

Multidisciplinary Team Incubator Award Up to \$20,000 (for three awards)

Description

The Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute (SC CTSI) and Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center (NCCC) are seeking applications **from new teams** intended to develop multi/inter/trans-disciplinary research for submission for external funding. Team membership should include both seasoned and novice researchers with expertise spanning disciplines to address the most pressing research questions in medicine, healthcare and public health. Approaches can encompass basic, translational, clinical, population-based, community and/or policy research; projects spanning these areas are of particular interest. Projects should include a component directed to research activities and a linked component directed to team building. Proposals should describe how the activities will be focused on building a successful collaborative, multidisciplinary or transdisciplinary team capable of moving forward in a new research direction and securing new external research funding. Projects focused on cancer or non-cancer research areas are both accepted.

If cancer-related, research questions should address priorities outlined in the [USC Norris Strategic Plan](#). In brief, these are: Cancer Disparities; Multi-level Risk Assessment for Precision Prevention; Advancing Targets to Therapies; Developing Multi-modal Biomarkers to Monitor Cancer Evolution; and Cancer Immunotherapy. Cancer-related applications addressing the priorities of our community (based on cancer burdens and disparities) may be prioritized: breast, colon, prostate, and lung cancer, plus liver cancer and acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

All applications (cancer and non-cancer-related) should specify an external funding opportunity that will be targeted and a time line for submission for peer-reviewed grant submission. Research questions should be targeted towards specific external funding opportunities that are clearly identified in the proposal.

Examples of research-appropriate expenditures may include but are not limited to the support of

- Personnel
- data generation
- data access
- external/internal analytical services

- project management
- scientific writing and graphical illustration

Team building activities should be grounded in [team science principals](#). Examples of team building-supported activities may include but are not limited to

- workshops
 - collaboration software and programs
 - team science development plan facilitated through the SC CTSI, requested in advance of proposal submission
 - active engagement of non-traditional scientific or stakeholder expertise
 - honoraria for external experts
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New team development: Highest priority will be given to proposals encompassing activities focused on development of new research partnerships across disciplines (e.g., brainstorming to engage specialists from different disciplines to address clinical and community research questions, landscape analysis, white paper development) and diverse teams.

Eligibility

- Full-time faculty members at USC and CHLA as of the date of the award are eligible to apply as PI. Multiple PIs representing different disciplines are encouraged
 - Postdocs, residents, fellows, students, and community members can serve as co-investigators.
 - Investigators may only submit one application as PI, MPI or Co-PI. However, a PI can be on more than one grant if he/she participates as a co-investigator.
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Award Conditions

- All members of teams selected for funding must attend a 1-hour online team building training prior to initiation of funding and they must agree to attend one advanced team training module during the 12-month funding period.
 - Allow the NCCC and SC CTSI to learn with your team. NCCC and SC CTSI are interested in understanding best practices of team building in biomedical research. Program staff from the NCCC/SC CTSI team building program may request to be present in team building activities as observers or to virtually interview team members to better understand the effectiveness of the team building activities.
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Pre-submission Consultation

Pre-submission consultation with program staff is highly recommended. The NCCC/SC CTSI team building program will hold an information session during the week of Sept. 21 to provide an overview of the program (specific time and date to follow). In addition, staff members will offer consultations to individual teams to help them develop the appropriate focus for their proposal and understand some of the unique features of this award mechanism. The program staff can help and identify team building activities appropriate for your team. Contact Aileen Dinkjian at aileen.dinkjian@med.usc.edu to set up a pre-submission consultation.

Application Format

- Arial font, 11pt
 - Margins: minimum 0.5 inch
 - No appendices
 - Include page numbers and table of contents
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Proposal

Please include one PDF file including the following information:

1. **Research Objectives** (maximum 2 pages excluding any literature reference)
 - Describe the scientific problem and your team's unique approach and strategy to address it.
2. **Team Objectives** (maximum 2 pages)

- Team Composition - highlight diversity of the team including incorporation of early stage and established researchers, disciplinary diversity, sectoral diversity (scientist, patient, community), as well as diversity of experience.
 - Team Roles – provide a clear description of the unique contributions of team members, any existing collaborative relationships between the team members, and how the team will be organized (e.g., roles, tasks, leadership).
 - Team Building Activities Proposed
3. **Timeline and Milestones** (maximum 1 page)
 - Explain how research and teaming activities will be integrated.
 - Specify at least one external funding mechanism that would be targeted following this project
 4. Academic investigators submit CV's. Team members outside academic investigators submit 2- page resumes.
 5. **Budget (\$20,000 maximum)** Use the [Required PHS 398 Budget Form](#), Page 4 or download the [budget form HERE](#). Award expenditures must comply with the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#) and the [Uniform](#) Guidance OMB A-81. Indirect costs are not allowed, including sub-contracts funded by SC CTSI pilot awards. Cost sharing and attempts to raise funds from other sources are encouraged.
 6. **Budget Justification** Justify all costs fully. Provide detailed information for all requested items.
 7. **Letters of Support(s)**. Include if needed to confirm access to other resources or matching funds.
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Submission

Please submit your application by [clicking here](#).

Timeline

- September 28, 2020 - Introduction to Team Science: Informational Session – “Learn to apply team science principles to grant funding opportunities for your multidisciplinary team.”
- November 16, 2020 – Application Deadline
- First week of December 2020 - Grant Review Meeting
- December 2020 – Final Decision
- January 1, 2021: Project Start Date