Institute for Translational Sciences
Request for Application (RFA)

PILOT AWARDS

Purpose. The Institute for Translational Sciences (ITS) and the Pilots and Collaborative Studies Resource invite applications for the Pilot Project grant mechanism. A pilot project is defined as an exploratory or feasibility study involving patient-oriented research to collect preliminary data for a more comprehensive investigation. This award mechanism is available to individual investigators, or to CTSA-supported Multidisciplinary Translational Teams for new projects.

Mechanism of Support. ITS–Pilot grant mechanism.

Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards. The ITS will commit sufficient funds in the fiscal year (FY) 2010 to fund 4 to 5 new awards.

Budget and Project Period. An applicant may request up to 1 year of support of up to $50,000. No carry-over is allowed. Because the nature and scope of the proposed applications will vary, the size and duration of each award will also vary. Although the ITS provides support for these awards, these are contingent upon the availability of funds and the receipt of meritorious applications.

Eligible Investigators. UTMB investigators at the level of assistant professor or higher. New projects from existing CTSA-supported MTTs are eligible for funding and encouraged.

Number of Applications. Each investigator may submit only one ITS funding application (for either a Novel Methods, Pilot or new MTT project) per review cycle.

Award Period. The award period is up to 1 year. Continued funding during the award period is contingent upon reasonable progress in accomplishing the proposed study aims. Investigators are required to submit two progress reports, 6 and 12 months from the award date. The reports will highlight progress made towards fulfilling the aims of the proposal, and their significance to clinical and translational science.

Resubmissions. Resubmissions will be accepted in the following fiscal year.

Review Process. All applications will be reviewed by the ITS Scientific Review Committee and will be subject to final approval by the ITS Executive Committee.

Funds available: The number of new applications funded will depend on the quality of applications, alignment with ITS priorities and potential impact on translational research.

Investigators are strongly encouraged to contact the ITS during the application process. Investigators who wish to use CTSA resources in developing their application should contact the Coordination Core at CTSA@utmb.edu. For a complete list of key resources available, visit the ITS website at http://www.its.utmb.edu/.

How to Apply: Submit electronic copies of the following documents to ebruiz@utmb.edu by June 18, 2010:

1. Cover letter. Address the letter to “Dr. Glenn Ostir, Director Pilots and Collaborative Studies Resource, Institute for Translational Sciences, Route 0264.”

2. Research Proposal/Translational Problem. The research plan should include a title, names of the principal investigator and co-investigators, an Abstract, Specific Aims, Research Strategy (Significance,
Innovation, Approach), and a Human Subjects and/or vertebrate animals section. Limit the Research Strategy to 5 single-space pages, exclusive of the bibliography. All applications must comply with the following page limits.

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

4. **Budget.** Complete the **Budget Justification Page.** Investigators may request up to $50,000 for up to 1 year in support. [Budget Justification Page.pdf](#). Funds cannot be used to support investigators salaries.

5. **MTT Planning Document (for MTTs only)** [MTT Planning Document.pdf](#)

6. **Formatting and Font Requirement.** Use 11 point font with 0.5 inch margins. Tables and figures must be readable.

**Review Criteria.** Applications will be reviewed for strengths and weaknesses in the following areas:

- a. **Scientific Merit and Feasibility:** Guided by the new NIH review criteria, proposals will be scored on: Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach and Environment.

- b. **Relevance to Translational Research:** Describe how the proposed project is translational and how it will promote opportunities for investigators to interact with ITS resources. Describe how findings will be used to develop larger translational studies. If the project is not translational, articulate how findings will be used to support future translational research.

- c. **Potential for Extramural Funding:** Describe how findings have the potential to lead to independent extramural funding at the R01 level or higher.

- d. **Feasibility:** Provide a timeline outlining how study aims will be accomplished within the 12 month time frame

**Note:** The PI will be responsible for planning, directing, and executing the proposed project.

**CHECK LIST:**

1. Cover Letter ✓
2. Research Proposal ✓
3. Biosketches ✓
4. Budget Justification Page ✓
5. MTT Planning Document ✓ (for MTTs only)

Applications will not be reviewed and will be returned if page limits are exceeded, if applicable section(s) are omitted or if formatting recommendations or budget instructions are not followed.