

2024 CCTS Pilot Award Funding Opportunity Announcement

Request for Application: Underrepresented Populations Across the Lifespan

The Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) at The Ohio State University is now accepting applications for the 2024 CCTS Pilot Translational and Clinical Studies Program (PTC) pilot research funding award, funded through the NIH CTSA award. The goal of the PTC pilot research funding award is to fund highly meritorious research for the development of preliminary data to enable researchers to be competitive in applying for extramural funding that advances clinical and translational science.

This request for applications (RFA) is designed to stimulate and support transformative, innovative, interdisciplinary studies that seek to advance team science, implementation science, interinstitutional partnerships and/or community partnerships through understanding and addressing health disparities in underrepresented populations. The term "Underrepresented Populations" encompasses a multitude of groups and communities that are commonly excluded from clinical and translational research. These groups include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Fetuses, neonates, and children
- Pregnant or nursing women
- Older adults
- Individuals with physical disabilities
- Individuals with communication or sensory impairments (hearing, vision)
- Individuals with chronic conditions
- Non-English speaking individuals
- Underinsured or socioeconomically disadvantaged patients
- Gender or sexual minorities (LGBTQ+)
- Individuals with intellectual disabilities
- Isolated urban or rural communities
- Racial, ethnic, or cultural minorities

The ultimate goal of this RFA is to strengthen efforts by The Ohio State University researchers in advancing clinical and translational science that aims to reduce health inequalities, promoting health for all.

CCTS Pilot funding is made available through the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program awarded to The Ohio State University by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences ([NCATS](#)). The NIH CTSA Funding Opportunity Announcement (PAR-21-293) stipulates that pilot studies funded through the CTSA's must be focused on translational science and understanding the [Scientific or Operational Principles](#) underlying a step of the translational process, with the goal of developing generalizable solutions to accelerate translational research.

Studies may focus on a specific clinical and translational research area, aimed to address health inequities, to develop or test a translational science-directed hypothesis. For the definition of



translational science, scientific and operational principles of translational science, please see [Faupel-Badger JM, Vogel AL, Austin CP, Rutter JL. Advancing translational science education. Clin Transl Sci. 2022 Nov;15\(11\):2555-2566. PMID: 36045637.](#)

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must have Principal Investigator (PI) status as defined by The Ohio State University or Nationwide Children's Hospital.
- Applicants have not received a CCTS pilot grant award or Element E award within 24 months prior to the application deadline March 18, 2024.
- Proposal for preliminary research that can be completed within one year with a high probability of obtaining future external funding.
- Development of new concepts, methods, technologies, or research practices that drive translational science. Such proposals should clearly identify translational science challenges or barriers that their proposal addresses.

Proposal Ideation Workshop

- Prospective applicants are encouraged to register for the virtual ideation workshop. This workshop is designed to elevate the strength and quality of proposals through early peer review and panel feedback. This workshop is a fantastic opportunity for applicants to present their initial ideas in a professional and friendly forum. Research shows that ideas that have gone through several iteration processes are stronger and have better potential of securing funding.
- If you plan to present your ideas, please choose the "presenter" option in the registration link, and prepare a three-minute presentation that includes the following information:
 1. Translational science research question(s)
 2. Research strategy, including data management plan and rigor of the study
 3. Significance to the translational science field
 4. How you are working as a team to do your proposed research
 5. How the research question addresses health disparities that exist in groups underrepresented in research
- Workshop audience will include a specially selected mock review panel, as well as general members of The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital community. All audience participants will have the opportunity to ask probing questions and offer comments on your ideas. You will also receive expert comments from the review panel.
- We will accommodate up to fifteen presentations in the workshop, on a first come, first served basis. Participation in this ideation workshop is not prerequisite for application to the RFA, and feedback in this workshop is not indicative of application success.
- **Proposal Ideation Workshop (VIRTUAL):** Friday, February 9, 2024, 9 a.m. -12 p.m.
Click [HERE](#) to register.



Information Sessions

Each information session will provide a short presentation on Translational Science followed by a Q&A. Both information sessions will be recorded and posted to the [Pilot Program RFA webpage](#). Previous information sessions are also available on this webpage.

1. **Information Session 1 (VIRTUAL)**: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 12-12:30 p.m. **Click [HERE](#) to register.**
2. **Information Session 2 (VIRTUAL)**: Friday, February 16, 2024, 2-2:30 p.m. **Click [HERE](#) to register.**

Application Requirements

- An application is required and will be submitted through an online REDCap form available on the CCTS webpage dedicated to the Pilot RFA at <https://ccts.osu.edu/content/pilot-programs>.
- A full application will be submitted through an online REDCap form by invitation only following successful completion of the pre – application.
- Applications must include the following:
 - Abstract – 1 page
 - Research Strategy – 5 pages
 - Data Management Plan
 - Project Timeline Document
 - Project milestones and deliverables Document
 - NIH Biosketch for each team member
 - Budget
 - Budget Justification
 - Letters of Support
- Your audience will include a specially selected mock review panel, as well as general members of the university community. We will accommodate up to fifteen presentations in the workshop, on a first come, first served basis. Participation in this ideation workshop is not prerequisite for application to the RFA, and feedback in this workshop is not indicative of application success.

Application Review Process

- The Ohio State CCTS participates in a national CTSA External Reviewer Exchange Consortium (CEREC) to improve fairness in the scientific review process and better match applicants with feedback from experts in their respective fields. Trained patient and community reviewers are also included in the grant review process. In submitting an application, you agree to allow reviewers external to Ohio State access to your application materials.

Funding

- Up to \$50,000 in direct costs can be budgeted for the 12-month project. Salary support for faculty up to 5% may be requested. Graduate student and technician support, as well as laboratory supplies, are permitted. Notification of awards will



be made no later than April 29, 2024. Funds will be available for the next fiscal year to conduct the proposed research.

- Select awardees will also receive administrative support for a second year to facilitate validation of team science studies to enable advancement of the impactful and generalizable translational science approaches.
- Support for dissemination of validated methods across the regional and national CTSA networks for broader translational science impact will be provided to awardees.

Timeline for Fall 2023 Cycle

Release Date	February 1, 2024
Pre-Application Due Date	February 20, 2024
Invitation to Full Application	February 27, 2024
Mandatory Regulatory Consult with April Green Due Date	March 14, 2024
Full Application Due Date	March 18, 2024
Reviews	April 11-April 17, 2024
Executive Committee Approval	April 25, 2024
Notice of Award Date	April 29, 2024
NCATS Prior Approval Documents Due	May 13, 2024
Grant Start Date*	August 1, 2024

*Start dates are contingent upon NCATS Prior Approval

Important Information

- If the study meets human subject research criteria, IRB approval documentation is required for NCATS Prior Approval Submission. IRB submission must be submitted by March 18, 2024.
- Full applications will be sent to 1-2 external reviewers with expertise in the subject matter. All applications will be scored on each of the review criteria using NIH 9-point scale along with written reviews. Full proposals will be subject to a NIH-type study section assessment and interactive discussions based on the submitted written feedback from external reviewers, institutional context, and the overall relevance to the mission of the CCTS.
- Applications identified for funding are subject to NIH review and prior approval before release of funds. Prior Approval is a lengthy process. It is recommended that you contact April.Green2@osumc.edu as soon as possible to discuss your project. A consult is required for full applications before March 14, 2024.

Contact Information

Jasmine Neal, MPH

Pilot Programs Manager, [Pilot and Collaborative Studies](#)
Sr. Outreach Coordinator, [Academy of Community Reviewers](#)
Center for Clinical and Translation Science
Prior Hall, Suite 260
376 W 10th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210
Office 614-257-2657 | Fax 614-293-9799
Jasmine.Neal@osumc.edu | ccts-pilots@osumc.edu

Henry Xiang, MD, MPH, PhD, MBA

Professor of Medicine
Director of CCTS Pilot Translational & Clinical Studies Program
The Ohio State University College of Medicine
Director of Center for Pediatric Trauma Research
Director of Research Core, Center for Injury Research and Policy
The Abigail Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital
Phone: 614-355-5893 (O)
Email: Xiang.30@osu.edu

Matthew Ringel, MD

Professor of Medicine
Co-Director of CCTS Pilot Translational & Clinical Studies Program
The Ohio State University College of Medicine
Professor and Chair, Department of Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics
Ralph W. Kurtz Chair
The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Wexner Medical Center
Deputy Director, Basic Sciences
Co-Leader Cancer Biology Program & Co-Director Center for Cancer Engineering-CURES
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center
Email: matthew.ringel@osumc.edu



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