2020-2021 Translational Team Science Awards (TTSAs)

Translational Team Science Awards (TTSAs) aim to promote creative, multidisciplinary team-based research focused on complex or challenging biomedical research questions. A second goal of TTSAs is to help investigators learn proven strategies to create and sustain productive research teams.

TTSA research teams must be comprised of 3 or more independent disciplines or types of expertise. The research question should be such that no individual within the team could complete the project without the additional expertise of all the other members of the team. TTSA awardees will also be required to participate in structured Team Science training to learn how to make collaborations more efficient, productive and sustainable.

Teams may be formed from any combination of academic labs, clinical partners, industry or foundations. Innovative, high-impact studies of all types (T1-T4) are eligible and faculty at all levels may apply. The total budget for an entire team may not exceed $25,000 in total costs. The project period is 12 months long with no extensions.

Deliverables should include a demonstrated working collaboration (e.g. monthly meetings, group prioritization of activities), data sharing, co-authored papers, and submission of multicenter or multiple PI grant proposals, or a written strategy with timeline for preparation of these types of proposals.

To learn more about the research interests of CNH and/or GW faculty, several different resources are available. https://gwu.lyteraticloud.com/login (requires GW log in credentials) and Expert Finder https://expert.gwu.edu/ contain information about GW faculty. For CNH, please see profiles.ctsicn.org

Application guidelines are detailed on the following pages
Application Guidelines

Applications that do not follow these guidelines will not be reviewed.

1) All faculty except current CTSI-CN KL2 and NIH K awardees, are eligible. Postdocs, students and fellows are encouraged to participate as members of teams, but are not eligible to be group leaders (PIs). Faculty may not serve as team leaders (PIs) on more than one application. All applicants should become CTSI-CN members (https://www.ctsicn.org) and should have ORCiD ID’s.

2) All investigators on each team are expected to participate in Team Science activities. Failure to participate, or to provide timely progress reports, will result in elimination of eligibility for future CTSI-CN CMTS funding opportunities.

3) Applications should include: 1) title, 2) designated team leader (PI), 2) budget and budget justification in NIH format, including a clearly defined role for each team member on the project, 3) timeline, and 4) brief description of the project in NIH format (intro, significance, innovation, aim(s), research plan) and 5) rationale for the multidisciplinary approach. Applications are limited to 3 pages (Arial, 11 point font), not including budget, budget justification or references. Budget, budget justification and references have no page limit.

4) NIH biosketches for the PI and key personnel (e.g. postdoctoral fellows) supported by the proposed budget be provided and adhere to the new NIH biosketch format with a maximum of five pages.

5) Projects that require expenses at more than one institution (CNH, GW, or Community Partners only for PHTSA), must provide a separate NIH style budget and budget justification for each institution. Budgets must be submitted in NIH style (Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period available here: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/398_fp4.docx [grants.nih.gov]). Investigators are encouraged to work with their departmental grant managers to ensure that budgets meet individual institutional policies.

6) Budgets may NOT request funds for faculty salaries, travel, publication fees, conference registration, transcription services, computer hardware or computing devices including laptops and ipads, or indirect costs. Examples of allowable costs include research assistant salaries, consumable supplies and software. Gift cards for subject payments may only be charged to the award after participants are seen, and within the active period of this award. Gift cards may not be purchased and saved for future use.

7) Many CTSI-CN services are FREE (Community Engagement, Grants Enhancement), while others, such as support for biostatics (BERD) or clinical studies (PCI/CRU) are available at reduced rates. If interested in utilizing CTSI-CN services, please submit a SPARC request at https://www.ctsicn.org/sparc [ctsicn.org] for a cost quote. A member of the CTSI-CN module that will provide the service must provide a sign-off that their portion of the budget is correct, on the formal budget page.
8) Applications will initially be reviewed and ranked based on scientific impact and rigor. Awards will be made based on available funding. Applications selected for funding that involve human or animal subjects will undergo a secondary review by NCATS as detailed below.

9) To ensure that projects may start on time, IRB approval for projects involving human subjects or IACUC approval for projects involving animals is very strongly encouraged at the time of submission of the application. These approvals often involve lengthy processes and are REQUIRED for the secondary NCATS review described below. No extension of funding can be made due to delays in institutional or NCATS approval. Therefore, projects that lack approval at the time of application will be disadvantaged in the application review.

10) **NCATS Approval:**

   a. **Human Subject Research:** See NIH Policy on Human Subject Research [https://grants.nih.gov/policy/hs/faqs.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/hs/faqs.htm). Human Subject Research funded by this mechanism, including research in exemption categories 1-4, is subject to NIH Delayed Onset Prior Approval Requirements ([https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_8/8.1.2_prior_approval_requirements.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_8/8.1.2_prior_approval_requirements.htm)). Investigators must have IRB and NCATS (NIH Funding Program) approval, before research may begin. This process can take months. When planning your timeline and budget, investigators are encouraged to take this into account. Some may choose to plan in two phases: a preparatory phase that does not involve human subject research and a human study phase which may be undertaken only after approvals have been received.

   b. **Non-Human Subject Research:** Projects that do not involve Human Subject Research may be funded through this mechanism. These may involve team building, capacity building, and program evaluation preparation for future collaborations. Some work with human specimens may be considered non-human subject research. Any non-human subject research designations must be confirmed by our RKS module before work may begin.

   c. **Animal Research:** Research involving Animals funded by this mechanism must follow NIH guidelines. Investigators will be required to provide an IACUC protocol number and 4-point Justification for submission to NCATS before work will begin.

**Important Dates:**

- Application Deadline: April 23, 2020
- Award Notification: May 12, 2020
- Secondary NCATS Review: May-June, 2020
- Award Kick-Off/Start Date: Second week of June, 2020
- Mid-Year Progress Reports Due: December 15, 2020
- Award Ends: May 31, 2021; no extensions
- Final Progress Reports Due: June 15, 2021

Questions about the specific awards may be addressed to:

Sean D. Cleary: sdcleary@gwu.edu (PHTSA) or Susan Knoblach: sknoblach@childrensnational.org (TTSA)

Budget questions should be addressed to

Valery Yankov: VYankov@childrensnational.org for CNH applicants or Lydia Prentiss: lydiaprentiss@gwu.edu, for GW applicants