

GRANTS TO PROMOTE COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH (GCAT)
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
2020

Purposes:

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

Description:

- Maximum award: \$75,000
- Term of award: 24 months
- Number of awards for 2020: Up to 4
- Letter of Intent must be submitted no later than Monday, August 10, 2020, 5:00 PM
- Deadline for submission: Monday, September 21, 2020, 5:00 PM
- Anticipated date of award announcement: December 2020

Eligibility:

- A. The project must be co-directed by two faculty members, both of whom meet the requirements of the [PI Eligibility](#) policy. Both must have primary appointments within the LLU School of Medicine, and the two Principle Investigators must have their primary appointments in two different departments. Additional individuals can provide letters of support as co-investigators, but no more than two Principle Investigators may be named on an application.
- B. 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 two basic science departments (Department of Basic Science or the Department of Pathology and Human Anatomy).
- C. 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 financial restrictions on the funding that has been available to the other co-PI.
- D. Publication of a minimum of one peer-reviewed manuscript 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.
- E. Individuals who have received prior awards through the GCAT mechanism may reapply for GCAT support provided that for each prior GCAT award one or both of the PIs have submitted one or more applications for extramural funding on which they are listed as PI or co-investigator. The grant application must have occurred after receiving the prior GCAT award. This requirement applies regardless of whether the proposed partnership is the same as previously or represents a new team.
- F. 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.
- G. Only studies conducted at facilities within the School of Medicine will be considered, though supplies, services or reagents from other facilities are allowed.
- H. While an individual or a team may submit more than one application per cycle, 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 one would be eligible for an award. Individuals can serve as the PI on only one active GCAT award at a time.

Criteria for Evaluation:

Awards will be based on primarily on scientific merit, including significance, innovation, approach, and investigator. 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](#) (see [Researcher's Alert](#) for more information). 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 may be published.

Eligibility for previous GCAT recipients (one page per previous awardee, to be submitted with LOI form): If one or both of the applicants is a previous GCAT recipient, provide the following for each previous GCAT award.

- Published papers:
 - Citations for one or more articles that were published or accepted subsequent to the previous GCAT award and that acknowledge GCAT funding support from LLU.
 - PDF of or hyperlink to the article(s).
- Extramural grant applications:
 - LLeRA number
 - Principal Investigator
 - Title
 - Sponsor name
 - Date of submission
 - Amount
 - Current status (i.e., funded, pending, scored, not discussed, etc.)

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, WhatsApp ID, Skype ID, Zoom ID, name of department and/or center and any collaborating institution(s)), a list of all key personnel involved in the project, and total dollars requested.

Abstract and Key Words (up to 30 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 up to (five pages per investigator): Provide biosketches of the principal investigators and other key personnel using current NIH guidelines (see the Biographical Sketch Format Page and Biographical Sketch Sample at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>).

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 Pre Award team member (ext. 44589).

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

Research Plan (nine pages for a new application, or ten pages for a revised application):

- 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.
- 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. **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)

- E. 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.

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.

Letter of Support (Department) (up to 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 the accompanying 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.

Letters of Support (Others): Letters of support from key personnel and consultants are encouraged.

Compliance: When the proposal involves human embryonic stem cells, ionizing radiation, laboratory animals, human subjects, or other elements that require the approval of by an oversight committee, integrate the descriptions into the Research Strategy section. If the proposal is awarded, separate applications must be made to the appropriate committee **before** the work can begin, e.g., Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Review Board (IRB), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), and/or the Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee (SCRO).

Final Report: Extensions of the project period in the context of a no-cost extension must be requested, and any approvals will follow NIH guidelines. Within 60 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. Send reports to basicscienceadmin@llu.edu.

Intent to Apply and Application Process: Intent to submit an application must be indicated by completing the [Letter of Intent form](#), **including the signatures of both PIs**, and submitting it to Research Affairs via email (preaward@llu.edu) or fax (909-558-0199) by August 10, 2020. Questions should be directed to the Pre Award team at <https://researchaffairs.llu.edu/pre-post-award/contacts>. An electronic record will be created into which the application will be loaded. Applications must be submitted electronically through the LLeRA Proposal Development module by 5 PM, September 21, 2020. A printed, fully executed institutional transmittal form, signed by the PI, department head, and dean of both schools, is required by the application deadline.

Contacts:

General Information, Technical and Application Guidance: <https://researchaffairs.llu.edu/pre-post-award/contacts>