Clinical and Translational Research Funding Program
BARNES-JEWISH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION AND
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES

2015 Program Overview

PROGRAM PROCESS OVERVIEW

Town Hall for Applicants (information sessions):
- Washington University Medical Center: Monday, August 10 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the classroom of the ICTS Clinical Research Training Center, 2nd Floor Wohl Clinic
- Saint Louis University: Wednesday August 12 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the LRC Pitlyk Auditorium B

Letter of Intent Deadline: September 9, 2015 (5 pm, CST)
Application Deadline: October 19, 2015 (5 pm, CST)
Proposal Peer Review: December, 2015
Award Decisions: January, 2016
Award Start Date: June 1, 2016

Step 1: PI submits required electronic BJHF/ICTS Letter of Intent (LOI) Form through the online submission process at https://redcap.wustl.edu/redcap/srvrs/prod_v3_1_0_001/redcap/surveys/?s=FMA3EC8RW8 by 5:00 p.m. (CST) on September 9, 2015. (See LOI Instructions and Form at http://www.icts.wustl.edu/icts-researchers/funding/funding-opportunities/bjhf-icts-funding-program). This deadline will be strictly adhered to with NO exceptions.

Step 2: Program Committee reviews LOI and responds to applicant providing access to online application process if deemed eligible for submission.

Step 3: If invited, PI submits full proposal. (See Application Instructions section and Forms at http://www.icts.wustl.edu/icts-researchers/funding/funding-opportunities/bjhf-icts-funding-program). Deadline: October 19, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. (CST). Neither the electronic nor the hard copy application will be accepted after this date and time (must be received by this date/time). This deadline will be strictly adhered to with NO exceptions.

Step 4: Projects involving a community partner or taking place within the community will be reviewed by a panel of community representatives and investigators with expertise in Community-Engaged Research. A summary of this review will be shared at the scientific study section.

Step 5: Proposals will be assigned to three experienced scientific reviewers and then evaluated in a full review panel similar to an NIH Study Section. A member of the RDBG (Research Design and Biostatistics Group) also submits a written review and is a standing member of the panel. Applicants will receive a Summary Statement including comments from the scientific peer reviewers and will be notified of funding decisions by late January.

Step 6: Awardees must obtain all regulatory approvals (e.g. IRB) and meet all compliance requirements prior to receiving funds for a June 1st start date.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Awards will be made for:
- **Pilot Grants**: Provide up to $50,000 direct costs for 1 year to facilitate the planning of a new clinical and/or translational research project. Pilot grants are typically used to fund developmental or early stage work, including pilot data, and should describe a concrete plan for further steps beyond the pilot grant.
Each applicant must be a registered member of the ICTS before submitting a Letter of Intent. Member eligibility and registration is available at http://www.icts.wustl.edu/icts-researchers/membership/register?membertype=icts. Online registration takes less than 5 minutes and requires a short description of your research interests and an upload of a recent biosketch / CV. For assistance with registration, contact the ICTS Administrative Core office through email (icts@dom.wustl.edu) or by calling 314-362-9829.

Applicants from WU or its ICTS partner academic institutions must hold a faculty level appointment. Fellows in the final year of training with a commitment by their department for a faculty position effective by the time of award are also eligible.

Employees of BJH, Goldfarb School of Nursing or SLCH (MD, PhD, nurse, or allied healthcare professional) may apply with the permission of their department director.

Community-based organizations or Affiliate Institutions (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing and University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Nursing) may apply in collaboration with an investigator from one of the ICTS partner institutions. (The PI of the proposal must be from an ICTS partner institution.) If interested in forming new collaborations, contact the ICTS Administrative Core (email icts@dom.wustl.edu or 314-362-9829).

Applicants may be the Principal Investigator on only one Letter of Intent and one proposal. There can be only ONE Principal Investigator on an application. The program does not allow for co-PIs.

PIs with active awards under the previous ICTS or BJHF clinical and translational research funding programs are not eligible to apply unless their current funding will expire by 6/1/16 when the new BJHF/ICTS awards will begin. If previously funded through this program, it is unlikely that a PI will be successful in obtaining funding in the same area of research for a second submission. There is no specific citizenship requirement for the applicant.

In developing applications to this RFA:

There must be a DIRECT and CLEAR LINK to human health or disease for proposals that deal with animal models. Such proposals must identify how the project will allow direct translation of findings into human subjects, how human subjects or tissue will be used, and the importance of possible findings for understanding human disease/physiology.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek methodologic and study design consultation with the ICTS Translational Research Methods and Analysis Center (TRAC) EARLY in the proposal development process. Requesting assistance after September 29th may not allow sufficient time to provide suggestions.

TRAC consists of the following ICTS cores:

- ICTS Research Design and Biostatistics Group (RDBG) (http://icts.wustl.edu/cores/rdbg.aspx) The RDBG offers a BioStat Clinic, an hour-long consultation service that is fully subsidized for ICTS members. On-line appointment scheduling is available (http://instant-scheduling.com/sch.php?kn=193605) and is strongly recommended during the planning phase of project development prior to the LOI deadline.

- Center for Administrative Data Research (CADR: http://www.icts.wustl.edu/cores/cadr.aspx)

- Dissemination and Implementation Research Core (DIRC: http://www.icts.wustl.edu/cores/dirc.aspx)

Applicants proposing community-engaged research are encouraged to contact the ICTS Administrative Core (email icts@dom.wustl.edu or 314-362-9829) for referral to the ICTS Center for Community-Engaged Research.

Applicants are encouraged but not required to include use of ICTS Cores & services to support their proposed research and to consult with core personnel during the development of their proposal to discuss application of available ICTS tools and services. Information about available Cores & services can be found on the ICTS website (www.icts.wustl.edu) or through email (icts@dom.wustl.edu).
Hospital employees without prior experience in applying for research funds should partner with an experienced university or hospital based researcher in order to create a more competitive application.

**PROGRAM PURPOSE**

The primary purpose of this program is to fund high quality, innovative proposals that have the potential to promote the translation of scientific discoveries into improvements in human health. The scientific quality of the proposal will be the most important criterion used in the review process.

**Proposal Focus**

The intent of the program is to advance medical knowledge that can promote the translation of scientific discoveries into improvements in human health. For consistency, the following definitions for the stages of translational research will be used when categorizing proposals for review (T1-T4):

- **T1 Research -Translation to Humans:** The translation of new understandings of disease mechanisms gained in the laboratory into the development of new methods for diagnosis, therapy, and prevention, and their initial testing in proof-of-concept studies in humans.

- **T2 Research -Translation to Patients:** Translation of initial research findings to test initial hypotheses and/or approaches in clinical applications. Encompasses early stage clinical trials through larger scale, multi-center trials.

- **T3 Research -Translation to Practice:** Effectiveness, cost effectiveness, and comparative effectiveness studies conducted in practice sites, ensuring the translation of results from clinical studies into clinical practice settings.

- **T4 Research -Translation to Population:** Dissemination and implementation research, which identifies and resolves barriers to implementation of evidence-based guidelines into community practice.

**Types of Studies Supported**

This program is designed to support a broad range of clinical and translational studies including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Novel Methodologies and Technologies:** Funds may be requested to develop new technologies with strong promise for being introduced into humans in the short term (< 5 years). Funds may also be used to develop methods that could be applied in humans, e.g. methods to improve the phenotyping of human subjects (mass spectrometry in biomarker development, novel imaging approaches, stable isotope turnover methods). Methodologies that are not technologically based are also eligible for funding (e.g. new methodological approaches to problems in biostatistics and clinical trial design, novel approaches to implementing community-engaged research and outcomes studies).

- **First-in-Human Studies:** These funds are specifically intended to support costs related to bringing new technologies (diagnostic or therapeutic) into humans for the first time.

- **Process Improvement:** Funds may be requested for pilot programs aimed at demonstrating the value of new processes to facilitate clinical research or for research related to process improvement. Research intended to develop improvements in study design, statistical analytic approaches, research ethics, or harmonization of regulatory processes would all come under this category.

- **Community-Engaged Projects:** Projects are sought that are jointly conducted with a community-based organization and performed in an outpatient setting or in community-based settings rather than health care settings. Community-engaged projects should seek to better define risk factors for health and disease, or to perform interventions aimed at reducing health risks, improving health behaviors, or producing measurable changes in health status.

**Note:** Applications for start-up costs for new Clinical Research Cores will NOT be considered this year.
Acceptable Research Themes
Applications must address at least one of the following research themes (propose to advance science in at least one of the following areas of program interest)

- **Improving the Quality of Patient Care**: Quality of patient care involves increasing the likelihood of achieving outcomes valued by patients and their families, including exceptional disease-specific survival rates, minimum hospital readmission rates for chronic diseases, superior patient satisfaction with care, improved patient functional status, best possible quality of life consistent with patient needs, and patient/family understanding of, and involvement in, their medical care.

- **Enhancing Patient Safety**: Patient care safety involves exploring reliable care processes to prevent all errors that result in preventable mortality, health care acquired infections, adverse drug events, falls with injury, pressure ulcers, venous thromboembolism, wrong site/wrong person procedures, or other preventable surgical and procedural complications.

- **Improving Patient Outcomes**: Improving patient outcomes research where the results from hypothesis testing will potentially impact desirable health outcomes. For example: more accurate or earlier diagnosis, reduced disability, increased survival, decreased morbidity, identification of risk factors, and design of reliable and effective care delivery processes.

- **Improving Transfer to Practice**: Conduct comparative effectiveness and dissemination and implementation research to improve the transfer of clinical research discoveries into practice.

- **Translating Genetic/Genomic Findings**: Translate the findings of genetic/genomic research into studies that advance biomedical knowledge and improve human health, including tools for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human diseases.

- **Development/Evaluation of Therapeutics**: Accelerate the development and evaluation of new therapeutics, including drugs, biologics, devices, diagnostics, and behavioral therapies to improve human health.

**INVESTIGATOR CATEGORIES**

Investigators in the following categories are encouraged to apply.

- New investigators in either clinical or translational research who do not yet have their own peer-reviewed research support.
  
  - ‘New Investigator’ definition (NIH): The individual has not competed successfully for a significant independent research award. In terms of NIH awards, the PI still fits into the New Investigator category if he/she only received such awards as a Mentored Career Award (K08, K12, K23, etc.) or small or early stage research awards including: R03, R15, R21, etc. This same logic would also apply to funding from other agencies.

- Established investigators who are working in other fields, but are interested in exploring new directions in clinical and/or translational research.

- Established investigators already active in the field of clinical and/or translational research, but whose proposed project is different from their previous work.

- Investigators collaborating with community-based organizations.

- Investigators developing inter- or multidisciplinary groups working on novel methodologies or research teams working on a clinical problem of interest and importance.

**SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS**

**Letter of Intent** – Applicants must complete the BJHF/ICTS Letter of Intent Form and submit through the online submission process at [https://redcap.wustl.edu/redcap/srvrs/prod_v3_1_0_001/redcap/surveys/?s=FMA3EC8RW8](https://redcap.wustl.edu/redcap/srvrs/prod_v3_1_0_001/redcap/surveys/?s=FMA3EC8RW8) no later than 5:00 p.m. (CST) on September 9, 2015. (See LOI Instructions and Form at [http://www.icts.wustl.edu/icts-researchers/funding/funding-opportunities/bjhf-icts-funding-program](http://www.icts.wustl.edu/icts-researchers/funding/funding-opportunities/bjhf-icts-funding-program). Early submission, prior to September 9th, is encouraged so PIs invited to submit a full application have more preparation time.)
Each letter of intent (LOI) will be reviewed to determine the eligibility of the PI and whether the anticipated project is relevant to clinical and/or translational research and is within the scope of the RFA. If the LOI is judged appropriate by these criteria, the applicant will be notified that a full proposal may be submitted. Scientific merit is not formally evaluated from the LOI. If approved, the letter is then used to arrange for appropriate reviewers for the subsequent application.

**Full Proposal** – Upon notification that the LOI has been approved, the PI may submit a full proposal using the BJHF/ICTS required forms and instructions. (See Application Instructions section and Forms at [http://www.icts.wustl.edu/icts-researchers/funding/funding-opportunities/bjhf-icts-funding-program](http://www.icts.wustl.edu/icts-researchers/funding/funding-opportunities/bjhf-icts-funding-program)). Both the original hard copy application and an electronic copy of the entire proposal (submitted through the online application process) must be received by the ICTS Admin Core office **no later than 5:00 p.m. (CST) on October 19, 2015.**

**Review Process** – Proposals involving a community partner or taking place within the community will be reviewed by a panel of community representatives and investigators with expertise in Community-Engaged Research. These proposals will be evaluated for 1) relevance of the research question to the community of interest, 2) the role of and benefit to the community partner/organization, 3) approach and methodology, and 4) whether the research presents an opportunity for sustained impact. **A summary of this review will be shared at the scientific study section.** All proposals will be assigned to three experienced scientific reviewers and then evaluated in a full review panel similar to an NIH Study Section. Assigned reviewers and panel will include individuals from Washington University as well as the various ICTS partner institutions. A member of the RDBG (Research Design and Biostatistics Group) also submits a written review and is a standing member of the panel. Each applicant is provided a critique of their proposal in the form of a Summary Statement which will include comments from the assigned reviewers. Reviewers will be asked to consider the following key criteria: 1) application to acceptable theme(s), 2) translational aspect, 3) significance, 4) approach, 5) innovation, 6) environment and 7) investigators. Refer to the Review Criteria reference document at [http://www.icts.wustl.edu/icts-researchers/funding/funding-opportunities/bjhf-icts-funding-program](http://www.icts.wustl.edu/icts-researchers/funding/funding-opportunities/bjhf-icts-funding-program) for details of these and additional criteria reviewers are asked to consider.

**AWARD PROCESS/TERMS**

Awards will be issued through either the BJHF or the ICTS in accordance with the mission and priorities of each institution and in compliance with funding source guidelines. The Notice of Award will detail budget information, publication citation language, progress report requirements, etc.

**QUESTIONS**

**Questions and/or assistance with proposal development** may be addressed to icts@dom.wustl.edu, Jaimee Stagner ([jstagner@dom.wustl.edu](mailto:jstagner@dom.wustl.edu) or 314-362-6325) or Andi Cox ([acox@dom.wustl.edu](mailto:acox@dom.wustl.edu) or 362-7707)

**For questions and/or assistance with online submission:** Contact icts@dom.wustl.edu or Andi Cox ([acox@dom.wustl.edu](mailto:acox@dom.wustl.edu) or 314-362-7707).