

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE  
NEW METHODOLOGIES PROGRAM  
CONCEPT SOLICITATION**

As noted in the University of Pittsburgh's application for a Clinical and Translational Science Award<sup>1</sup>, one of the driving forces for the NIH Roadmap, as stated in the "Overview of the NIH Roadmap,"<sup>2</sup> is the recognition that "[o]ver the years, clinical research that helps discover mechanisms of disease, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment has become more difficult to conduct. Yet the exciting discoveries we are currently making require us to conduct even more efficiently the complex clinical studies needed to make rapid medical progress, and to further inform our basic science efforts. This is undoubtedly the most challenging, but critically important, area identified through the NIH roadmap process." In the CTSA Request for Application [RFA-RM-06-002]<sup>3</sup>, there is specific recognition that the "NIH has supported the conduct of translational and clinical research through multiple separate programs ... [but that] these investments, however, fall short of recognizing the important linkages between these resources." Implicit in these statements is the need (1) to develop novel methodologies, approaches, and technologies that, while most immediately focused on a single area, will have wide impact on the broader translational and clinical enterprise; and (2) to develop novel clinical and translational methodologies, approaches, and technologies that are focused on facilitating the linkage of data and concepts from a wealth of sources.

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) New Methodologies Program is designed to support the initial phases of development of novel, cutting edge methodologies or technologies that have the potential to be used by a broad spectrum of clinical and translational researchers. Included under this rubric is the extension of the use of a recently developed research tool from highly focused applications in a given discipline or to a given disease state to more general applicability. Thus, it can be anticipated that a proposed new methodology that requires the input of a multidisciplinary group of investigators will be more responsive to the program goals than will be one developed within a single discipline.

The CTSI New Methodologies Program is soliciting concepts for new methodologies/technologies that fit the general description, above. For a description of the two projects initially funded by this Program, the CTSI Research Registry and the application of Diamond software to radiographic and pathological images, please see <http://www.ctsi.pitt.edu/content.asp?id=1445>. *Please note that this program does not provide research funding for activities that would be supported under research award mechanisms such as the NIH "R" (R03, R21, R34, R01) or "P" mechanisms (P01, P30, P40, P50).*

**Available Funding and Budget Guidelines**

One grant to support the development of a new methodology will be awarded on July 1, 2008. The total funding, which includes no indirect costs, for this award is expected to be \$300,000, with FY 2009 funding of \$100,000 and FY 2010 funding of \$200,000. If a compelling case can be made that a third year of funding is required, an application for FY 2011 funding of \$100,000 will be entertained. A second grant will be awarded on July 1, 2009. The total funding, direct costs only, for this second award is also expected to be \$300,000, with a FY 2010 funding of \$100,000 and FY 2011 funding of \$200,000.

Issuing new awards after FY 2010 will be contingent upon the actual funding profiles of the first two awards made and the renewal of the grant which supports the CTSI. Funds may not be used for travel or to fund pre-existing projects. All budget items must be explicitly justified. Computer equipment will be supported only if it can be demonstrated that it is critical to the funded project.

### **Eligibility**

All principal investigators (PIs) must be full-time faculty members (at the level of assistant/research assistant professor or higher) at the University of Pittsburgh. Multiple PIs, as defined by the NIH<sup>4</sup>, are encouraged. Faculty or staff from outside the University of Pittsburgh may not serve as principal investigators; if such individuals do participate in the research activity, appropriate costs will be supported through subcontracts to their home institution(s). Such subcontracts will include no indirect costs.

### **Application Process**

There is a two stage application process. The first stage is submission of a five page (single-sided) concept paper that describes the proposed new research tool, its anticipated utility, the relevant current state-of-the-art, and the relevant qualifications of the proposed PI(s). An additional single page may be used for the bibliography. The font must be Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia 11-point or larger; and margins, in all directions, must be at least ½ inch. Concept papers will be reviewed by individuals who have leadership roles in the CTSI and in the Schools of the Health Sciences. A limited number of concepts will be selected for further development. Applicants who submit the selected concepts will be asked to prepare more detailed proposals; details as to the proposal requirements will be provided to those individuals.

### **Submission Deadlines**

The submission deadline for concept papers in advance of FY 2009 funding is October 9, 2007. Those applicants who will be encouraged to submit full applications will be notified by November 16, 2007. The submission deadline for concept papers in advance of FY 2010 funding is September 17, 2008. Those applicants who will be encouraged to submit full applications will be notified by November 17, 2008.

All white papers must be submitted electronically, in PDF format, by 4:00 pm on the date of the submission deadline. No exceptions to these deadlines will be made. Applications should be sent to Ms. Melissa Penkrot, [mpenkrot@hs.pitt.edu](mailto:mpenkrot@hs.pitt.edu).

### **Additional Information**

Information about the University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Science Institute can be found at <http://www.ctsi.pitt.edu/>. Questions about the CTSI New Methodologies Program should be directed to Dr. Michelle Broido, Associate Vice Chancellor for Basic Biomedical Research, [mbroido@hs.pitt.edu](mailto:mbroido@hs.pitt.edu).

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1. University of Pittsburgh. Clinical and Translational Science Award Proposal. Available at <https://www.ctnbestpractices.org/networks/nih-ctsa-awardees/university-of-pittsburgh-pittsburgh-pa>. Accessed May 8, 2007.
  2. National Institutes of Health. The NIH Roadmap for Medical Research Overview page. Available at: <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/overview.asp>. Accessed February 28, 2006.
  3. National Institutes of Health. Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award page. Available at: <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/grants/index.asp>. Accessed January 26, 2006.
  4. National Institutes of Health. Establishment of Multiple Principal Investigator Awards the Support of Team Science Projects page. Available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-017.html>. Accessed May 8, 2007.