



Council of Partners:

The UT Southwestern [Center for Translational Medicine](#) (CTM) is accepting letters of intent for the next cycle of its Translational Pilot Program. Funded in part by the National Institutes of Health, the Program is modeled after the previous Clinical and Translational Science Initiative (CTSI), which provided initial funding for investigators conducting innovative clinical and translational research projects, with the expectation that this early investment would result in sustainable extramural funding. The [Translational Pilot Program](#) will give funding priority to junior investigators who display the talent and personal traits that are associated with career success and who have identified the environmental resources and interdisciplinary collaborations that will make this success more likely. The career path of the applicant and his or her ability to develop interdisciplinary collaborations will be considered in the selection process at par with the scientific merit of the proposed project. Senior investigators will also be eligible, but only if their proposal represents a substantive departure from their previous work or a novel collaborative arrangement.

Application Process

1. [Letter of Intent](#). The application will start with a letter of intent due by February 10, 2014 **Friday, February 21, 2014**. The letter must contain a one-page (2,500 characters maximum, not counting spaces) summary of their research project (including specific aims), a bio-sketch, and, if the applicant is a junior investigator (trainee or faculty member in the first three years after completing postdoctoral training), and a summary of his/her career plan (1,500 characters maximum).
2. The letter of intent will be reviewed administratively to verify eligibility. Eligible junior investigators will be assigned a reviewer who will conduct a short interview with the candidate to determine whether he or she would benefit from mentoring or services from the CTM as the application is prepared. The reviewer may suggest opportunities for collaboration with other clinical or translational investigators inside or outside the institution. If the reviewer identifies the need for services or assistance in the preparation of the final application, the investigator will be encouraged to apply for a service package grant. Service packages are small grants (up to \$5,000) designed to support preliminary work needed to assist in the design of the study, develop a tool needed for the study, or test the feasibility of the proposal. These are awarded by the Translational Pilot Program after a short application by the investigator and a rapid administrative and scientific review. Awarded funds can be used to obtain Center services such as biostatistical analysis, assistance in preparation of IRB or IND applications, BMI consultation, registry and database development; develop laboratory analyses or imaging studies; or develop a specialized database to contain the information generated by the study. Particular attention will be paid in this process to opportunities for inter-institutional assistance. There is also an opportunity to apply for funds specific to use in UT Southwestern [Core Facilities](#) or to support clinical pharmacology and experimental therapeutics.
3. Full applications will be due by April 1, 2014. All applicants will be expected to have completed the necessary requirements for the conduct of the proposed research, including having

obtained [Institutional Review Board](#) (IRB) or Investigational New Drug (IND) approvals. The application will consist of the following sections:

- a. Specific Aims (1 single-spaced page, 11-point font or larger)
- b. Background (1 page)
- c. Methodological Approach (3 pages)
- d. Limitations and Impact (1 page)
- e. Budget (1 page)

Junior investigators must include letters of support from any senior collaborators or mentors and from their department chair stating the protected time commitment that will be made available to carry out the studies if funding is granted.

Review

The final application will be assigned to two reviewers. The reviewers will provide a written critique and a score using the criteria described in detail below. All junior applicants who receive a scientific score above the lower limit established for triage may be invited to give a ten-minute seminar presentation to an inter-institutional review panel with an additional ten minutes for question and discussion.

Presentations will provide the opportunity assess the investigators aptitude and familiarity with the field of work. Constructive feedback and suggestions will be given to the investigator when indicated. Each applicant will receive an edited critique of their proposal based on the reviewers' comments.

Reviewers will evaluate applications on the following criteria:

- a) Novelty and significance
- b) Suitability of the methods
- c) Sustainability (potential for extramural funding)
- d) Budget
- e) Track record and career path
- f) Environment and multidisciplinary collaborations

Progress Report

All funded investigators must be committed to providing progress reports and yearly surveys after the funding period as the [tracking and evaluation](#) element of the program.

[Letter of Intent](#)

Questions?

Email Tauri Matthews at CTMTranslationalPilotProgram@UTSouthwestern.edu