



## **Clinical and Translational Research Infrastructure Network (CTR-IN) Pilot Grant Program Request for Proposals (Release date: January 29, 2014)**

**Overview:** The objective of the CTR-IN Pilot Grant Program is to build clinical and translational research capacity and extramural funding success among investigators at the Mountain West Research Consortium institutions. Pilot funding support can be transformative in the Mountain West by helping existing programs reach national competitiveness and providing opportunities for new and established investigators to engage in translational, human or population research. In addition to providing funding for clinical and translational research, the Pilot Grant Program facilitates cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional collaborations and provides linkages to the study design, biostatistics, education, mentoring and career development assistance offered through the other components of the CTR-IN.

Funding for the IDeA CTR-IN is provided through the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) under award: #1U54GM104944-01A1.

### **Key Dates:**

Letter of Intent and Abstract Due Date	March 7, 2014
Invitation to investigators to submit full application	March 14, 2014
Application Due Date	April 25, 2014
Earliest Start Date	July 1, 2014

**Project Duration:** Earliest start date July 1, 2014 depending on NIGMS approval including review of the budget and protection of human subjects. End date: June 30, 2015. **No carryover beyond the project period will be allowed.**

**Application Process:** Interested applicants **MUST** submit a letter of intent (LOI) to apply and a brief abstract by the date indicated below. The LOI/abstract should be uploaded at the CTR-IN Pilot Grant webpage, [http://ctrin.unlv.edu/?page\\_id=167](http://ctrin.unlv.edu/?page_id=167). The CTR-IN will review the LOI/abstract and qualified applicants will be invited to submit a full research plan (4-pages) and supporting materials. Applications that have not been invited following review of a LOI/abstract will not be accepted. Full applications will be scored for scientific merit by external reviewers.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Applications are welcome from investigators eligible to apply for independent NIH funding holding a faculty appointment at one of the Mountain West Research Consortium (MWRC) institutions, except University of Hawaii at Manoa and the University of New Mexico which have local programs. Projects must be focused on Clinical or Translational Research. For the purposes of the CTR-IN this does not include pre-clinical or basic science research (see definitions below). The Principal Investigator (PI) must be able to devote 20-50% effort on the pilot grant.

**Funding Preferences:** Funding priority will be given to Early or New Stage Investigators according to NIH definitions, [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new\\_investigators/](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/). Established investigators wanting to develop a new CTR research direction also will be

### **Eligible Mountain West Research Consortium (MWRC) Institutions:**

University of Alaska, Anchorage  
 University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
 Boise State University  
 Idaho State University  
 University of Idaho  
 Montana State University  
 University of Montana  
 New Mexico State University  
 University of Nevada Las Vegas  
 University of Nevada Reno  
 University of Wyoming

considered. Priority will also be given to proposals focused on health disparities relevant to the mountain west and broadly defined including, but not limited to, cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic and access related. Only one proposal per investigator will be considered.

**Funds Available and Use of Funds:** Support of up to \$75,000 in direct costs may be requested for 12-month projects. We anticipate funding up to 16 projects in this round. Permitted expenses will include salary support for the PI, research personnel, and supplies. Budgets must include expenses to travel to the CTR-IN Annual Scientific Meeting. Other travel expenses are permitted if necessary for conducting field work as part of the pilot project, or for domestic travel if justified for establishing a mentorship relationship, accessing experts or other resources, or presentation of peer-reviewed findings from the project at up to one national meeting per year. Budgets may not support office supplies, phone costs, or other costs considered to be indirect expenses under NIH guidelines, unless justified as directly related to research data collection. Facilities and Administration rates (i.e., indirect costs) will be held to 10% per agreements with CTR-IN partner institutions.

**Special Note Regarding Human Subjects Research:** IRB approval letter (or IRB exemption letter) must be available for successful proposals by June 25, 2014, when awards are announced.

**Additional Considerations:** During the application critique and scoring process, external reviewers will be asked to comment on the following regarding the proposed research plan:

1. Are plans for future extramural grant application(s) clear?
2. Are the research aims feasible for the given project period.
3. If the proposed pilot project is successful, will the findings yield sufficient preliminary data to support a competitive NIH grant application?

**CTR-IN Resources to Assist Applicants:**

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Pilot Grant Program can be found at [http://ctrin.unlv.edu/?page\\_id=167](http://ctrin.unlv.edu/?page_id=167)
- Each participating institution has a biostatistician that is supported by CTR-IN to assist prospective investigators in developing their research ideas, [http://ctrin.unlv.edu/?page\\_id=186](http://ctrin.unlv.edu/?page_id=186)
- The CTR-IN provides mentorship and educational support to assist researchers at the Mountain West institutions, [http://ctrin.unlv.edu/?page\\_id=163](http://ctrin.unlv.edu/?page_id=163)
- Each participating institution has a designated campus liaison for the CTR-IN.
- The CTR-IN currently funds pilot award investigators at each of the Mountain West institutions. A list of current awardees can be found at [http://ctrin.unlv.edu/?page\\_id=425](http://ctrin.unlv.edu/?page_id=425)
- Any questions about the Pilot Grant Program can be directed to Curtis Noonan ([curtis.noonan@umontana.edu](mailto:curtis.noonan@umontana.edu)) and William Shuttleworth ([bshuttleworth@salud.unm.edu](mailto:bshuttleworth@salud.unm.edu)).

**CTR Definitions**

**Clinical research** includes (1) patient-oriented research; (2) epidemiologic and behavioral studies; and (3) outcomes research and health services research. Further detail of this definition can be found in the Human Subjects Research Definitions and Terms of the PHS 398 (Part III-25): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.doc>

**Translational research (T1-T4)** includes:

- T1, Translation to Humans: Testing basic science discoveries in humans for clinical effect and/or applicability;
- T2, Translation to Patients: Testing new interventions in human subjects under controlled environments to form the basis for clinical applications and evidence-based guidelines
- T3, Translation to Practice: Research on the application of new interventions or therapies in general practice; research that yields knowledge on best ways to implement new medical interventions in the clinic; and
- T4, Translation to Population: Investigations of factors and/or interventions that influence the health of populations; ultimately results in improved health of the public.