Institute for Translational Sciences

Request for Application (RFA)

PILOT PROJECTS

Purpose. This RFA issued by the Institute for Translational Sciences (ITS) invites applications for pilot projects related to translational biomedical research.

Background. One goal of the ITS is to provide support for pilot projects of well-defined scope that will have a significant impact on clinical and translational research. Pilot projects that involve collaborations between investigators with varied expertise are especially encouraged.

A pilot project is defined as an exploratory or feasibility study, primarily designed to collect preliminary data. It is anticipated that Pilot projects will lead to independent funding at the equivalent of an R01 level or higher.

Eligibility. Pilot applications are encouraged from UTMB faculty interested in clinical and translational research.

Duration. The award period is 6 months, from 03/01/2010 to 08/31/2010. No carry-over is allowed. It is anticipated that projects that successfully meet their milestones will be able to recompete for one additional funding cycle.

Funds available. Because the nature and scope of the proposed research will vary from application to application, it is anticipated that the size of each award will also vary. A budget for direct costs of $25,000 to $50,000 per year may be requested. It is anticipated that five to seven awards will be made.

HOW TO APPLY: Submit electronic copies of the following documents to ebruiz@utmb.edu by January 15, 2010:

1. Cover letter: Address the letter to “Dr. Glenn Ostir, Director, Pilot Core, Institute for Translational Sciences, Route 0264.” Describe how the application will advance a) career goals, b) clinical and translational science and c) independent funding.
2. Research Proposal: The research plan should include an Abstract, Specific Aims, Research Strategy (Significance, Innovation, Approach), and a Human Subjects and/or vertebrate animals section. Limit Research Strategy to 5 single-spaced pages exclusive of the bibliography. Include a one-page timeline for the project, with achievement milestones (not included in the 5-page limit).
3. **Consent Forms**: If the project involves obtaining written consents from human subjects, include consent forms/assent forms. For guidance, about the appropriate format and language, please refer to the IRB website at [http://research.utmb.edu/irb/default.shtm](http://research.utmb.edu/irb/default.shtm)


5. **Budget**: Complete the [Budget Justification Page](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html). Investigators may request up to $50,000 in support. Salary support is not permitted.

6. **Other Support**: List other current support from intramural and extramural sources

7. **Letter of Support**: Provide a letter of support from your department chair stating that you will be allowed the time and effort necessary to complete the project. For fellows, this letter should be obtained from their mentors.

8. **Targeted enrollment**: In the Human Subjects section, provide a targeted enrollment table according to NIH guidelines. (see link above)

9. **IRB/IACUC documents**: If the project is already approved, include a copy of the approval memo. Prior approval is not a submission requirement; however, such approval must be obtained before initiating the project.

**Note**: Investigators who wish to utilize CTSA core resources for preparing study proposals may email their requests to the coordination core [CTSA@utmb.edu](mailto:CTSA@utmb.edu). For a complete list of resources available to investigators, visit the ITS website [http://www.its.utmb.edu/news.htm](http://www.its.utmb.edu/news.htm)

**REVIEW CRITERIA**: Applications will be reviewed for strengths and weaknesses in the following areas:

a. **Scientific Merit and Feasibility**: The review will be guided by the new NIH review criteria and proposals will be scored for: Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach and Environment. For further information, please refer to NIH guidelines. (see link above)

b. **Relevance to Translational Research**: Investigators should clearly state why their Pilot project is translational; for example, how will data collected help enhance the “bench to bedside” paradigm. If the Pilot project itself is not translational, describe how data collected will be used to support future clinical and translational research.

c. **Potential for Extramural Funding**: The Pilot project should clearly explain how the expected data will lead to independent funding at the equivalent of an R01 level or higher.

d. **Feasibility**: Provide a timeline and explain how the projects’ aims will be accomplished within the time period of the award.

**Note**: The Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) will be solely responsible for planning, directing, and executing the proposed project.
CHECK LIST:

1. Cover Letter ✓
2. Research Proposal ✓
3. Consent/Assent Forms ✓
4. Biosketches ✓
5. Budget Justification Page ✓
6. Other Support ✓
7. Letter of Support ✓
8. Targeted Enrollment ✓
9. IRB/IACUC Documents ✓