Request for Proposals
Center for Translational Medicine Pilot Grant

Key Dates:
Letter of Intent due: November 1, 2018
Invitation for full applications: December 1, 2018
Applications due: February 1, 2019
Anticipated selection date: April 1, 2019
Anticipated Start date: April 15, 2019
Funding Period: 1 year

Description:
The Center for Translational Medicine (CTM) at the University of Montana is a multi-disciplinary research center that assists faculty, staff, and students in the translation of research ideas from bench to bedside. The CTM expects to support two Pilot Projects totaling up to $50,000 each (direct costs). Pilot Projects will provide support to generate preliminary data for a future extramural research grant application, with restrictions (see General Terms and Conditions below). Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) outlining the proposed research, how it relates to translational medicine, and future plans for securing extramural funding. Invited applicants will be asked to submit a full research proposal due on February 1, 2019.

Eligibility:
We encourage postdocs, staff, and faculty (nontenure-track and tenure-track) at the University of Montana to apply for a CTM Pilot Grant. To be eligible, applicants must be an affiliate member of the CTM and eligible to apply for extramural funding at UM. Applicants that have received support from a CTM Pilot Grant within the past two years are ineligible to apply.

Criteria for evaluation:
Applications should be written with the basic review criteria for NIH or NSF grant proposals in mind. Additional review criteria include:
- Likelihood of the project becoming competitive for independent NIH, DoD or NSF funding;
- Likelihood of producing a publishable result within the one-year time frame;
- Likelihood of producing a patent application within the one-year time frame;
- Presentation of research project and translational/commercial potential (“the pitch”);
- Relevance to translational medicine (builds on basic research advances (studies of biological processes using cell cultures, for example, or animal models) and uses them to develop new therapies, devices or medical procedures).

General Terms and Conditions:
1. PI agrees to submit extramural grant application(s) based on data or results obtained from the CTM Pilot Project research through the CTM (Center recovers IDCs) within 6 months of the end of the 1-year project period.
2. Grant funds may be used for personnel support, consumable supplies, core facility user fees, services, small laboratory hardware, and equipment. Personnel costs are allowable; preference will be given to applications that name specific individuals who will be on-site and eligible to work at the beginning of the funding period. Travel costs are limited to project related travel. Tuition costs are allowable as per standard institutional policies.
3. Quotes must be provided for all equipment purchases >$5000. A detailed budget justification is required for all equipment purchases. Equipment purchases will not be
allowed unless they are specifically requested and adequately justified in the Pilot Grant Application.

4. All applicants must present a 15-minute confidential project pitch to the CTM Advisory Council and project reviewers. Pitch slide deck templates and training/guidance will be provided by CTM.

5. Successful applicants agree to review future Pilot Grant applications for the next 3 years.

To Apply:
1) Submit a Letter of Intent
   - Due on November 1, 2018 to jay.evans@umontana.edu.
   - On University Letterhead, explain in 1 page (not including references) the proposed research, how it relates to translational medicine (unmet medical need and commercial potential) and future plans for securing extramural funding.

2) Submit Complete Application upon invitation
   - Full applications due by February 1, 2019
   - Use Arial 11 font, single space with 0.5” margins
   - Application should include the following:
     o Research strategy/approach (up to 6 pages in length)
       ▪ Background
       ▪ Innovation
       ▪ Specific aims
       ▪ Approach
       ▪ Unmet medical need, intellectual property and commercialization potential
     o Detailed budget spreadsheet (University indirect rates do not apply)
     o Budget justification
     o Description of IRB and IACUC approvals or status - as necessary (approvals must be obtained before the funding date)
     o References
     o List of 3 potential reviewers with expertise in subject area
     o Letters of Support as necessary (collaborators, proprietary reagents, mentored applicants)
     o Completed applications must be received as a single PDF document (email to jay.evans@umontana.edu) by February 1, 2019.
   - All applicants will be invited to present the proposed project (“the pitch”) as a 15-minute presentation to the CTM Advisory Council and pilot project reviewers (date, time and location TBD).

3) Full Proposal Review Process
   - Review will consist of 2 parts
     i. 75% from research project proposal review. Scientific reviewers may be selected from UM faculty or external reviewers (NDA will be required for all reviewers).
     ii. 25% from project presentation “the pitch” (overall strategy, commercial potential, unmet medical need).

Please address any questions to Jay Evans (jay.evans@umontana.edu).