REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

**Reference: RFA CHI 2014.1**

**UC Health**

through the

**UC Center for Health Informatics (CHI) and the UC Department of Biomedical Informatics**

is requesting applications for

Development of customized tools for research participant recruitment

and research data collection in Epic

RFA CHI 2014.1

**Deadlines:** Full application: 5 pm, September 22, 2014

Notification of selection: On or about September 29, 2014

Submit applications to: [brett.harnett@uc.edu](mailto:brett.harnett@uc.edu)

**Questions and information:** For questions regarding this Request for Applications (RFA), please contact Brett Harnett at brett.harnett@uc.edu. For general questions about clinical research informatics and biomedical informatics, please contact the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training (CCTST). Information about the CCTST is available at [http://cctst.uc.edu/](http://cctst.uc.edu/about).

**I. BACKGROUND**

The implementation of Epic as UC Health’s base electronic medical record system provides an opportunity for identifying and recruiting research participants, collecting research data, and improving the efficiency of research implementation. In addition, there are opportunities for developing novel tools that could enable research interventions. UC Health is eager to work with the research community to leverage the power of Epic.

Over the past 6 months, the research community developed priority areas for UC Health to focus its health informatics resources. In addition to establishing a new governance committee that will guide decision making for balancing resources with researcher needs, the research community recommended a stepwise approach to developing research tools within the electronic medical record. The goal of this RFA is to begin the process of implementing new research tools into Epic while also evaluating demand, so that supportive systems and resources can be implemented to streamline and sustain use of Epic for research investigations.

**2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this RFA is to solicit requests for developing research tools in Epic that will enhance real-time research participant identification and research data collection in the clinical environment. Up to three proposals will be supported from this first round of requests, one from each category below.

**3. OBJECTIVES AND CATEGORIES**

There are three categories for this RFA:

A: **A clinical trial alert**. This category calls for a Best Practice Alert. The development of a tool or mechanism integrated with Epic that alerts designated trial coordination staff of subjects meeting study criteria in real-time. One possible example is a pop-up window in the Epic workspace that appears when a patient is identified as possibly qualifying for a research study. Alternate modes of messaging might include sending text messages or paging study staff.

B: **A customized data collection interface.** This category calls for the development of a tool or interface that captures data relevant to a research study that is typically not captured as part of the Epic recording process. An example is a research registry that requires highly detailed observational information about a patient that exceeds or augments the data that is recorded in Epic during a typical clinical encounter for this type of patient or disorder. Possible modes of collection might include customized data capture templates within Epic such as patient scoring or documentation (flowsheets, SmartForms or SmartLists within a SmartText), an augmentative device such as a tablet or a patient kiosk that provides ancillary data to Epic via an electronic data exchange interface or subsidiary tool/interface.

C: **A real-time Epic study participant query system.** This category calls for developing a method for **querying Epic records of the current patient census to identify subjects eligible for a particular clinical study**. The system would be capable of querying Epic data in real time to identify potential participants within the Hospital meeting the criteria of a particular research study.

**4. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS**

To be eligible for development under this RFA, the following criteria must be met:

1. The development must be strictly for research purposes

2. Applicants must have a research study actively recruiting within a UC Health facility that uses Epic

3. Appropriate IRB approvals must be in place prior to any tool being activated

Requests will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. *Benefit*: Likelihood for accelerating participant recruitment and/or the quality of collected data
2. *Impact*: Magnitude of benefit for study improvement
3. *Method*: Complexity of the tool that is requested
4. *Approach*: Feasibility of successful implementation
5. *Significance*: Potential for adopting the approach for additional studies
6. *Risk*: Minimum risk of negative impact to clinical operation and systems

Submission Instructions:

Applications cannot exceed one (1) page in length and must be received by 5 pm on September 22, 2014.

The application should include the following information

1. Study title
2. PI’s name and department
3. A statement of the problem or challenge that the tool or report will overcome
4. A clear description of the desired tool or report
5. Number of participants to be enrolled
6. Expected end date of the study
7. Expected impact of the tool on the research
8. An appendix can be included only for the purpose of specifying study inclusion/exclusion criteria for tools that are designed to help identify research participants, or the Case Report Form for a data collection tool.

*Applications and questions should be sent to: brett.harnett@uc.edu*

**5. AWARD**

Applications will be reviewed by the Epic Research Committee and successful applicants will be notified on or about September 29. Development should begin in October 2014. Successful applicants will work with the UC Health software developers in concert with the CHI.