

Georgia CTSA's Pilot Translational & Clinical Studies (PTCS) program

Timeline

January 14, 2022 – letters of intent due

Early February 2022– applicants selected to submit final proposal notified

March 1, 2022 at 5 PM – proposals due

Early May 2022 – applicant award notification

July 1, 2022 – start date

June 30, 2023 – end date

Georgia CTSA Purpose

To deliver scientific and systems change that solve the many outstanding problems limiting the efficiency, effectiveness and reach of clinical and translational research (CTR), and thus deliver more treatments to more patients more quickly across the country.

Pilot Grant Program

Pilot projects represent preliminary, preparatory, or feasibility studies designed to assess the applicability of new technologies, protocols, data collection instruments, or subject recruitment strategies as stepping-stones toward a full, hypothesis-testing investigation.

The four academic institutional partners of the Georgia CTSA collectively recognize the critical need for start-up, feasibility, or proof-of-concept resources.

Pilot Grant Program

Proposals can either:

- a.) generate preliminary data and refine research strategies for subsequent extramural grant applications, OR
- b.) develop the best approaches and methodologies to address complex translational and clinical research problems.

Can be in any area of translation: T1 – T4

Can involve human subjects, animal models of human disease, cell models of human disease but cannot be basic science without a human disease connection

Two categories of grants

Category 1 - Grants that focus on translational and clinical research.

Category 2 - Grants that address a translational research question which could provide innovative approaches and methodological insights that could be generalizable to other projects/diseases.

Areas of emphasis in 2022

- Novel technology development
- Interdisciplinary grants following [Blue Sky Group](#) events
- Best approaches to address important clinical and translational research (CTR) problems and/or the science of translational science
- Innovative approaches to overcoming choke points in the translational process, such as regulatory hurdles and patient recruitment
- Novel methodologies for clinical research that can be generalized to other projects
- Development of new approaches for implementation science that will enhance the translation of medical advances into the community or to special populations



Georgia CTSA

Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance



EMORY
UNIVERSITY



MOREHOUSE
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Special Emphasis in 2022

Health Equity is the central theme of the Georgia CTSA during the upcoming five years. Grants focused on Health Equity are strongly encouraged.

Preference will be given to proposals conducted across more than a single Georgia CTSA partner institution, proposals involving junior faculty, and proposals with a focus on Health Equity.

The following programs have separate RFPs:

- Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD)
- Informatics
- Community Engagement

Eligibility

- ❑ Full-time faculty from Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse School of Medicine, and the University of Georgia may submit proposals.
- ❑ One proposal may be submitted per faculty member.
- ❑ Proposals involving collaborations among Georgia CTSA partners are encouraged.
- ❑ Junior faculty are encouraged to apply.
- ❑ Any faculty member who has a current grant with overlapping aims is not eligible to apply.

Budget

- ❑ Awards involving one institution will be up to \$40,000 in total direct costs.
- ❑ Awards involving two or more partner institutions will be up to \$50,000 in total direct costs.
- ❑ The total of number of awards to be made is variable based on merit, funds requested, and Pilot Program budget; a maximum of \$350,000 will be awarded in this round.
- ❑ Partner institutions have committed funds for pilot grants.

Application: Letter of Intent

- ❑ Interested applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) via the online form no later than 5:00 PM (no exceptions) on January 14, 2022 that includes:
 - ❑ Indicate if Principal Investigator is an early-stage investigator as defined by NIH.
 - ❑ Attach Other Support Page(s) from Principal Investigator's biosketch
 - ❑ Pilot grants support new projects, not extensions or variations of an existing project, and are not for bridge funding of previously funded work.
 - ❑ **Provide sufficient detail to demonstrate how proposed pilot grant is a new project and that it does not overlap with existing funded projects from the listed team of investigators.**

Full Application

- ❑ Invited applicants should submit the following materials using the online application no later than 5:00 PM (no exceptions) on March 1, 2022
- ❑ Each application will be reviewed by at least two reviewers. Proposed research should be focused since funds are only provided for 12 months.
- ❑ Preference will be given to proposals conducted across the Georgia CTSA.
- ❑ Applicants will be notified by early May 2022 if their proposal has been accepted for funding.



Review process

- Each LOI or full application is reviewed by scientific experts
- Pilots Grant program leadership meet to decide which grants are funded (like an NIH institute council). Criteria:
 - Scientific score
 - More than one institution
 - Relevance to GaCTSA mission (Health Equity)
 - PI eligibility and status
- Suggestions:
 - Read the RFP
 - Start writing and planning early
 - Ask others to read and critique your grant
 - Volunteer to serve as a reviewer if asked to do so

Georgia CTSA Renewal 2022

- Current funding ends June 2022
- Renewal application reviewed Jan 26, 2022 and goes to NCATS Council in May 2022
- **Renewal application requests an increase in Pilot Grant funding from \$200K to \$350K per year**
- **Each partner institution is providing additional Pilot Grant support**
- Renewal application has a focus on **Health Equity**
- We are optimistic that we will receive renewed funding, so we are proceeding
 - No guarantee that we will get funded or get the requested level of Pilot Grant support