CTSA sites launch child health pilot program

The University of California-Irvine has announced the first call for applications to the Child Health Research Acceleration through Multi-Site Planning (CHAMP), a project that is funded through individual CTSA hubs, which CTSI is part of.

Three $50,000 grants are anticipated to be awarded through the program. The costs of the initial CHAMP Team Conference must be covered by the grant.

In the preliminary CHAMP pilot conducted in the University of California medical centers, challenges were faced in ensuring that each contributing site would benefit from the CHAMP process. Based on lessons learned from the California pilot, the following are proposed for the national CHAMP effort:

- The 15 contributing CTSAs will be arbitrarily divided into three pods of 5 CTSA centers each (CHAMP-Pod).
- There will be three separate calls for CHAMP proposals, one directed at each of the three CHAMP-Pods.
- All proposals must have representatives from all five members of the CHAMP-Pod.
- The proposals will be reviewed by representatives of a separate CHAMP-Pod.
- The best proposal from each of the 3 pods will be funded.

A more detailed discussion of CHAMP rationale and application follows.

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Lists of the CHAMP Pods and Instructions for Applications

The three CHAMP-Pods:

**CHAMP POD #1**
Cincinnati Children’s-University of Cincinnati
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Medical College of Wisconsin
New York University
University of Massachusetts

**CHAMP POD #2**
Medical University of South Carolina
Mount Sinai Medical Center
University of California, Irvine
University of New Mexico
Northwestern University

**CHAMP POD #3**
Application details

RATIONALE:
Studies focused on child health almost invariably require multisite designs to ensure that participant accrual and retention goals are met. Cooperation among the CTSA hubs provides a unique opportunity to achieve this goal with the added benefit of coalescing the immense talent and experience among child health researchers in a wide range of areas of interest. CHAMP provides an existing infrastructure to organize, select, and manage this catalytic funding opportunity.

PURPOSE and GOALS:

1. To provide start-up funding to create the initial team-building, design, statistical analysis, and informatics plans for high-impact multisite studies focused on child health.
2. To catalyze productive collaborations among child health researchers across the CTSA network.
3. To identify key areas in need of development (e.g., pilot data, organizational infrastructure).
4. To focus on research themes that are consistent with multiple research funding opportunities once the research team is activated.
5. To develop a business/action plan with the goal of securing extramural funding within a 3-5 year period.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. The proposed research must represent novel, relevant, and high-impact topics in child health.
2. All five CTSA hubs in each pod must be involved. The role of each center must be clear and unambiguous.
3. A campus lead from each site must be identified.
4. Only a single project leader for the whole 5-campus project should be selected.
5. A case must be made as to how each site will benefit from the catalytic support.
6. A plan for likely extramural funding opportunities must be sound.
7. Awardees must agree to:
   a. Participate in a team building conference in which an organizational chart and business plan with firm timelines and landmarks are agreed upon.
   b. Work with the UCI ICTS CHAMP administrative structure in a schedule for monitoring goals and objectives.
c. Develop plans for extramural funding and low-cost preliminary data

ORGANIZATION and FUNDING:

1. The project leaders are Drs. Dan Cooper (UC Irvine) and Lisa Guay-Woodford (Children’s National).

2. The CHAMP Administrative Lead is Ms. Roni Bracha at UCI.

3. Project and funding administration will be handled by the UC Irvine Institute for Clinical and Translational Science.

4. Dr. Mark Schleiss is the lead contact for the University of Minnesota.

5. Applications will be reviewed by experts selected nationally.

BUDGET:

A brief statement about the general uses of budget should be provided with the application. It is recognized that a more detailed budget will evolve as a result of the initial catalytic meetings. Here are some examples of possible Budget Statements:

Example 1: “Our project involves creating an accessible data base of children who have survived PICU care for severe trauma but went on to develop cognitive, behavioral, or neuromotor longer term sequelae. We will budget to create initial individual interviews with the PICU directors at the five UC health centers and for an inaugural team building conference. At that point we will allocate remaining sources to enhance the development of preliminary data necessary for a multisite grant.”

Example 2: “Our project is focused on assessing executive function in children on renal dialysis across the involved CTSAs. We will budget to standardize tests of executive function with the goal of producing a consensus of how to test for executive function in children requiring dialysis. At that point we will budget for a catalytic/team building meeting and we allocate funds for gathering and analyzing data in 50 children.”

Example 3: “Our project is focused on using telehealth techniques to provide exercise training on an individualized basis to children with cystic fibrosis at the five CTSAs. We will budget for a centralized telehealth monitoring system that can easily access video feeds from individual home computers. The remainder of our funds will be used to support a catalytic/team building conference.”

KEY DATES:
Applications Due: March 31, 2016
Decision: June 15, 2016
Earliest Funding: August 01, 2016-December 01, 2016

APPLICATION:
PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE AT: http://www1.icts.uci.edu/braid_grants/

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
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| 1. Cover Page | Project Title  
<p>|            | Key Personnel (at least one from each campus) | 1-page |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Title and Abstract</strong></th>
<th>Brief overview of the key child health research questions, and goals and objectives of the project</th>
<th>30 lines</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biosketch</strong></td>
<td>For each key personnel</td>
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<td><strong>RESEARCH PLAN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Specific Aims</strong></td>
<td>Describe the aims that would be part of a larger grant, after the catalytic phase has been completed</td>
<td>Single page</td>
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</table>
| **Significance**      | 1. Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.  
2. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.  
3. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved | 1/2-page |
| **Innovation**        | 1. Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.  
2. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. | 1/2-page |
| **Approach**          | 1. Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project  
2. Describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work. | 1/2-page |
| **Role and Contribution of Each CTSA** | 1. Describe how each campus will contribute to the research  
2. Describe possible benefits obtained from each campus  
3. Organizational chart | 1/2-page |
| **BUDGET**            | Brief description of how you would propose to use these limited resources to enhance your ability to successfully apply for extramural funding | ½ page |