Institute for Translational Sciences

Request for Application

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRANSLATIONAL TEAM – PILOT PROJECTS

Purpose: One of the major goals of the Institute for Translation Sciences (ITS) is to foster and stimulate the formation of Multidisciplinary Translational Teams (MTTs). Applications will be reviewed by the Scientific Review Committee and subject to approval by the ITS Executive Committee. We anticipate funding 1-2 MTTs, depending on their scientific review, alignment with our priorities, and potential impact on translational research.

Background: The NIH Roadmap emphasizes the potential of team research to address significant biological problems that can be translated into improvements in human health. In this spirit, the ITS will serve to foster and stimulate the formation of translational teams. The ITS Multidisciplinary Translational Team Pilot Project is a new funding opportunity to evaluate the process of team-building and identify how teams can most effectively be supported.

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 a multi-investigator R01 level or higher.

Eligibility:
- Pilot studies involving direct patient contact.
- A leadership team consisting of multiple investigators in different departments or disciplines.
- Mechanisms for trainee involvement.
- Involvement of CTSA Key Resources (e.g. Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, Translational Technologies, Biorepository, Community Engagement) in study aims/goals.
- Interaction with national consortia or networks is desirable.

Applicant teams are strongly encouraged to interact with the ITS during the pre-proposal stage to develop their applications. For further information, contact the coordination core at CTSA@utmb.edu.

Investigators must agree to support and work with the ITS leadership, including development of milestones and participation in team training experiences. These activities will be developed upon initial award, and will be subject to noncompeting review for funding in the second year.

Duration: The award period is 6 months, from 03/01/2010 to 08/31/2010. It is anticipated that projects that successfully meet their milestones will be able to recompete for one additional funding cycle. No carry-over is allowed.
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 $50,000 for 6 months may be requested. It is anticipated that 1-2 awards will be made.

How to Apply: Submit electronic copies of the following documents to ebruiz@utmb.edu by February 01, 2010:

1. **Cover letter:** Address the letter to “Dr. Glenn Ostir, Director, Pilot Core, Institute for Translational Sciences, Route 0264.” Identify the team leader responsible for team activities, handling of funds and communication with the ITS. Discuss plans to manage the team. State how the application will advance a) career goals of team members, b) clinical and translational science and c) independent funding.

2. **MTT Planning Document:** Complete the attached template. [MTT Planning Document.pdf](#)

3. **Research Proposal/Translational Problem:** Please formulate the problem(s) your team seeks to address. What potential impact will success in this project have in your field? How is your team/UTMB poised to be a leader in this area of translational research? Discuss plans for involvement of trainees. 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.

4. **Biosketches:** Provide a biosketch in the new NIH 4-page format for the Principal Investigator and all co-Investigator(s). For instructions and format pages see [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html)

5. **Budget:** Complete the [Budget Justification Page](#). Investigators may request up to $50,000 for 6 months in support. Salary support is not permitted.

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

7. **Letter of Support:** Provide letters of support from all relevant department chairs stating that investigators will be allowed the time and effort necessary to complete the project.

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

**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. **Investigative Teams**: Quality/promise of the investigative team. Record of collaborative interactions.

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

c. **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 project itself is not translational, describe how data collected will be used to support future clinical and translational research.

d. **Potential for Collaboration**: The likelihood that the proposal will foster collaboration between departments and disciplines beyond the funding period.

e. **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.

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

**Note**: The team leader identified in the cover letter will be solely responsible for planning, directing, and executing the proposed project.

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CHECK LIST:

1. Cover Letter ✓
2. MTT Planning Document ✓
3. Research Proposal ✓
4. Biosketches ✓
5. Budget Justification Page ✓
6. Other support ✓
7. Letter of Support ✓
8. Targeted Enrolment ✓