The Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS) is now accepting applications for the CCTS Pilot Project Awards. This pilot funding is for new, unfunded hypothesis-driven clinical or translational research. The awards are for up to $50,000 each. Only UTHealth assistant professors and instructors may apply. Applicants must currently have less than $100,000 direct costs per year in external funding.

For this program, clinical and translational research is defined as any of the following:
1. Patient-oriented research, i.e., research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects
2. Epidemiologic and behavioral studies on humans
3. Outcomes research, health services research, and other informatics-based research directly applicable to human health-related research
4. Application of discoveries generated in the laboratory to clinical studies or application of clinical observations to laboratory studies (“bench to bedside and back”)
5. Enhancement of the adoption of best practices in the community (translation to the community)

Studies that address issues of basic biomedical research and studies restricted to animal models of human disease will not be considered. Studies that involve human or animal subjects must already have UTHealth IRB and/or animal protocol approval at the time of application. No portion of the funding can be transferred from UTHealth, and all the funding must be used within 1 year of award.

Applications are due November 1, 2016, and must include the following, in this order:
1. Completed checklist (attached)
2. Title of project
3. Current valid UTHealth IRB and/or animal protocol approval letters for the study
4. Name of Principal Investigator (PI), department, school
5. Names of co-investigators and their departments and schools/institutions
6. A 1-page structured abstract (with the subheadings Introduction, Hypothesis, Specific Aims, Methods, Analysis, and Anticipated Results) describing the proposed study. (References may be on a separate page.)
7. NIH biosketches and NIH Other Support pages for the PI and any co-investigators (for form and examples, see http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm and http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html)
8. A 1-page budget with brief explanations of the purpose and necessity of each item in the budget. Items such as salaries, equipment, supplies, domestic travel, and patient-care costs may be included, but no indirect costs will be paid and no subcontracts are allowed. Salaries cannot be more than 60% of the budget. Requests for more than 10% salary of the PI or of any individual collaborators must be accompanied by a letter from the individual’s chair guaranteeing the equivalent protected time for the study.

Email this information (in one single-spaced pdf, in Arial 11-point font with ½” margins) to Tricia.Hill-Thomas@uth.tmc.edu by November 1, 2016. Applications that are not in the correct format may not be reviewed.

The purpose of the pilot awards is to generate preliminary data to obtain NIH or other extramural grants. To further the possibility of that, during their pilot funding, award recipients must agree to:
1. Attend a SPARK meeting on their projects. SPARK brings together experts from all aspects of the CCTS to advise investigators on CCTS services that might help overcome obstacles in their studies.
2. Participate in Grants 101 (http://www.uthouston.edu/nidp/grants-101/) and 102 (http://www.uthouston.edu/nidp/grants-102/) (unless the awardee has already received extramural funding or has attended Grants 101 and 102)

Please contact 713 500 7900 or ccts@uth.tmc.edu if you have questions.
Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences Pilot Project Awards Program

Application Checklist

Check items included/format used

____ Title of project

____ Current valid UTHealth IRB and/or animal protocol approval letters for the study

____ Name of Principal Investigator (PI), department, school

____ Names of co-investigators and their departments and schools/institutions

____ One-page structured abstract (with the subheadings Introduction, Hypothesis, Specific Aims, Methods, Analysis, and Anticipated Results) describing the proposed study

____ References on a separate page

____ NIH biosketches and NIH Other Support pages for the PI and any co-investigators

____ One-page budget with brief explanations of the purpose and necessity of each item in the budget

____ All items in one single-spaced pdf, in Ariel 11-point font with ½” margins