

The Collaboration and Multidisciplinary Team Science Module of CTSI-CN Announces a Call for Winter 2020 Voucher Applications Specific for COVID-19 Research

Awards of up to \$4K each are available for projects that propose innovative, high-impact studies that focus on either: a) pediatric COVID; b) public health issues or disease mechanisms associated with minorities that are disproportionately affected by COVID.

Studies of all types (T1-T4) are eligible and faculty at all levels may apply, except for current Voucher or Team Science awardees, who are ineligible for this particular opportunity. Expected deliverables include coauthored papers, collection of preliminary data, submitted federal proposals, or a written strategy with timeline for preparation of such proposals. Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize CTSI-CN resources for research support, including:

- Informatics: Support for leverage of National Center for Data to Health (CD2H) resources (cd2h.org)
- Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design (BERD): Assistance with electronic data capture, study design and analysis
- Community Engagement or Special Populations: Strategies for recruitment from specific populations
- Collaboration and Multidisciplinary Team Science: Assistance with team creation and support
- Regulatory Knowledge & Support
- Innovations in Clinical Trials or Enhancing Clinical Trial Recruitment

To learn more about the research interests of faculty colleagues and potential collaborators at GW visit <https://gwu.lyteraticloud.com/login> (requires GW log in credentials) or Expert Finder <https://expert.gwu.edu/>. For interests of CNH colleagues, visit profiles.ctsicc.org.

[The CTSI-CN web page \(https://www.ctsicc.org/\)](https://www.ctsicc.org/) has continuously updated information about COVID-19 and related resources and funding.

Important Dates--

- **Proposals Due: November 15, 2020**
- **Funding Announcements: January 1, 2021**
- **Awarded Funds Expire: May 31, 2021. No extensions allowed.**

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=7WLFEDFR48>

Applications that do not adhere to the guidelines on the following page will not be reviewed.

Application Guidelines

- 1) All faculties other than current CTSI-CN KL2 and NIH K awardees are eligible, except for those who currently hold voucher or Team Science Awards. Postdocs, students and fellows are not eligible to submit or serve as PIs. Faculty may not be a PI on more than one application. All applicants should become CTSI-CN members (<https://www.ctsicc.org>) and should have ORCID ID's.
- 2) Applications should include: 1) title 2) PI 3) budget and budget justification in NIH format 4) timeline and 5) brief description of the project in NIH format (intro, significance, innovation, aim(s), research plan). Applications are limited to **2 pages** (Arial, 11 point font), not including budget, budget justification or references, which have no page limit.
- 3) NIH biosketches for the PI and key personnel must be provided and adhere to the new NIH biosketch format with a maximum of five pages.
- 4) Due to the rapid deployment of these funds we request that budgets be directed toward one institution only, regardless of any collaborative partners that may be involved in the project. Budgets may NOT include indirect charges. 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.
- 5) Budgets may **NOT** request funds for consultants, salaries, student stipends, travel, publication fees, conference registration, transcription services, computer hardware or computing devices including laptops and iPads. Examples of allowable costs include 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.
- 6) Many CTSI-CN services are **FREE** (Community Engagement, Grants Enhancement), while others, such as support for biostatistics (BERD) or clinical studies (PCI/CRU) are available at reduced rates for voucher recipients. If interested in utilizing CTSI-CN services, please submit a SPARC request at <https://www.ctsicc.org/sparc> [[ctsicc.org](https://www.ctsicc.org)] or contact the module directly for a cost quote (see details under "CTSI-CN Services" page. 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.
- 7) Applications will be reviewed and ranked based on scientific impact and rigor. Awards will be made based on available funding.
- 8) **IRB approval for projects involving human subjects or IACUC approval for projects involving animals is required at the time of submission of the application. Applications without such approval will be rejected without review.**
- 9) General questions may be addressed to Sean D. Cleary: sdcleary@gwu.edu or Susan Knoblach: sknoblach@childrensnational.org. Budget/administrative questions may be addressed to Valery Yankov VYankov@childrensnational.org (CN applicants) or Lydia Prentiss lydiaprentiss@gwu.edu (GW applicants).

CTSI-CN Services

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 Services are not required to be used by Voucher applicants. Applicants who wish to use CTSI-CN services are expected to meet with the relevant provider prior to submission of their application, to obtain accurate budget information.

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/>. **All initial consultations are free.**

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.