Request for Applications

CONSULTATION, MENTORING, METHODOLOGY AND INFORMATICS SUPPORT FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL PILOT PROJECTS IN COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS AND PATIENT CENTERED OUTCOMES RESEARCH

Deadlines:

- Full application: 5pm, April 10, 2015
- Notification of award: On or about May 22, 2015
- Support available: Immediately on notification

This RFA is designed to foster an environment which supports comprehensive infrastructure for the efficient conduct and application of innovative comparative effectiveness research (CER) and patient centered outcomes research (PCOR). We are offering interprofessional research teams the opportunity for support and mentoring by experts in team science, methodology and biomedical informatics to develop pilot data for extramural CER/PCOR proposals.

Background: Health systems of the future will need to provide efficient, effective care targeted to the needs of individual patients and various populations. New approaches to healthcare research, among them CER and PCOR, are primary strategies that are being used to identify best practices.

CER compares the benefits and harms of alternative methods to prevent, diagnose, treat, and monitor a clinical condition or to improve the delivery of care. The goal of CER is to provide evidence to inform decisions that will improve health care for individuals and populations.

PCOR helps people and their caregivers communicate and make informed healthcare decisions, allowing their voices to be heard in assessing the value of healthcare options. Importantly, PCOR is inclusive of an individual’s preferences, autonomy and needs, focusing on outcomes that people notice and care about.

Available resources: To spur the growth of CER and PCOR at the University of Cincinnati, the offices of the Vice President for Research, UC Health, the Dean of the College of Medicine and the Dean of the College of Nursing are supporting a number of experts in CER/PCOR, as well as methodologists, informationists and biomedical informaticians, so that interprofessional teams can develop the necessary pilot data to generate competitive proposals for extramural funding whose outcomes will, in turn, change the way medicine is practices in our own health care system as well as in the nation.

Priorities: Priority will be given to interprofessional teams proposing an area of study that will benefit from CER or PCOR. Teams that plan to tackle a program of research that has the potential to directly impact UC Health will be given highest priority.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for resources, the principal investigator must hold a full-time (≥0.8 FTE) faculty appointment within UC and submit any resulting extramural funding applications through UC. The research team must include faculty from at least two colleges and represent at least two different professional disciplines. Faculty whose primary affiliation is with CCHMC, the VA, or other non-university entities are not eligible to apply as principal investigator, but are encouraged to collaborate with faculty whose primary affiliation is with the UC.
Note: This is not a typical pilot project where funds are requested for execution of the research. Rather, we ask that you identify an area where you are in need of resources (as detailed in the section below). You should estimate the expected time commitment required, and allow us to assign experts in this area to meet your needs.

Support that may be requested: Applicants may not request a funding amount, but may request a range of supporting infrastructure, including but not limited to:

i) Data management and informatics support, including extraction of data from the electronic medical record
ii) Biostatistical or analytics support
iii) Support with engaging community or participant stakeholders in study design and implementation

We expect to provide between 2 and 4 teams with the necessary resources and guidance to generate sufficient pilot data for a competitive extramural grant submission.

The proposal must clearly describe how the requested supporting infrastructure will benefit the development of an extramural grant submission. The team is not expected to identify the personnel providing support, the COM Office of Research will identify relevant resources appropriate to the proposed study. However, if the expert is already engaged in the project, this should be noted in the proposal.

*All successful teams will be provided with training opportunities and with the support of experts in team science and CER/PCOR to help foster successful completion of the proposed work, and to facilitate the development of competitive extramural proposals.*

Review process: Applications will be reviewed using the following criteria:

i) Strength of investigators and commitment to team science
ii) Potential impact of proposed program of research on UC Health
iii) The importance of a team science approach to the success of the proposed program of research
iv) Strategy to develop a competitive, extramurally-funded line of research
v) Likelihood of completing the project before December 31, 2015

Institutional Review Board Approval: Any project involving human subjects must obtain appropriate IRB approvals. Investigators may use expertise of the CER/PCOR support team to help develop an IRB protocol.

Applications: A complete application includes the following:

1. Face page that includes a statement that the proposal is for CONSULTATION, MENTORING, METHODOLOGY AND INFORMATICS SUPPORT FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL PILOT PROJECTS IN COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS AND PATIENT CENTERED OUTCOME RESEARCH; the title of the application; PI information (title, college, department, and contact information); Team members (institutional affiliation, title, college, and department)
2. Support requested, current stage of the project, and any existing or committed resources already in place, including funding and in-kind support. FTE commitment from PI and team members. Estimated hours or usage time for requested resources should be included (do not exceed 1 page)
3. Project outline, including (do not exceed 2 pages)
   a. Proposed specific aims
   b. Significance and innovation
   c. General research strategy
   d. Timelines and deliverables
4. Strategy for pursuing extramural funding, including any specifically targeted RFAs (do not exceed 1 page)
5. NIH-format Biosketch (for each team member)
6. A letter from the Department or Division head guaranteeing the faculty member’s availability to complete the proposed work (for each team member)

**Full applications must be received no later than 5pm on April 10, 2015. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.**

**Questions and information:** For questions regarding these instructions, please contact Brieanne Sheehan by e-mailing sheehabe@ucmail.uc.edu. For general questions about comparative effectiveness and patient centered outcomes research, please contact the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training (CCTST). Information about the CCTST is available at http://cctst.uc.edu/about.