Georgia CTSA Request for Proposals
Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design Pilot Grants

Georgia CTSA's Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design (BERD) program is soliciting proposals to support novel methodological research in biostatistics, epidemiology and related areas to advance clinical and translational research (CTR). Review criteria include: (i.) quantitative methodological research to fill gaps in CTR; (ii.) innovation; (iii.) feasibility; and (iv.) plans for dissemination and translation of results. Awardees are encouraged to disseminate any software developed in their research to relevant publicly available software repositories. *New investigators are encouraged to apply; meritorious applications from new investigators will be prioritized for funding.*

The overall purpose of the [Georgia CTSA](#) is 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.

[Georgia CTSA's Coordinating Center](#) is a virtual "front door" to internal Georgia CTSA services and external supporting resources. We will aid applicants navigating "Research Roadblocks" such as regulatory and IRB processes or approvals or potential ethical dilemmas. We help strengthen submissions by identifying resource gaps and matching with Georgia CTSA supportive programs.

Funding Availability - Awards will be up to $20,000 each in total direct costs. The total number of awards to be made is variable based on merit, funds requested, and BERD budget; in addition, some partner institutions have committed funds for pilot grants. Indirect costs will be added after the awards have been made, if applicable.

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.

UGA applicants must notify the Assistant Director of the Owens Institute for Behavioral Research (OIBR), Kim Cherewick, of their intention to submit a pilot grant application. The Owens Institute will provide extensive pre-award proposal support in addition to important communication (to candidate and their department) about internal procedures related to Georgia CTSA. Contact info: Kimberly Silvis Cherewick, ksilvis@uga.edu, (706) 542-6078.

Note: All pilot project recipients will be eligible for the **Georgia CTSA Award of Distinction in Team Science** – "To further promote collaboration, the Georgia CTSA Executive Oversight Council will award an annual Award of Distinction in Team Science during their annual meeting to Georgia CTSA investigators who, through their

multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary collaborations, have made a profound impact in CTR."

Timeline
April 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM – proposals due
Early May 2026 – applicant award notification
August 1, 2026 – earliest anticipated pilot grant start date
July 31, 2027 – pilot grant end date, No-Cost Extensions are not permitted.

Application Information
Applicants should submit the following materials using the online application **no later than 5:00 PM** (no exceptions) **on Friday, April 3, 2026:**

Each of the following items should be uploaded as PDF documents. (Please avoid scanning text documents to create PDFs.)
- Title Page
    - Must include title of the proposal
    - PI name, degree(s), title(s) and institution
    - Indicate if PI is a new investigator who has not previously received funding from NIH as PI on a competitive grant
    - Research teams' names, degrees, titles and institutions
- Summary/Abstract (500 words maximum)
- Specific Aims: *Maximum one page.*
- Research Strategy: Must include sections for Significance, Innovation, and Approach. *Maximum 3 pages. References not included in page limit.*
    - Revised applications should include responses from the previous review. *Maximum 1 page.*
- Biosketches:
    - You must use SciENcv to complete your biosketch forms to produce digitally certified PDFs.
    - All senior/key personnel listed on an application must have an ORCID iD linked to their eRA Commons Personal Profile. You will be required to enter your ORCID iD in the Persistent Identifier (PI) section of the Common Forms. (View Quick Guide from Emory)
- IRB or IACUC Approval Letter OR select "pending" from the drop-down menu on the online form. ***IRB or IACUC protocols must have been submitted prior to submission of this pilot award application. Funding will not be disbursed without IRB/IACUC approval.*** IRB/IACUC approval for proposals selected for funding must be received by June 15, 2026.
- Projected budget using this template.
    - A separate budget page should be submitted for each institution that will incur costs on behalf of this project.
    - Funding Limits and Budgeting Requirements
        - Awards will be up to $20,000 in total direct costs. The total number of awards to be made is variable based on merit, funds requested, and BERD budget; in addition, some partner institutions have committed funds for pilot grants. Budgets must be in this format. Please submit one budget page per institution.
        - It is not required that the PI request salary and fringe. The current federal fringe for your home institution should be applied. The NIH salary cap applies.
        - Funds may be requested for salaries for study staff, students, post-doctoral fellows, and other study-related personnel. Funds may also be requested for research lab supplies.
        - Funds for this project may be used for data collection and analysis, research lab supplies, and student/postdoc/staff/technical support that are directly related to

the conduct of the research. Costs subject to CAS approval, such as general-purpose equipment, computers, computer peripherals, office supplies, etc. may not be charged to this project. Salary support for administrative support is not appropriate.
- Travel expenses directly related to the performance of the research are allowable. Travel to conferences to present research findings directly related to the funded project is allowable.
- All federal and institutional rules and regulations regarding the administration of grants apply. These pilot funds are federal funds.
- Budget Justification

Application formatting:
- Use paper size no larger than 8 ½" x 11"
- Provide at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages
- Font size must be 11 points or larger (smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams, and charts is acceptable as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%)
- Text color must be black (color text in figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, footnotes, and headings is acceptable)
- The following fonts are acceptable: Arial and Calibri

Click here for guidance on the Summary/Abstract, Specific Aims, Research Strategy, Budget and Budget Justification.

Review and Award Process
Each application will be reviewed by at least two reviewers. Proposed research should be focused since funds are provided for 12 months. No-cost-extensions will not be granted. *Applicants will be notified by early May 2026 if their proposal has been accepted for funding.*

Progress Reports and Citation Requirements
Awardees are required to submit periodic progress reports and to cite the Georgia CTSA NIH award number (**UL1-TR002378**) on all products (publications, patents, presentations) resulting from this award.

For all application questions, please contact: Bekeela Davila Bekeela.davila@emory.edu