviewed pilot funding program designed to foster new translational research, new researchers, and additional funding meant to promote innovative research teams capable of interacting across institutions, schools, and disciplines.

This document is intended help the research community understand what funds are available, the terms under which they are available, and when and how to apply for them. We encourage researchers to explore the funding opportunities and to apply. Follow the links below each listed program, or contact the CTSC Pilot Grant Coordinator for assistance.

Pilot grant funding is supported from both the national CTSA and from the CTSC’s affiliated institutions Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Cleveland Clinic (CC), MetroHealth Medical Center (MHMC), University Hospitals Case Medical Center (UHCMC), Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center (LSCVAMC) as well as from Case Schools of Dental Medicine and of Nursing. Funds are awarded based on a variety of criteria.

Available types of pilot funding are described below. While they are designed for different purposes, and are awarded in different dollar amounts, the awards are meant to encourage cross-disciplinary and collaborative research in clinical and translational science.

Why Apply?
Clinical and translational research as organized through the CTSC is going to change the state of human health. Everything about this new model is designed to support your research and collaborations with others that may ultimately lead to adoption of best practices in prevention and treatment of disease. Participation through funded research projects is a clear way to advance the national research agenda of five strategic goals guiding the national CTSA consortium:

1. Build national clinical and translational research capability.
2. Provide training and improve career development of clinical and translational scientists.
3. Enhance consortium-wide collaborations.
4. Advance translational research to move basic laboratory discoveries and knowledge into clinical research.
5. Improve the health of our communities and the nation

What Projects Qualify?
Strong candidates for funding in any of the several programs are research projects that:

- Show potential to positively affect translational and clinical research toward improving human health, especially patient-based research, especially
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research that may lead to adoption of best practices in prevention and treatment of disease
• Are multi-disciplinary, collaborative, and/or inter-institutional in the local clinical and translational research enterprise
• Encourage the development or use of emerging methodologies and technologies that may affect future research
• Establish inter-generational (junior/senior) relationships
• Allow rapid acquisition of proof-of-principle data to proceed with full-scale investigations
• Encourage the participation of clinical and translational science trainees
• Are likely to lead to additional external funding

What Pilot Grants are Available?
❖ CTSC Annual Pilot Funding
  o Up to $50,000 per project
  o Awarded once a year
  o Up to one year of support

In conjunction with the Case Coulter Translational Research Partnership (CCTRPF), the CTSC Annual Pilot Funding is designed to conduct innovative translational research projects focused on the invention, preclinical development and/or first in man studies of novel therapeutic agents, biomedical devices, and diagnostics designed to address unmet clinical needs. Funding is intended to facilitate development of enabling technologies; new therapeutic, diagnostic or outcomes assessment approaches and/or device; novel cross-disciplinary collaborative programs; and promote research in the community. Research which may create intellectual property is encouraged. If funding would enhance an existing non-federally funded project or enable a proposal to a federal agency for use of CTSC and CCTRP resources, the application would be considered. This pilot has few restrictions and allows for the hiring of personnel. Researchers new to clinical research, clinical research scholars, or experienced researchers who are moving into a new area of research are strongly encouraged to apply. Click here for more details.

❖ CTSC Core Utilization Pilot Funding
  o Up to $10,000 per project
  o Up to six months of support
  o Awarded throughout the year in an open submission format

The CTSC Core Utilization Pilot Funding is to promote the use of and familiarity with CTSC Core operations and personnel, in anticipation of applications for external funding using CTSC resources. Ideal uses may be to run tests on samples already collected; build cross-disciplinary collaborative programs; or develop enabling technologies, new therapeutic, diagnostic or outcomes assessment approaches.
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and/or devices and promote the movement of promising technologies to clinical application. This pilot is restricted as funds can only be used in a CTSC eligible core facility. Researchers new to clinical research, clinical research scholars, or experienced researchers who are moving into a new area of research are strongly encouraged to apply. Click here for more details.

❖ CTSC Themed Pilot Grant Programs
  o Funding levels vary as specified in the RFA
  o At least six months of support as specified in the RFA

At least once a year, the CTSC will offer a themed pilot opportunity designed to target an area of research focused on a “just in time” theme.

❖ Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) Micro Pilot Grant Funding
  o Up to $5000
  o Accepted and awarded on a rolling basis

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. Click here for more details.

CHECK THE CTSC WEBSITE OFTEN FOR FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: Topic and research focus specific pilot award opportunities to develop infrastructures, technologies, etc. will be offered in the future.