

The Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR)
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE METHODOLOGIES IN CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Deadline: February 15, 2011

Eligible: All Johns Hopkins University faculty

Budget: Up to \$100,000 in direct costs per year

Grant Period: 1 to 2 years

Application: online at <http://ictr.johnshopkins.edu>

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) is committed to supporting the development of innovative methodologies that will help to overcome important barriers to moving discoveries from the basic level to the improvement of the health of the public. This includes barriers to early translation (e.g., animal models to first in humans, efficient measurement of toxicity of new agents, interpretation of genomic data) to later translation (e.g., efficient clinical trial designs, assessment of outcomes in observational datasets, development of personalized medicine approaches). Our goal for this grant is to support collaborative teams that include both methodological experts and researchers active in their field and to rapidly disseminate any advances to the local and national translational research community. Innovative work teams may get assistance from the ICTR staff for administrative support (for example, scheduling meetings) and for dissemination (moving products to the ICTR website).

PROGRAM DETAILS

Eligibility

Groups of three or more faculty, working together as a collaborative team, may apply. Teams that include junior faculty, particularly those new to translational research, will receive extra consideration. Undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows can also be incorporated as team members into any proposal. Multidepartmental and multidisciplinary teams are encouraged.

Conflicts of Interest

At the time of application, before funds are awarded, and throughout the project period, it is the responsibility of the awardees and all members of the study team to report any financial or fiduciary interests that might appear to present a conflict of interest. These interests must be reported to the ICTR and the University Office of Policy Coordination. The presence of a conflict of interest does not disqualify investigators from receiving this award but will require the review and management of this conflict by the Committee on Outside Interests. The failure of any member of the study team to disclose all outside interests could result in the termination of this award and the disallowance of all study costs.

More information about the University's Conflict of Interest Policy, including examples of what constitutes an outside interest, may be found at the Office of Policy Coordination website (http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/Research/OPC/Outside_Interests/).

Funding Information

This grant will provide up to \$100,000 in salary and direct costs per year for up to two years to a single group of faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, and staff for exploratory, "think-tank" type research leading to a novel methodology that advances the science of clinical and/or translational research. Additionally, the awarded team will receive basic administrative support from the ICTR for the scheduling of meetings and assistance with the dissemination of results.

- Requests should be no more than \$100,000 per year in direct costs, and no more than \$200,000 in direct costs overall. Requests exceeding these limits will not be reviewed.
- Indirect costs should not be included in the budget.
- Funds may be used for faculty, fellow, and staff salary support, as well as for stipends paid to undergraduate or graduate students at Johns Hopkins.
- Funds may be used for travel to established meetings or conferences for the purposes of dissemination of results at the end of the project period. The review committee recognizes the high *per diem* costs of some international sites but expects investigators to exercise ingenuity and judgment in budgeting for overseas room and board.
- Funds may be used for equipment specific to the technological development of a particular methodology, but unless otherwise noted, equipment costs should not be more than fifty percent of the total grant award.
- The initial award will be made for one year. Investigators will be required to submit a progress report 90 days before the end of the first year showing adherence to project timelines and milestones. Progress reports will be peer reviewed before second year funding will be awarded. **The ICTR reserves the right to terminate this award after the first year if timelines and milestones are not satisfactorily met.**

Funding Cycle

Innovative Methodology grant proposals will be open for submission at least once every other year. University-wide web and email announcements will be sent for each application period. In addition, solicitation will be displayed on the ICTR web site, <http://ictr.johnshopkins.edu>, and sent upon posting to individuals who opt in for ICTR updates via email or news feed. Any changes or alterations to the program and/or the RFA will also be broadcast through these methods. In addition, ICTR-associated faculty and staff are encouraged to assist in communications efforts through their own email contacts and word of mouth.

The submission deadline for the next round of awards is **February 15, 2011**. All application materials must be received by midnight of the deadline day.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Grants must be submitted through the ICTR Connection Request form, located on the ICTR web site at <http://ictr.johnshopkins.edu>. Supplemental materials described below may be

uploaded through the application form in either Adobe PDF or Microsoft Word. Questions about the application process should be directed to the ICTR at ictr@jhmi.edu, or by calling 443-287-ICTR.

Materials requested during the online application process will include:

- A short c.v. or biographical sketch (NIH-format or similar) for each member of the study team (3-page limit per person)
- A comprehensive, itemized budget with detailed justification that includes salary, supplies, equipment, travel, etc., and any other expenses required per year for the entire project period. (Budgets may also be submitted in Microsoft Excel format)
- Research plan (5-page limit, content and format described below in “Research Plan Guidelines”)
- Reference list of up to 30 references (optional)

RESEARCH PLAN GUIDELINES

Presentation and Formatting: The research plan must be no longer than five single-spaced pages (including figures) in a font no smaller than 11 points, with margins of at least .5 inches on all sides. Note that references are not included in the five-page limit. The name of the lead investigator(s) should appear in the top right-hand corner of each page. Page numbers should appear on the bottom right-hand corner of each page.

The Research Plan must include the following components:

Description of Problem/Barrier to be Addressed

Work to Date and Approach

Experience of Team and Any New Additions to Established Team

Expected Product(s)

Milestones for Project Period

Dissemination Plan

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be evaluated using the following five criteria:

- Assessment of the barrier to be addressed and the extent to which the barrier is faced by researchers across more than one research field
- Probability of success in developing methodological advances
- Composition of the team in terms of expertise and plans for engaged collaboration

- Specificity of timeline/milestones
- Scope, feasibility, and impact of the dissemination plan

Only complete applications received by the deadline will be considered. The review process will be conducted as follows:

- **Administrative Triage:** ICTR staff will review applications for compliance with budgetary, content, eligibility, and other submission guidelines as described in this document. Incomplete or noncompliant applications will be returned without scientific review.
- **First Round:** Members of the ICTR Deputy Directors will assess applications in terms of the fit, feasibility, and translational nature of the proposed project.
- **Second Round:** Applications that pass the first round of assessment will be sent for scoring to a minimum of two external reviewers with expertise in fields relevant to the science in the proposal. These reviewers will be asked to disclose any relationships to the grant applicant. They will then provide written feedback addressing the merits of the application based on the five criteria listed above. The ICTR Deputy Directors will review this feedback and make final funding decisions.

Notification and Feedback: All applicants will be notified of funding decisions within two months of the submission deadline. Applicants that receive second-round reviews will be provided with feedback from the external review process.

Feedback about this program may be directed to ictr@jhmi.edu.