

**The Rockefeller University Center for Basic and Translational  
Research on Disorders of the Digestive System**

**Pilot Projects Submission Deadline is Sept. 2, 2014**

**OVERVIEW and ELIGIBILITY**

The Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science (RUCCTS), the Center for Basic and Translational Research on Disorders of the Digestive System (CDDS), and the Sackler Center for Biomedicine and Nutrition (SCBN) solicits requests for pilot projects to support new and innovative clinical and translational studies. These programs may also support studies involving new collaborations that advance clinical or translational research. Projects from Clinical Scholars and from basic investigators that extend their studies to clinical or translational research are particularly welcome. In the event a trainee submits a proposal, the Background and Significance section should explain how the supported research will advance the career and training goals of that individual. A second year of funding is possible, but will be determined after a progress report for the first year is submitted and the funding will be competitive with new submissions. Approximately **33** awards will be made this year. Up to **3** awards may be made in the area of community-engaged research, up to **12** awards in the area of disorders of the digestive system, and **12** awards in the area of nutrition-related research. A statement regarding the public health significance of the problem and potential impact of the research should be included in all proposals.

**FUNDING and EXPENDITURE**

A maximum of \$25,000 in direct costs can be requested.

**HOW TO APPLY**

Applications must be **received** on or before 5:00 PM, ET, on September 2, 2014. **All applications are to be uploaded to the pilot project online submission system.** You can access the system at <http://pilotprojects.rockefeller.edu/>. Please note you will need to register in order to submit your application online.

Confirmation e-mail will be sent when your submission is successfully received.

**CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION**

**FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS**

Follow format and font specifications as outlined below. Applications that do not follow instructions will be deemed non-responsive to this RFA.

- Use Arial typeface and a font size of 11 point only
- Use one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages of the RFA
- Number pages consecutively throughout the application

- Place last, first name in the header of your application

In **no more than 5 pages** for sections 1-6, the application should contain the following:  
**(Applications longer than 5 pages will be deemed non-responsive to this RFA)**

1. Abstract (no more than one paragraph in length)
2. Public Health Impact Statement (no more than 400 characters in length)
3. Specific Aims
4. Background and Significance
5. Preliminary Studies, if relevant
6. Research Design and Methods
7. Project Timeline
8. Literature Citations
9. Budget and budget narrative (budget justification)
10. Biographical sketches
11. Letter(s) of collaboration/support
12. Letter of commitment from partnering faculty/institution (if applicable)
13. Use of Vertebrate Animals (if applicable)

## **ABSTRACT**

The application should include a brief abstract. That abstract should contain an explanation of how the proposed project will accelerate the development of a clinical or translational project and how the proposed research will address an issue of significance to human health and what impact it may have on population health. Your abstract should be no longer than 1000 characters (including spaces).

**\*\*A two-hour technical assistance workshop will be held to answer all questions regarding pilot project submissions, review the online submission system, and to assist applicants with crafting public health impact statements on Thursday August 7, 2014 at 11AM in Nurses Residence 110B.**

Although this submission is based on key elements of the PHS 398 form, the entire application should be brief, no longer than **5 pages**. If the study involves a design where statistical methods are used to determine the number of subjects that need to be studied, that statistical information should be included as a part of Research Design and Methods but will not count towards the 5-page length. Applicants submitting research proposals including human subjects research are encouraged to consult the Research Facilitation Office, the IRB, or the Clinical Research Support Office for at least preliminary discussions about feasibility. If a study involves vertebrate animals, the five points detailed below should be included but will not count towards the 5-page length. Plans to use core resources of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science are encouraged and should be explained in Research Design and Methods, if relevant.

## **FOR PROPOSALS REQUESTING THE USE OF VETEBRATE ANIMALS**

If vertebrate animals are involved in the pilot project you are proposing, please address each of the five points below.

If all or part of the proposed research involving vertebrate animals will take place at alternate sites (such as project/performance or collaborating sites), identify those sites and describe the activities at those locations.

Although no specific page limitation applies to this section of the application, be succinct. Failure to address the following five points will result in the application being designated as incomplete and will be grounds for The Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science to defer the application from review.

The five points are as follows:

1. Provide a detailed description of the proposed use of the animals for the work outlined in the Research Design and Methods section. Identify the species, strains, ages, sex, and numbers of animals to be used in the proposed work.
2. Justify the use of animals, the choice of species, and the numbers to be used. If animals are in short supply, costly, or to be used in large numbers, provide an additional rationale for their selection and numbers.
3. Provide information on the veterinary care of the animals involved.
4. Describe the procedures for ensuring that discomfort, distress, pain, and injury will be limited to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically sound research. Describe the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs and/or comfortable restraining devices, where appropriate, to minimize discomfort, distress, pain, and injury.
5. Describe any method of euthanasia to be used and the reason(s) for its selection. State whether this method is consistent with the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines on Euthanasia. If not, include a scientific justification for not following the recommendations.

If the involvement of animals is indefinite, provide an explanation and indicate when it is anticipated that animals will be used.

### **FOR COMMUNITY- ENGAGED RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

The Rockefeller University Center for Clinical and Translational Science (RUCCTS) aims to increase access to research in communities by supporting community/academic research partnerships and collaborations that are both relevant and responsive to the health needs of the community. Research projects must be designed with input from the community, to enhance practical as well as theoretical understanding of community health issues, and include creative strategies for addressing community-identified problems by bringing together academic and community partners. In addition to the content and form of the application above, proposals should include a brief description of the problem under investigation as identified with a community partner, provide a description of procedures for conducting the community-based research study and include a timeline. Proposals should describe the importance and significance of the results or findings that are likely from the research and its benefit to the community. The proposal should outline plans for publication and presentation of the results once the project is completed.

### **FOR DISORDERS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM PROPOSALS**

The Rockefeller University Center for Basic and Translational Research on Disorders of the Digestive System (CDDS) aims to advance understanding the fundamental biology of the digestive system and its interconnections with the immune system, circulatory system, and the nervous and endocrine systems, laying a foundation for the development of more effective diagnostic tools and treatments for a broad range of health conditions. Anticipated discoveries by investigators in the center will lead to the development of new approaches to the prevention and treatment of: autoimmune conditions, including inflammatory bowel disease; metabolic

disorders, including diabetes and obesity; bacterial and viral infections, including hepatitis; and tumors that arise in the colon, liver, pancreas, and stomach. In addition to the content and the form of the application above, proposals should describe the importance and significance of the results or findings that are likely from the research and its benefit to digestive disease-related research. The proposal should outline plans for publication and presentation of the results once the project is completed.

### **FOR BIOMEDICINE AND NUTRITION RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

Joining the pilot grant program this year is the newly created Sackler Center for Biomedicine and Nutrition (SCBN). The SCBN has been created to increase nutrition-related research on the RU campus. Nutritional issues are increasingly being recognized as important in normal growth and development as well as disease. The excellent laboratories at RU and the intellectual firepower of our faculty and students have the potential to make important contributions to the field of Nutrition. The SCBN will be supporting pilot project grants in 3 areas: 1. Laboratory Research 2. Patient Based Research at the RU Hospital 3. Community Based Research. The aim is to encourage laboratories to extend their normal fields of inquiry to include the role of Nutrition (i.e. nutrients, physiology and neurobiology of appetite control, consequences of over or under nutrition, etc.). Laboratory research could include in vitro as well as animal based systems. When submitting your application please indicate that you wish to be considered for funding by this new program.

### **REVIEW CRITERIA**

Projects will be evaluated on the basis of scientific and technical merit and clinical and translational impact, as well as the potential of the research to advance the career of a trainee. The applications will be reviewed by the Oversight of Pilot and Collaborative Translational and Clinical Studies subcommittee of the Advisory Committee for Clinical and Translational Science (ACCTS) and presented to the ACCTS for final determination of funding. Once a project is evaluated for its scientific and technical content and recommended for funding, funding will be contingent on the investigator obtaining ACCTS and IRB approval for human subjects protocols and ACCTS and IACUC approval for studies involving vertebrate animals. **For community-engaged research projects** applicants must provide a letter of commitment from the partnering faculty/institution. Proposals in this category must incorporate community involvement in the design and, where appropriate, focus on having a positive health impact on the participating community.

### **AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT**

Awards will be announced by October 15, 2014.

### **TERMS OF AWARD**

Prior to award, applicants will be informed of the applicable terms and conditions of award for pilot projects. **Applicants will be expected to expend all of the funds before June 30, 2015.** In special circumstances, individual requests to extend the funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **INQUIRIES**

Address inquiries to Maija Neville-Williams, Administrative Director at [mwilliams@rockefeller.edu](mailto:mwilliams@rockefeller.edu) (212) 327-8501.

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