

GRANTS TO PROMOTE COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH (GCAT)
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
2016

Purposes:

- To develop insights and approaches to clinically relevant issues that have the potential to make a difference in the lives of patients
- To promote collaborations between clinical and basic scientists within the School of Medicine
- To develop grant preparation skills and generate preliminary data for subsequent extramural peer-reviewed proposals

Description:

- Maximum amount of award per proposal: \$75,000
- Term of award: 2 years
- Number of awards for 2015: Up to 6
- Deadline for Letter of Intent: Monday, August 15, 2016, 5:00 PM
- Deadline for submission: Monday, September 12, 2016, 5:00 PM
- Anticipated date of award announcement: Friday, December 16, 2016

Eligibility:

- Teams must consist of two faculty members with appointments within the LLU School of Medicine. The two Principle Investigators must be from two different departments. Additional individuals can provide letters of support as co-investigators, but each project can have only two Principal Investigators.
- One member must be a clinician, with a primary appointment in one of the clinical departments of LLU, and the other must be a full-time basic scientist with a primary or secondary appointment in one of the basic science departments (Department of Basic Science or the Department of Pathology and Human Anatomy).
- At least one co-PI must have received less than \$100,000 in direct support for their research activities during the 12 months preceding the deadline for applications. There are no restrictions on the funding that has been available to the other co-PI.
- Publication of a minimum of one peer-reviewed publication during the past year [to be included in the biosketch(es)] is required for eligibility. This publication can be authored by either member of the team.
- Individuals who have received prior awards through the GCAT mechanism may reapply for GCAT support provided that they: 1) Have published, or had accepted for publication, one or more manuscripts in a peer-reviewed journal. To qualify, this publication must acknowledge funding through the GCAT (LLU School of Medicine) mechanism. 2) Have submitted one or more applications for extramural funding. Both publication of the paper and submission of the application must have occurred after receiving the prior GCAT award, and this requirement applies regardless of whether the proposed partnership is the same as previously or represents a new team.
- Teams that submitted applications that were not funded in a previous round may resubmit a revised application. The application should be preceded by an "Introduction to the Revised Application", of up to one page, that describes the changes made to the proposal.
- Only studies conducted at facilities within the School of Medicine will be considered.
- While an individual or a team may submit more than one application, no more than one award will be made to any investigator. For example, if a clinician submits two applications, each of which represents a partnership with a different basic scientist, only the higher-ranking proposal would be eligible for an award.

Criteria for Evaluation:

Awards will be based on scientific merit, including significance, innovation, approach, investigator and environment. The strength of the basic/clinical collaboration, the PI leadership plan, and the adequacy of the budget, with justification, will also be considered. Inclusion of preliminary data supporting the proposed study is highly recommended. In the absence of preliminary data, strong literature support for the planned study is required. The focus will be on funding high impact, paradigm shifting, innovative projects with the potential to significantly impact their field and generate external funding. Consequently, the application must clearly describe the potential impact of the project on the field, and highlight its innovative elements. Applications are expected to appropriately address issues of rigor and reproducibility (<https://www.nih.gov/research-training/rigor-reproducibility/updated-application-instructions-enhance-rigor-reproducibility>; <http://grants.nih.gov/reproducibility/index.htm>; <http://myllu.llu.edu/newsletter-researchersalert/story/?id=24028>). Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of investigators, selected to include those with a record of extramural funding and with a preference for those who have served on federal grant review panels. Materials submitted as part of an application will be kept confidential, but the abstracts of funded projects will be available to the public.

Application Format: Text must be 11 point or larger with six lines per inch and margins of at least one-half inch. Headers and footers should not be used. The sections identified below may not exceed their indicated page limits, and appendices are not allowed. The following headings are expected.

Title Page (one page): Include the title of the project, names of both principle investigators, their contact information (including institutional e-mail, phone numbers, name of department and/or center), a list of all personnel involved in the project, and total dollars requested.

Abstract and Key Words (thirty lines of text): The abstract should briefly state the significance and goals of the proposed study and summarize the work to be accomplished. It should be suitable for assigning the application to appropriate reviewers. Four to six key words are required to identify the general area of research and the principle elements of the study.

Biographical Sketches (five pages per investigator): Provide biosketches of the principal investigators and other significant personnel using the current NIH format (blank forms and instructions available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm#biosketch>).

Letter of Support (two pages): Provide a letter of support from the Chair of the Department in which the clinical scientist resides. This letter must include the following elements:

- A commitment to transfer an amount equal to half the total support (\$37,500 of the total award of \$75,000) into an account dedicated to the research described in this application, should the application be funded. This deposit will need to be made within one month of the opening of this account.
- A description of the time the clinical scientist will be able to dedicate to this project, free of clinical responsibilities.

Budget (template generated in LLeRA): Design a complete budget for up to 24 months of support. Identify amounts for each PI, expenditures for non-faculty salaries, supplies, and miscellaneous costs. Only non-faculty salaries and wages are permitted; however, effort should be reported for each PI. A minimum of 10% effort from each PI is required. GCAT awards do not provide for purchases of major equipment (\$10,000 or more), travel expenses, or indirect costs. The total budget may not exceed \$75,000. Consult with a financial analyst in Sponsored Projects Financial Management (ext. 44589). No carryover of funds will be permitted beyond 24 months from the date of award activation, though a No-Cost-Extension may be requested.

Budget Justification (one page): Indicate the purpose of supplies, support personnel and other costs.

Eligibility (one page, required only for previous GCAT recipients): If one or both of the applicants is a previous GCAT recipient, provide the following:

- For published papers:
 - Provide citations for one or more published (or accepted for publication) articles that were published/accepted subsequent to the previous GCAT award and that acknowledge funding support from the LLU School of Medicine.
 - Provide a pdf of or hyperlink to the article(s).
- For grant applications, provide the following information for each:
 - LLeRA number
 - Title
 - Sponsor name
 - Date of submission
 - Amount
 - Current status (i.e., Funded, Pending, Scored, Not Discussed, etc.)

Research Plan (nine or ten pages): Provide information for the four subsections described below:

- A. **Introduction to Revised Application** (one page, required only for revised applications): Summarize the substantial additions, deletions and changes to your application. In addition, concisely address each of the concerns raised by the previous reviews, describing how the proposal has (or has not) been modified and your reasons for doing so.
- B. **Specific Aims** (one page): “State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed.” (Text taken from NIH instructions)
- C. **Leadership Plan** (one page): Both PIs must make major contributions to the project. Indicate the individual research assignments of the PIs. State how the PIs will coordinate their activities, resolve problems, and allocate responsibilities for management and reporting.
- D. **Future Directions** (one page): Briefly describe the future directions to be taken with this project, assuming that this initial phase is successful. For example, describe grants to be applied for (including mechanisms, i.e., R21, K award, etc.) and how the preliminary data obtained in this first phase will enhance those applications. Also, if this pilot data will allow design of a larger study, describe briefly the anticipated study design for this larger study.
- E. **Research Strategy** (limited to 6 pages): Six pages in total are allowed for the subsections of Significance, Innovation, and Approach. Suggested allocations of this space for those three subsections are noted below.
 - a. **Significance** (suggested length of ½ page): “Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capacity, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.” (Text taken from NIH instructions)
 - b. **Innovation** (suggested length of ½ page): “Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.

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. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.” (Text taken from NIH instructions)

- c. **Approach** (suggested length of 5 pages): “Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. ...Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work. Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.” (Text taken from NIH instructions)

References: Include those references needed to demonstrate the need for this research, establish feasibility for hypotheses and procedures, and provide support for the approach. Include titles and authors.

Animal Studies or Human Subjects: When laboratory animals or human subjects are involved, integrate these descriptions into the Research Strategy section. If the proposal is awarded, separate applications for the use of animals or for the involvement of human subjects must be submitted for approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or by the Institutional Review Board (IRB), respectively, before work may begin.

Progress and Final Reports: A progress report is due twelve months after award account activation. It will include a summary of results and observations, an assessment of the rate of progress, whether the study is on track for completion by the end of the project period and anticipated changes in the research plan with their justification. Within 30 days of the end of the project period, a final report is due. It should include accomplishments, significant results, manuscripts prepared for publication, and plans for extramural grant applications.

Intent to Apply and Application Process: Applications are to be submitted electronically through the LLeRA Proposal Development module, a part of the institutional research management software. Intent to submit an application must be indicated by sending the completed and fully executed LOI form (<http://researchaffairs.llu.edu/sites/researchaffairs.llu.edu/files/docs/loi.pdf>) including the signatures of both PIs to Sherie Donahue (researchaffairs@llu.edu). The proposed start date should be between January 1 and April 1, 2017. The intent to apply must be received by 5 PM, August 15, 2016. An electronic project record will be created into which applicants must upload the application. A printed, fully executed institutional transmittal form (available at http://www.llu.edu/research-affairs/forms-and-online-tools.page#llu_transmittal) is required by the application deadline (September 12, 2016, 5 PM).

Contacts:

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