



Request for Applications (RFA) for Pilot Awards Translational Imaging Studies

Purpose

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the Translational Technologies and Resources (TTR) program of the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute (ACTSI) received supplemental funding to advance innovation through imaging. The overarching goal of the supplement is to extend the program's depth of support for inter-disciplinary work by providing key shared and common platform resources in order to remove barriers to rapid translation of promising scientific developments from animal models to human trials. More specifically, the supplement aims to advance coordination among small animal, non-human primate, and human imaging studies utilizing the resources of the Emory Center for Systems Imaging (CSI) and Yerkes National Primate Research Center (Yerkes) Imaging Program. As such, the goal of this RFA is to promote translational-directed (animal to human) studies by providing pilot funds (\$50,000 per award) for novel biomarker imaging research in animal models, or human translation from animal models (e.g., preclinical studies of novel imaging biomarkers and/or to obtain preliminary data for proposals that will include both animal model and human studies).

Eligibility

Eligible candidates include faculty from Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Morehouse School of Medicine. The PI and co-investigators must have the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. Senior investigators with established independent programs as well as junior investigators on a pathway to independence are encouraged to apply. *Collaborative, inter-departmental or inter-institutional projects are strongly encouraged.*

Key Dates

Submission Deadline: April 21, 2010
Award Decision (latest): May 24, 2010
Project Period: June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011

Proposal Submission

Applicants should submit a proposal (single PDF file) that includes all of the information outlined below. The application deadline is **5:00PM on Wednesday April 21st, 2010**. Applications should be sent to Deb Smith deb.smith@emory.edu. Funding decisions will be made by May 24th, 2010.

A. TITLE OF PROPOSAL, NAME OF PI, DEPARTMENT AND INSTITUTION, and CONTACT INFORMATION.

B. SYNOPSIS (maximum 250 words). Provide a succinct summary that would allow someone outside of the field to understand what is being proposed.

C. RESEARCH PLAN (Limit 3 pages). The research plan should include a concise description of relevant background studies, the motivating rationale for the current pilot study, and clearly-defined specific aims of the proposed



experiments. Please include a description of research methods and any associated limitations. Is the work innovative? If human and/or animal subjects are included, any concerns with regard to safety or moderate risk should be addressed.

For advice about the feasibility of study, contact:

General questions: Carolyn Meltzer, MD cmeltze@emory.edu, 404-712-5287

Center for Systems Imaging: Orman Simpson OSIMPSO@emory.edu

Yerkes Imaging Core: Leonard Howell, PhD lhowell@emory.edu

D. SIGNIFICANCE (maximum 200 words). Is this work likely to ultimately lead to a future grant proposal that will improve our understanding of biological processes, disease, improve diagnosis, or treatment? If the research addresses more basic science or engineering, how will the proposed research contribute to basic scientific understanding or improve healthcare? What is the translational potential of this work? ACTSI pilot project grants are specifically intended to facilitate the acquisition of extramural support for new and expanded research efforts in clinical and translational research, so the use of results as preliminary data for grant applications sponsored by NIH or other federal agencies is highly desirable.

E. BUDGET. Provide a breakdown of proposed costs into two categories (supplies and personnel). For supply budget provide an indication of total supplies and broad categories (reagents, plastics, etc.). Identify all key personnel, their qualifications, and experience level.

F. BIOSKETCHES. Provide NIH-style biosketches for the PI and all participating personnel on the investigative team.

Progress Report

For all successful applications, a progress report (1-page maximum including abstracts, papers, as well as information about future NIH proposals) is required within 30 days of the close of the project. The report should outline the progress towards achieving the study goals, and also indicate status of planned external funding proposals. Additionally, compliance with NIH and ARRA reporting requirements is required for this award.

Review Criteria

In coordination with the ACTSI Pilot and Collaborative Translational and Clinical Studies (PiCoTraCS) program, proposals will be review on the basis of:

- Scientific Merit (significance, innovation, approach, feasibility)
- Collaborative Team (inter-institutional collaborations preferred, expertise in place for successful execution)
- Potential Impact (potential to transition to future extramural funding, effective use of imaging core resources, translational potential to accelerate animal to human biomarker work)