Institute for Clinical and Translational Science

University of Iowa
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Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1009
icts.uiowa.edu

Dear Investigators,

The Institute for Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Iowa is pleased to announce a call for applications to our Pilot Grant Program.

Highlights of the Pilot are:

1. Funding Details
    1. $25,000 for a funding period starting in April 2026 through March 2027.
        1. The $25,000 award is for direct costs, do not include indirect costs in your project budget.
        2. No University of Iowa faculty salary or meeting travel will be supported.
    2. It is expected that pilot projects will lead to external grant or contract submissions.
    3. Publications that result from the pilot grant program, in whole or in part, must cite the NIH CTSA program grant UM1TR004403.
2. We require investigators to declare in the Letter of Intent (LOI) what Translational Science Principle their project addresses. View definitions and examples of the Translational Science Principles here: https://ncats.nih.gov/about/about-translational-science/principles
3. Pilot projects must focus on advancing translational **science** (and/or removing the barriers). Translational research projects per se (e.g. projects focused on a particular target or disease, but do not build on or establish processes or principles applicable to other diseases), will not be allowed. (See the following link to learn more about translational science: https://ncats.nih.gov/about/about-translational-science)

    Projects are intended to:
    (1) explore innovative new leads or new directions,
    (2) stimulate team approaches that incorporate less traditional researchers, and
    (3) provide initial support to establish proof of concept for translational science.
    Projects must be feasible within the proposed timeframe, have high methodological and scientific quality, and answer important translational science questions.
4. ICTS Core Services (Mobile Technology Lab; Clinical Research Trials Office; Biomedical Informatics; Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design; Qualitative Core; Community Engagement; etc.) used for this project are available to awardees. Use of ICTS Cores must be stated in your Letter of Intent and the core must be contacted prior to submitting a full application. We recommend contacting a Core as soon as possible in case their services need to be factored into the budget. You can request a Letter of Support from the Cores here: **https://redcap.link/ICTSLOS**

Application:

1. Two-stage application
    I. Submit a one-page letter of intent (LOI) with individual faculty NIH or NSF Biosketches due October 16th, 2026. LOIs should be sent to Shelby Francis (Shelby-francis@uiowa.edu).
    II. Applicants will be notified on or shortly after November 6th, 2026 if they have been selected to submit a full proposal.
    III. Selected applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal through InfoReady Review (https://uiowa.infoready4.com) by January 8th, 2027. Sections 2B-E of the proposal must be limited to 5 pages.
        1. Pilot Grant Application (available at **https://icts.uiowa.edu/investigators/pilot-grant-programs**)
        2. Please include:
            A. IRB application unique to the study of the pilot application (Clinical Trial studies should start their IRB application as early as possible to meet this requirement)
            B. Abstracts/Relevance (maximum of 250 words/2,000 characters, including spaces)
            C. Specific Aims
            D. Background and Preliminary Data
            E. Research Plan
            F. Budget & Justification

Awardees will be notified by February 12th, 2027.

An informational webinar for applicants will be held on Wednesday, September 30th from 10:00-10:30am via Zoom. Click here or scan the QR code to register.

More information to apply can be found at https://icts.uiowa.edu/pilot-grant-program-clinical-and-translational-studies

Questions can be directed to Jamie Thrams (jamie-thrams@uiowa.edu)

Resources on Translational Science

- "Biomedical Translation" YouTube video from NCATS
- "The Fundamental Characteristics of a Translational Scientist" article in *ACS Pharmacology and Translational Science*

Translational Science Principles and Examples

NCATS Principle	*Example*
Address Unmet Needs	Developing treatments for rare diseases
Produce Generalizable Solutions	Creating a drug-screening platform usable across diseases
Emphasize Creativity & Innovation	Applying AI to drug discovery
Leverage Cross-Disciplinary Team Science	Clinicians, engineers, and data scientists working together
Enhance Efficiency & Speed	Milestone-based project management
Utilize Boundary-Crossing Partnerships	Public-private research collaborations
Use Bold & Rigorous Approaches	High-risk research with reproducible methods