



Montefiore

Harold and Muriel Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

Catalytic Seed Grant (CSG) Pilot Project Program *Instructions*

We invite applications from **faculty** seeking funding to generate data for the development of new extramural grant applications. Awards are up to \$15,000, and funds can be used for projects that use institutional cores and resources including the ICTR cores. **Applications must be planned in consultation with the director(s) of the resource(s) and service(s) requested**, who will help develop and approve the requested budget. Funds may not be used to purchase equipment, reimburse volunteers, or for salary support. Any CTSA funds awarded must be expended by 2/28/2020.

Projects supported under this program must fit the definition of clinical or translational research. **Please note that all projects will undergo review both by the ICTR as well as by NIH staff, so you must submit your proposal for Einstein IRB review as early as possible to avoid delay in funding.** Catalytic Seed Grant (CSG) projects that involve human subjects **must include a plan** to ensure appropriate protections of human subjects, data and safety monitoring, and scientific integrity. A “Protection of Human Subjects” section is required that should clearly describe the risks, protections, benefits and importance of the knowledge to be gained. You must also have IRB approval for your project when you submit it to the ICTR, **since all such CSG projects involving human subjects will require prior approval by the NIH.** If you are uncertain about requirements for your project, please contact the IRB <http://www.einstein.yu.edu/administration/institutional-review-board/>. Applicants are also encouraged to contact the ICTR Director for the CSG Program, Ms. Elizabeth Castro (Elizabeth.castro@einstein.yu.edu) at 718-920-5126, to make sure that all the NIH required documentation is prepared well in advance of application.

Applications for seed funding **must fall into one of three categories:** 1) Learning Healthcare System Science; 2) Life span research and studies in special populations; or 3) Projects that build on career development awards. Projects that propose direct involvement by community organizations such as The Bronx health Link and/or demonstrate significant involvement by specific community members will be given priority for funding. Please clearly indicate for which of the following categories you are applying.

1. **Learning Healthcare System Science Projects:** A learning healthcare system is defined as a system in which science, informatics, incentives, and culture are aligned for continuous improvement and innovation, with best practices seamlessly embedded in the delivery process and new knowledge captured as an integral by-product of the delivery experience. Projects in this category should move the Montefiore Health System (MHS) closer to this ideal, improve patient care, and provide rigorous data-driven, generalizable science on how to improve care delivery.

Studies in this category typically focus on quality improvement, patient safety, implementation of new processes and technologies, and/or novel use of health data, designed to improve the healthcare delivered in the MHS. Projects should aim at generalizable methodologies to speed diffusion of innovations, standardization, and evidence-based medicine. Prior to submission, **applicants must consult** with Dr. Parsa Mirhaji (parsa.mirhaji@einstein.yu.edu) for health data and informatics requirements, **and** with Drs. Michael Rinke (mrinke@montefiore.org) or Diane McKee

(diane.mckee@einstein.yu.edu) for scientific and health system feasibility. Drs. McKee, Mirhaji, and Rinke are not permitted to serve as co-investigators on the CSG project, but they will provide guidance to the reviewers as to whether the application is responsive to the guidelines.

2. **Life span research and/or studies in special populations:** The goal of this CSG category is to promote the integration of translational science across the entire life span to attain improvements in health outcomes with an emphasis on special populations, defined as groups composed of people from disadvantaged racial/ethnic minorities, or those having unique risk exposures or attributes such as infants and children, older adults, etc. Such research generally engages a multidisciplinary collaboration of investigators. The life span approach in translational research focuses on environmental and social risk factors as well as biological and genetic factors that influence disease risk across the lifespan, with the relative significance of factors varying according to life stage. For example, the risk of many chronic diseases is influenced by factors operating at all stages of the life span, starting *in utero*.

The integration of special populations into such research must be explicitly noted, and such groups can be defined by age, gender, ethnicity, or by a specific rare disorder or orphan disease. The criteria for funding include either a scientific approach involving a defined life span perspective or the participation of human subjects that meet the special population criteria. It is expected that the project will include investigators from at least two disciplines, such as pediatrics, geriatrics, obstetrics, medicine, surgery, or population health. Applicants **must** consult in advance with Drs. Frederick Kaskel (frederick.kaskel@einstein.yu.edu) or Carmen Isasi (carmen.isasi@einstein.yu.edu), CTSA core directors for integrating special populations and life span research. Drs. Isasi and Kaskel are not permitted to serve as coinvestigators on the CSG project, but they will provide guidance to the reviewers as to whether the application is responsive to the guidelines.

3. **Projects that build on currently-funded extramural career development awards.** Applicants must be PI's of a current K-series NIH mentored award or equivalent foundation-funded (*eg*, AHA, ACS, ADA) career development award to be eligible, and the applicant **must be a faculty member** at the time of CSG application. The CSG application should clearly identify the ***new*** research direction that the ICTR seed grant will support, and not simply be an extension of the investigator's currently-funded project.

The CSG application may be concurrent with submission of other new applications by the investigator, but the Other Support documentation for the CSG must clearly identify the timing and funding status of any other submitted application(s). If this information is not provided, the CSG application may not be considered.

All applicants to the CSG program are encouraged to first contact the ICTR Director for the CSG Program, Ms. Elizabeth Castro (Elizabeth.castro@einstein.yu.edu) at 718-920-5126, to make sure that all the NIH required documentation is prepared well in advance of application. This ensures that if your ICTR project is approved, your award notice will be issued on time and that funds can be expended by the closing date of the grant year.