

ACTSI Research Technologies Medical Student Discovery Phase Mini-Grant Program

ACTSI Executive Council

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PURPOSE:

To encourage medical students in the opportunity to conduct hypothesis-driven research under the direction of a faculty mentor, the ACTSI Research Technologies program has established a mini-grant program.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

1. Emphasize innovative technology
2. Focus on translational and implementation research
3. Be aligned with the ACTSI program goals (see actsi.org for more information)

FUNDING:

\$5,000 in total direct costs (up to 5 awards will be made on a competitive basis)

ELIGIBILITY:

Any Emory University medical student approaching the Discovery Phase of his/her MD curriculum.

DEADLINES:

Application deadline is April 6, 2016 at 5:00pm. Applications should be sent to Bekeela Watson, email address below.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

All applicants are required to submit a 6-page proposal that includes a cover page, 2-page research project proposal, with references, a letter of support from the student's mentor and budget information. The 2-page research project proposal should include a description of the student's role in the work; formatting requirements prescribe 1-inch margins and use of Arial size 11 font.

1. **Cover Page:** This should include: 1) the title of the proposal, and 2) the student's name and the name of the faculty mentor and their institution and department affiliation and contact information. It is desirable (while not required) to include a secondary mentor at Morehouse School of Medicine.
2. **Research Proposal:**
 - a. **Background:** Provide a brief description of the clinical problem and/or research question to be investigated and the relevance of addressing with innovative technology tools. This introduction should convey sufficient information to justify the research project and should be written so that it can be understood by a non-specialist in the field.
 - b. **Hypothesis:** State the specific hypothesis to be tested.
 - c. **Specific Aims:** Enumerate the specific aims (1, 2, 3, etc.). There should be a relatively limited number of specific aims commensurate with the scope of the research project. Be realistic about what can be achieved in the discovery phase period. Learning background information, reading the literature in the field, attending seminars or lab meetings, publishing a paper, etc. are not aims.



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- d. **Research Design:** Describe the approaches that will be used to address the hypothesis. Explain how each study or experiment will address a specific question. If statistical analyses will be employed, include a brief description of the analyses that are planned and how they will demonstrate significance. Do not just list software packages that will be used. Discuss the necessary population sample size and how that was determined/calculated. If the project involves human subjects, describe briefly how patient confidentiality and/or consent will be addressed.
 - e. **Student Role:** State in specific terms what the student's contribution to the project will be and what will be done by others. Will the student carry out laboratory experiments or assays on patient samples? Will the student consent patients? Will the student carry out statistical analyses?
 - f. **Literature Cited:** This should employ standard citation methods for referencing the research proposal. These may appear on separate pages and do not count toward the 2 page limit on the research proposal.
3. **IRB/IACUC approval:** Research involving human subjects or animals requires approval by Emory's IRB/IACUC office. A copy of the approval letter must be provided as a condition of funding.
 4. **Letter of Support:** Include a letter of support from your Discovery faculty mentor. The mentor must be a faculty member at Emory and must be willing to provide mentorship throughout the research. The mentor must be knowledgeable in the area of the proposed research. A secondary mentor from Morehouse School of Medicine is encouraged. A letter of support from the secondary mentor isn't required.
 5. **Budget:** Provide a one-page budget and budget justification. Funds may be used for data collection and analysis, research lab supplies, or travel directly related to the conduct of the research (salary support is not appropriate). Any travel must follow the Emory University travel policies and procedures. Guidelines are available from the Emory University [Finance webpage](#).

Additional Terms and Conditions:

Award funds will go to the laboratory of the faculty mentor to offset the costs of the student's project. The project dates are 6/1/2016 – 12/31/2016. **All funds must be expended by December 31, 2016.**

For all successful applications, a progress report (one-page maximum) is required within 30 days of the close of the project. The report should outline the project progress and also indicate intentions of continuation of the project.

Applicant must acknowledge ACTSI support in any publication using the following citation: "Supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number UL1TR000454. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health."

**Please submit applications and direct questions to:
Bekeela Watson, Research Technologies Program Manager
Bekeela.watson@emory.edu
(404) 727-9734**