

The Collaboration and Multidisciplinary Team Science (CMTS) module of the CTSI-CN announces a call for Winter 2019 Voucher Applications

CTSI-CN Voucher Award: Unlike past vouchers, this and future voucher awards may only be used for CTSI-CN services, or for specific community outreach activities intended to initiate groundwork for future applications for community engagement awards offered by the Pilot Translational and Clinical Studies (PTC) module of the CTSI-CN. A list of CTSI-CN services that may be supported by voucher funding is attached.

Multiple awards of \leq \$3K each are available. All faculty are eligible. Proposed research must be high impact, innovative and scientifically rigorous. Support is not limited to pediatric research--any project relevant to health and well-being throughout the lifespan is eligible. Translational research is eligible only if the requested funds will be used to support CTSI-CN services for the project.

Projects **MUST** be shovel-ready. Awardees will have only ~8-10 weeks to utilize these funds, and must strategize accordingly. No extensions are allowed.

Important Dates--

- **Proposals Due: Jan 21, 2020**
- **Funding Announcements: Jan 30, 2020**
- **Award Date: ~March 1 or pending NCATS review, 2020**
- **Funds Expire: May 31, 2020**

*If needed, IRB (for human subjects research) or IACUC (for research involving animals) approval **MUST be present at the time of application**. Approved projects must undergo a subsequent NCATS review, which may add 1-2 months to the application process before funds are awarded. Voucher funds may NOT be used for consultants, faculty salaries, student stipends, travel, publication fees, or computer hardware. Applications are limited to **2 pages** (Ariel, 11 point font). Applications should include: 1) title 2) abbreviated budget, 3) timeline and 4) brief description of the project in NIH format (intro, significance, innovation, aim(s), research plan).*

To apply, go to <https://cri-datacap.org/surveys/?s=CCMLX47NRA>

Questions? Contact:

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CTSI-CN Services

Voucher applicants are expected to meet with one or more of these modules prior to submission to obtain accurate budget information. Modules/services below are available to all investigators, regardless of whether they have a CTSI-CN voucher, or their primary institutional affiliation (GW or CN). CTSI-CN offers some services at no or reduced cost, and **all initial consultations are free.**

Applicants can request consultations through the Services, Pricing, & Application for Research Centers (SPARC) portal on the CTSI-CN website. Applicants can also contact the CTSI-CN directly for support, by emailing CTSiNavigator@childrensnational.org. More information and contacts can be found at <http://ctsicn.org/>.

Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) Consultation: High quality biostatistical and epidemiological support for the development and design of clinical or translational research, as well as data management and analysis support. All requestors are provided with up to four hours of free support. Voucher awardees receive 24 hours of free support.

Informatics Consultation: Provides access to recruitment tools, clinical data, and analytic tools required for CTR needs, as well as relevant training. Provides study design and data analysis for bioinformatics studies, and for unifying bioinformatics with medical informatics. Strategies for research database design; data management (REDCap, OpenClinica); access to high performance computing; access to MedDRA and CD2H.

Grants Enhancement Program (GEP): Support for junior faculty writing grant applications. GEP offers the following services: 1) Open Studios for senior faculty input on early project formulation; 2) Specific aims and proposal review by senior faculty; 3) Monthly meetings for peer review of and by K- and R-focused junior faculty, facilitated by senior faculty members; 4) Access to materials such as successful grant applications and guidance documents; 5) external expert review of well-prepared grant applications and mock study sections for multidisciplinary input.

Community Engagement Consultation: Offers investigators the opportunity to consult with the Community Board (CB). Consultations address study design and recruitment. Members have expertise in community organizing, mental health and illness, special populations, child welfare and behavioral services for detained youth and children with complex medical conditions.

Participant Recruitment Consultation: Assists investigators and their teams maximize the recruitment of research participants - including pediatric and rare genetic disease populations - by using a variety of existing and developing informatics tools, educating teams on their use, and connecting with the community to maximize their buy-in.

Regulatory Consultation: Offers investigators support in their IRB process, and alerts about other compliance regulations that need to be addressed.

Liaison to Trial Innovation Centers Consultation: Support for Multi-site Clinical Trials through the CTSA Trial Innovation Centers. Our team matches investigators with Clinical Trials taking place in other CTSA institutions for collaboration, as well as help our Children's and GW researchers find collaborators for their Clinical Trials studies in other CTSA institutions. We also work with research teams to ensure trial readiness and offer streamlined procedures for the implementation of multicenter research projects.

Integrating Special Populations: Provides resources to assist investigators in including special populations in CTR projects. Special populations are defined as: Children from underserved populations (i.e., those experiencing health disparities); fetuses and their mothers; and children with rare genetic disorders.

Clinical Research Unit (CRU) at Children's National Main Hospital (*GW researchers have limited access to these services*): CRU offers a variety of resources and specialized services for clinical research protocols. Services can be performed in the CRU or other hospital areas, both inpatient and outpatient. All CRU personnel have comprehensive training, including GCP, to perform each service/task with the highest level of efficiency, quality, and ethical standards. In addition, the CRU leadership and management team has many years of combined experience in clinical research in pediatrics and other vulnerable populations. Services:

ClinicalTrials.gov Support: In partnership with the IRB, our team sends reminders to PIs to register and provide study results on ClinicalTrials.gov and ensures that the ClinicalTrials.gov NCT# is entered in our EHR for patients enrolled in research studies.

Scientific Review Committee: The new Scientific Review Committee (SRC) pre-screens human research IRB submissions (i.e., pilot projects; clinical trials by K, T, or other trainees; and projects funded by foundation, small pharmaceutical, or biotech grants). The SRC exempts proposals with prior rigorous peer-review (e.g., NIH R, other federal awards) unless the associated human research protocol has not been reviewed.

Bionutrition Services: This service provides: 1) Caloric intake assessment; 2) Special meal design; 3) Nutrient analysis; 4) Anthropometric measurements using stadiometers, length board, knee height and Lange calipers, infant and standing weight scales; 5) Body composition assessments using air displacement plethysmography and/or bioelectrical impedance analysis; and 6) Energy expenditure and fitness studies utilizing a metabolic cart.

Neurobehavioral and Psychosocial Evaluation Core: This Core function provides assessments of infants, children, adolescents, and adults, including cognition, behavior, social/environmental and family dynamics assessments, as well as consultation on behavioral phenotyping, selection of optimal assessment tools, and functional MRI applications for research on neurodevelopmental disorders.

Biorepository: The CTSI-CN Biorepository provides expert assistance with: Bio-specimen collection, processing (e.g., DNA and/or protein extraction), and storage for IRB-approved protocols; and data and sample management including the FreezerPro laboratory management system of over 10,000 samples. In addition to maintaining this resource, the CTSI-CN Biorepository leverages existing expertise and resources to include a state-of-the-art HIV-related biorepository.