

2009 PROGRAM RFP

Key Dates

Letter of Intent due date: Friday, December 19, 2008
Proposal due date: Friday, January 16, 2009
Proposal Presentations, Friday, February 27, 2009
Award announcements: Friday, March 6, 2009
Project start date: Wednesday, April 1, 2009
Subsequent quarterly report due dates: June 30, September 30, December 31, 2009
Final report due date: March 31, 2010
Project end date: Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Point of contact

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Synopsis

This is the fourth year of funding from the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation (WHCF) to support collaborative translational research projects that address unmet or poorly met clinical needs. The hope is that research work will lead to improvements in health care and eventually reach patients. The Coulter Partnership defines translation as a mutually beneficial program for the Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME), WHCF and Industry to improve patient care and accelerate the delivery of healthcare technology from academia to the marketplace.

Projects will be for an initial one-year period; longer term projects may be submitted with a budget over multiple years. However, specific milestones that are to be attained in the first year must be defined. These ongoing or renewal applications must have a comparison of milestones achieved vs. those planned in the original submission. Continuation and renewal applications will be evaluated on a competitive basis with new applications. PI's who received pilot project support in the summer of 2008 will be expected to report on progress toward milestones as well. Because the CCTRP focuses on translational research and critical experiments, proposal criteria have been likened to an R21 grant proposal with quantitative metrics of experimental success; experiments should quantitatively describe experimental results that would constitute a "go" or "no go" decision. Anticipated results should clearly state success metrics. An important part of the proposal is the commercialization opportunity and the idea or vision for the end product. Examples of desirable future outcomes include inventions, patents, improved diagnosis and treatment of disease, commercial products, licenses, commercial partnerships and start-up companies. Awards will be announced in March 2009.

It is suggested that applicants discuss their proposal with either Colin K. Drummond, the Coulter Project Director (CPD) cxd@case.edu or Fahd R. Khan, MD, Associate Coulter Project Director fxk14@case.edu prior to submission.

A Letter of Intent (LOI) is encouraged (but not required) by December 19, 2008. The LOI should include the names of the Co-PI's, their institutional affiliations and contact information, and a brief description of the intended project. We will provide email reply to each LOI submitted to confirm receipt. A reply email will also be provided to those PI submitting final proposals.

The CCTRP Institutional Oversight Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations on funding priority. This committee expertise includes that of university faculty, physicians, business development, venture capital and technology transfer. Applicants will be notified the first week of March for funding to begin April 1. Final candidates will be asked to give a brief presentation Friday, February 27th.

Budget and Project Period

Funds may be used for salary support of faculty, graduate students and other research staff, but may not be used for general staff or administrative support or for tuition. Operating supplies, minor equipment items, prototyping expenses, imaging time and travel directly associated with the research activity are examples of eligible budget items. Total costs are expected not to exceed \$100,000 for the project period of 12 months. Indirect costs not to exceed 20% of direct cost may be added. Carry-over of funds beyond the 12-month interval may be approved for a maximum of 6 months based on written justification by the PI. Approval for requests for extensions of funding beyond the 6 month end date will be based upon attainment of quantitative milestones.

Eligibility

Each proposal must have co-principal investigators:

- BME Co-PI's must be permanent, full-time, tenure-track faculty within the professorial ranks (assistant/associate/full) of the Case Western Reserve University BME . Associated faculty may also be a Co-PI if they meeting following inclusion criteria:
 - i. a history of supporting and mentoring BME graduate students,
 - ii. a history of participation in education program,
 - iii. an advanced degree in engineering,
 - iv. independent research funding as PI,
 - v. permanent track appointment in home institution/department, and
 - vi. no access to other WHCF funding mechanisms (e.g., early career awards).
- Clinical Co-PI's must be full-time professional staff in one of the affiliated medical centers of Case Western Reserve University, including University Hospitals, the Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth Medical Center, and the Cleveland VA. Full-time clinical faculty in the School of Dental Medicine and the School of Nursing are also eligible as clinical co-PI's.

Submission

Please submit proposals electronically to Colin Drummond at colin.drummond@case.edu.

General Information

Criteria

Proposed research must relate directly to critical experiments that will ultimately lead to the result having applications in health care; objectives of the project should include an outcome that will benefit patients. Evaluation of each proposal will be on the basis of scientific merit, potential health care impact and significance, experience of the investigators, and the potential for commercialization.

Content

There are five major Pilot proposal components:

1. In layman's terms, describe the experiments that are to be performed, the importance of the results, and how they allow decision making about the feasibility of the work continuing (0.5 page).

2. Scientific background (1 page), expected specific quantitative experimental milestones (0.5 page), and specific research plan for achieving them (0.5 -1page).
3. Explanation of clinical relevancy of research (envisioned product, clinical need, expected market, competing approaches, potential barriers, anticipated regulatory approval pathway: 0.5-1. page).
4. Intellectual property status, strategy and plan (0.5 page).
5. List of current funding and pending proposals for each co-investigator (0.5 page).

Please note: Approvals for animals and human subjects (if needed) must be completed by the time of final proposal review. The status of approvals must be clearly indicated in the proposal, and documentation of approval must be submitted prior to final review.

Format

Applications should not exceed five pages (Arial 11 pt font, 1" margins), excluding a cover page, a budget page, and a two-page CV of co-PI's. The cover page must contain the project title, names and signatures of the co-PI's, amount requested, a one-paragraph summary (not part of the five page limit), and the approval/signature of the department chair of the co-investigator who is not in the BME Dept. Award recipients will be required to meet regularly with the program staff and to prepare brief written quarterly progress reports as well as final reports.

CCTRP website: <http://bme.case.edu/cctrp/>

Proposal Page Length Summary:

Experiment description	0.5
Scientific background	1.0
Experimental milestones	0.5
Research Plan	0.5-1.0
Clinical relevancy	0.5-1.0
IP status, strategy, and plan	0.5
Current funding	0.5