

# Translational Tools for Clinical Studies of CAM Interventions (R01)

## RFA-AT-09-002

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) announces a new funding opportunity that encourages investigator(s)-initiated applications that propose to develop, enhance, and validate translational tools to facilitate rigorous study of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) approaches that are in wide use by the public. This FOA focuses on encouraging the development of improved research methodology to study safety, efficacy, and clinical effectiveness of widely used CAM approaches, such as: mind-body interventions, manual therapies, yoga, and acupuncture.

**Examples of Research Topics** include but are not limited to the following:

- Treatment algorithms (e.g. manualization of individualized or complex interventions) for the effectiveness of CAM interventions to facilitate comparability of research results across studies;
- Standardized, objective methods to assess patient adherence to specific CAM treatment interventions;
- Methods to assess consistency of practitioner approaches and other aspects of protocol implementation;
- Validation of patient-reported outcome assessment tools for CAM;
- Measurement tools for assessing expectancy for effects of CAM;
- Reliability and variability of potential outcome measures in specific patient populations of interest for specific CAM interventions;
- Identification and development of specific biological measures to elucidate mechanisms for health benefits and safety of specific CAM interventions;
- Validation of biomarkers associated with perceived psychological stress, well-being, and wellness;
- Assessment of important contextual factors for CAM (e.g. practitioner skill, patient-practitioner interactions, and patient experiences);
- Standardized, objective measures to assess dose effects; and
- Strategies and tools for identifying and monitoring potential risks and adverse effects.

**Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards.** The NCCAM intends to commit up to \$3 million per year (total costs) to support approximately 4 – 6 R01 grants. The total amount awarded and the number of awards will depend upon the quality, duration, and costs of the projects that are proposed. Awards issued under this FOA are contingent upon the availability of funds and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications.



**Budget and Project Period.** A maximum of \$300,000 (direct costs) per year may be requested. The total project period for an application submitted in response to this funding opportunity may not exceed 5 years.

**Application Due Date(s):** July 17, 2009

**Earliest Anticipated Start Date(s):** April 1, 2010

**Expiration Date:** July 18, 2009

For more information, visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AT-09-002.html>

