

2009 Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI) Pilot Grant (CO-Pilot) Application Process

I. Purpose

The CO-Pilot Grant Program of the CCTSI is a series of one-year awards meant to encourage cross-disciplinary and collaborative research in clinical and translational medicine. Translational research is intentionally broadly construed and includes any basic, pre-clinical or clinical research directed with promise to improve human health. Therefore, basic research at the cellular and molecular level, pre-clinical research in animal models, clinical research in humans, and outcomes or health services research are all included.

There are three award levels (indirect costs not permitted):

- Pilot Awards - \$20,000
- Independent Investigator / Career Transition Award - \$50,000
- Team Science Award - \$100,000

In addition to the CO-Pilot Grants, there are two other pilot award categories for research specific to Child and Maternal Health and to Community-based Translational Research that are being administered through separate RFAs. If your research involves either Child and Maternal Health or Community Translational research, please consider these options for pilot funding (see CCTSI website for other RFAs). You are allowed to submit an application to only one of these three pilot programs: CO-Pilot OR Child and Maternal Health OR Community Translational Research/Engagement. Please note that you are allowed to be a primary investigator on only one Pilot Grant application, irrespective of which category you submit to.

For this 2009 round of Pilot Grant Applications, revisions of unfunded 2008 applications are welcome. Renewals or follow-on funding requests for prior CCTSI funded Pilot Grants are NOT allowed.

II. Key Dates

RFA Posting Date:	25 June 2009
Letter of Intent (form attached):	1 September 2009
Application Submission Date:	2 October 2009
Earliest Anticipated Start Date:	1 January 2010

III. Descriptions

1. **Pilot Awards** (\$20,000 for one year) will be made to investigators with promising, yet high risk areas of clinical and translational investigation. There are 2 award levels: The Mentored Pilot Award (requires co-mentorship) and the Junior Faculty Pilot Award (collaboration emphasized). A priority funding target area is bioengineering translational research.

- The Mentored Pilot Award represents an opportunity for a beginning investigator to benefit from strong mentorship and cross-disciplinary training in clinical and translational research. Co-mentorship is required for this award with a primary mentor as the direct supervisor for the candidate and a secondary mentor adding expertise in a related, but different discipline. Mentored Pilot awards are made to the Mentee (beginning investigator) who should be the PI on the application. Mentored Pilot Award applications ONLY are

eligible for a cursory pre-review by the administrator, Sarah Stallings, upon request. This pre-review is intended to help beginning investigators with proper assembly of this application.

- The Junior Faculty Pilot Award is an opportunity for faculty at the assistant professor level and below. While this award carries no mentoring requirement, the proposed project should emphasize collaborations and interactions for clinical and translational research.

2. **Independent Investigator / Career Transition Awards** (\$50,000 for one year) support independent investigators in interdisciplinary research. Applications for this award are expected to demonstrate highly collaborative interactions in concise areas of translational and clinical investigation which may represent a new career direction. Included within this category are mini-sabbatical awards which require a home Departmental letter of salary support for the award period. Mini-sabbatical awards or career transition awards are granted to individuals to facilitate acquiring new experiences and knowledge in clinical and translational research.

3. One **Team Science Award** (\$100,000 for one year) will support interdisciplinary research. Applications must reflect the bridging of either basic and translational or translational and clinical or community studies with cross-disciplinary project leadership. In effect, the goal of team science awards is to facilitate integration between discovery translation, clinical research, and community translation.

Other Review and Approvals of the Proposal: Receiving a CO-Pilot funding award does not replace the need for obtaining research approval from other appropriate review bodies, such as COMIRB, IACUC, or any other regulatory group relevant to the proposal. Applicants are strongly encouraged to demonstrate their capacity to submit this proposal to these regulatory committees as soon as possible upon receipt of the CO-Pilot award; however, approval from these committees is not required prior to CO-Pilot application. **If you intend to use any CTRC resources, your research protocol will also require separate SARC submission and approval.** CTRC resources include: inpatient and outpatient research facilities, clinical research nursing support, nutrition research support, exercise research laboratory, ancillary funds; and CTRC Core lab support; see: <http://ctsa1.uchsc.edu/Research-Resources/Clinical-Research-Resources/Pages/ProtocolSubmission.aspx> .

IV. Eligibility

- Applicant(s) must be CCTSI members at the time of application (see the CCTSI website to become a member: cctsi.ucdenver.edu). There will be no exceptions. Becoming a member should take no more than a few minutes filling out our on-line application form.
- Proposed research must represent a cross-disciplinary effort.
- Each faculty member can act as PI or co-investigator on only ONE application and/or Mentor on ONE application. (Thus, an investigator can both direct one project and mentor a separate project.)
- **Mentored Pilot Awards** are for beginning investigators (including post-docs and assistant professors in tenure or research tracks) to partner with a more senior mentor investigator. The **award is to the Mentee**, who should be the PI of a Mentored Pilot application.
- **Junior Faculty Pilot Awards** are for junior faculty, including faculty and post-docs, who have not attained associate professor rank or above.
- **Independent Investigator / Career Transition Awards** are for independent investigators (associate professor and above) looking to incorporate a new clinical translational direction into their research. Included in this category are mini-sabbatical awards. For these, a junior

investigator would design and propose a research experience, related to their funded research but possibly outside their current expertise, which will enhance and augment their clinical and translational research. For example, if particular experiments will further an investigator's research but are not in that investigator's experience, the investigator might propose a project with a collaborator meant to not just collect the data of interest but to provide training in that experimentation technique or area. For these awards, the investigator needs approval from their Department or Division Head and acknowledgement of protected time for the endeavor.

- The **Team Science Award** is for groups of researchers demonstrating an efficient plan for cross-disciplinary collaboration.
- Senior faculty members are not eligible for the Junior Faculty or Mentored Pilot awards. However, senior faculty members with a terrific translational research idea can consider mentoring a junior investigator who is eligible for a Mentored Pilot Award or gathering a collaborative team for a Team Science application.
- Underrepresented and minority researchers (including women) who meet the program requirements are particularly urged to apply.
- We will try to address eligibility questions upon LOI receipt and resolve them prior to the application deadline.

V. Application Requirements

Letter of Intent (Mandatory): The Letter of Intent must convey this information:

- Award level/category of interest
- PI and Co-I names
- PI email address
- PI primary appointments - institution/school/division/department/center or institute (as relevant)
- Co-I / Co-Mentor names
- Project title
- Indication of special consideration (the PI is an underserved minority, including women and from a disadvantaged background; the project is a bioengineering collaboration; and/or the proposed research is intended to help incorporate a new research skill to increase PI's clinical or translational expertise)

Letters of Intent assist the CCTSI in assembling the proper expertise on the review committee and preempt potential eligibility issues for applicants. Therefore, **applications without a Letter of Intent will be returned.** Submit an online CO-Pilot Letter of Intent by September 1, 2009 (<http://ctsa1.uchsc.edu/Funding/Pages/CO-Pilot.aspx>). If you are not able to respond online, you may submit a cover page (attached) as your Letter of Intent to Sarah Stallings by email (sarah.stallings@ucdenver.edu).

Application Directions: Applications should demonstrate significant research experience for all applicants and a discrete research project of interest to one of the CCTSI Key Functions (**Participant and Clinical Interactions, Translational Technologies, Research Design, Biostatistics, and Clinical Research Ethics, Community Engagement, Child & Maternal Health, and Translational Informatics** – see CCTSI website for description of each key function).

This application is a shortened version of an NIH-style application, summarizing the project's overall aims, background, preliminary data, and research methods **within a four page limit.**

Applications for mini-sabbaticals also require a letter from the relevant department demonstrating Institutional support for the sabbatical. References, Budget, Justification, and Biosketches are not included in the 4-page count. **No Appendices are allowed**, except for mini-sabbatical departmental support letters.

Progress Reports: Successful awardees will **submit a mid-award (six-month) progress report** and provide a **summary of the award's impact at the end of the granting period**, including a list of any publications, patents, follow-on support or other outcomes, and must **recognize the funding from the CCTSI on all publications relevant to the award**.

Submission: Submission instructions will be sent to the PI upon the Letter of Intent receipt.

Contents of the CO-Pilot Program Application	
1.	CO-Pilot Letter of Intent (see attached and on-line form)
2.	Goals, objectives or aims of your project. (suggested 1/2 page); Provide a clear, concise summary of the hypothesis to be tested. What clinical or translational research areas will this apply to?
3.	Background and Preliminary Work for the proposal. (suggested 1 page)
4.	Experimental Design and Methods (suggested 2 pages) Clearly describe the overall plan for methods development and addressing each Aim. Describe proposed tests, procedures, subject population and ages in sufficient detail to allow adequate evaluation of your approach. Include a projected time-line. Include details of the relative involvement of mentors and the applicant in Mentored Pilot Award applications and/or details of different collaborators' expected roles .
5.	Use of CCTSI Resources. (suggested ½ page) Describe how this proposal will use resources of the CCTSI (see website http://cctsi.ucdenver.edu for description of CCTSI resources).
6.	References Cited (not included in 4 page limit)
7.	Budget. a. List the budget by categories. Limit to one year budget. b. Justification: Justify items by categories. No investigator salary or tuition support is permitted. c. Other support for this project should be described
8.	Include an NIH biosketch for key personnel on the project.
9.	For Mini-sabbatical applications only: Letter demonstrating Institutional support of the sabbatical.

IV Review Criteria

Peer review panels, convened by Dr. Natalie Ahn and Dr. Mark Geraci, will be responsible for award decisions. Reviewers with appropriate expertise will evaluate eligible applications. All decisions will be final. Short informative critiques indicating reviewers' assessment of the application's strengths and weaknesses will be provided. Factors to be considered are:

- **Scientific merit**
- **Cross-disciplinary or collaborative focus**
- **Significance to the CCTSI mission-** Will the results further our understanding / diagnosis / or treatment of human diseases? Making use of CCTSI resources is encouraged and will be taken into account in review (A list of CCTSI resources is attached. See also: CCTSI website.)
- **Investigator integration** - Have the investigators made use of new collaborations? Are attempts made to integrate basic and translational researchers in discovery translation?

- Special consideration will be given to applications that show bioengineering translational research, applications from underrepresented minorities and women, and applications representing a new research direction to increase the PI's clinical or translational expertise and/or to broaden an investigator's research program in clinical and translational areas.

Questions about the program should be addressed to Sarah Stallings (sarah.stallings@ucdenver.edu).

2009/2010 CCTSI CO-Pilot Application
(Fill this out on line at <http://ctsa1.uchsc.edu/Funding/Pages/CO-Pilot.aspx>)

PI Name: _____

PI email address: _____

PI Primary Affiliation (Institution = UCD, UCB, TCH, NJH, DVAMC, DH, KP); School or College if applicable; Department; Division if applicable; Center or Institute if applicable):

Co-I / Mentor Name(s): _____

Project Title: _____

Applying for:

- Mentored Pilot Award
- Junior Faculty Pilot Award
- Independent Investigator / Career Transition Award
- Team Science Award

This application qualifies as (choose all that apply):

- PI is an Underserved or Minority Investigator (Underserved includes Women)
- Bioengineering Translational Research
- New research skill or direction

CCTSI Research Resources: ([cctsi.ucdenver.edu/ Research-Resources/Pages/default.aspx](http://cctsi.ucdenver.edu/Research-Resources/Pages/default.aspx))

Consultative services	
	Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design
	Regulatory Knowledge & Support
	Bioethics
	Informatics Support
	Clinical Trials Offices (TCH and UCH)
Clinical & Translational Research Centers	
	Inpatient & Outpatient Research Facilities
	Clinical Research Nursing support
	Nutrition Research Support
	Core Lab
	UCH CTRC Core Lab
	NJH CTRC Inflammation & Immunology Lab
	NJH CTRC Behavioral Medicine Core Lab
	TCH CTRC Core Lab
	UCB CTRC Core Lab
	Exercise research Lab
Child and Maternal Health Resources	
Network of Technology Cores	
	Biobanking Consortium
	Gene Expression and Microarray Analysis
	Imaging Consortium
	Experimental Human Imaging
	Microscopy
	Small Animal Imaging
	Metabolomics
	Proteomics Consortium
	UCCC Proteomics Core
	NJH Proteomics Core
	UCB Proteomics
	Translational Therapeutics & Modeling
	Animal models
	Molecular vector
	Experimental Pharmacology
	Mutation Detection & Genotyping
	Lipidomics