CTSA SPIRiT
Sharing Partnership for Innovative Research in Translation
*Members of the National NIH CTSA Consortium*
Johns Hopkins University, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania,
University of Pittsburgh, Washington University in St. Louis, and Yale University

**Call for Ideas!**

*The SPIRiT Consortium continually looks for broad-based, high impact ideas for clinical and translational research projects that can be conducted across all 6 SPIRiT partner institutions. This third SPIRiT program announcement is focused on the domain of rare diseases.*

The SPIRiT (Sharing Partnership for Innovative Research in Translation) Consortium is a partnership between Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) sites including Johns Hopkins University, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, Washington University in St. Louis, and Yale University. This group was assembled in support of a primary focus of the CTSA program which is to foster collaborations across the member institutions to develop high impact research.

The Consortium is now soliciting letters of intent (LOI) for collaborative projects in the domain of rare diseases ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rare_Diseases_Act_of_2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rare_Diseases_Act_of_2002)). Examples of such proposals are the engagement of patients or specific populations with rare diseases from multiple sites to permit proof of concept studies of a novel or repurposed therapeutic intervention, or the recruitment of resources from multiple sites to permit more enhanced phenotyping of a rare disease than otherwise possible. Recruitment of patients from CTSA sites outside the SPIRiT consortium will be considered.

The Letter of Intent should outline, in no more than a paragraph, the 1) scientific purpose, 2) likely collaborators in the proposal, and 3) how the resources of the SPIRiT consortium will enable the pursuit of the diagnosis, treatment and/or management of the rare disease in question. Leveraging additional resources from other entities – institutional centers for rare diseases, national charities focused on rare diseases, the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, or the private sector – although not required, would enhance the competitiveness of such proposals.

**FUNDING:** Proposals must include investigators at each of the six institutions. Up to $300,000 will be provided (i.e., $50,000 per involved CTSA SPIRiT institution).

**LOI DEADLINE:** September 15, 2014
Invitations to submit full proposals will be issued to those projects agreed upon by the SPIRiT Directors.

Letters of Intent should be directed to your local CTSA SPIRiT institution contact with copies to all other SPIRiT institution contacts (see below).

**Questions:** Questions may be directed to Becky Evans at icts@dom.wustl.edu or 314.362.9386.

**LOI Contacts:**
Johns Hopkins University – Gerry Stacy, Gerry@jhmi.edu
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