2012 Request for Applications: Interdisciplinary Research & Summer Research Fellowships on Ethical Issues in Clinical and Translational Research

The Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training (CCTST) is soliciting applications for research addressing ethical issues in clinical and translational research.

**Purpose:** The Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training Research Ethics Grant Program is designed to support interdisciplinary empirical research and summer research fellowships that aim to develop, inform, or apply morally, socially and culturally acceptable frameworks that maximize the ethics of conducting clinical and translational research.

A. **Interdisciplinary Empirical Research on Research Ethics**

Given the conceptual and methodological complexity of the likely research questions, interdisciplinary collaborations involving clinical researchers, ethicists, and behavioral/social scientists are strongly encouraged. The research design should be appropriate to the nature of the project proposed and the disciplines involved.

Examples of topics appropriate for these applications include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Role of the community in research
   - Explore challenges in research with changing and/or culturally diverse populations and appropriate ways of addressing these challenges.
   - Explore ethical issues raised by community-based research models.
   - Develop and evaluate methods for meeting the research needs of diverse populations and gauge which research issues the community feels are important.

2. Role of the individual research participant in research
   - Explore levels of risk in research and how they impact informed consent processes.
   - Explore levels of autonomy exhibited by research participants and how autonomy can be best respected during participation in research.
   - Explore cultural and social perceptions of research participation, especially as they impact consent or refusal to participate in research.
   - Explore issues of power and their impact on informed consent processes.
   - Explore individual variability in risk/benefit assessment and the role of the investigator in ensuring that prospective participants have not only the information needed to make a decision, but also adequate tools for weighing risks and benefits in their autonomous decision-making.
3. Maximizing the impact of research on communities

- Explore when and how research results should be disseminated to lay communities, including research subjects and the general public.
- Explore community perceptions of concepts such as minimal risk, coercion, etc., and how researchers can best address those community perceptions.
- Explore public perceptions of research regulation and financial conflict of interest.
- Develop and evaluate methods for communicating research results and incidental findings with medical implications to research subjects and families.
- Develop and evaluate scientific and ethical parameters that should be considered when reporting research findings.
- Develop and evaluate methods for communicating the evolving, and sometimes conflicting, nature of scientific evidence to lay audiences.

B. Faculty Research Fellowships in Clinical Research Ethics

Individual research fellowships are available for conceptual research in clinical research ethics. The fellowships are designed to support a faculty member’s full focus on research during any quarter of leave without pay or any non-teaching quarter without pay.

Examples of topics appropriate for these applications include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Explore ethical issues raised by community-based participatory research models.
- Examine issues and conceptions of autonomy and how the role of the research participant alters the individual’s autonomy.
- Explore cultural and social perceptions of research participation, especially as they impact consent or refusal to participate in research.
- Critique of existing models of informed consent, returning research results and incidental findings, and philosophical or social models of autonomy, beneficence and justice.
- Examine issues of power and their impact on informed consent processes.

Applicants should include a plan demonstrating how their project will lead to, or contribute to, a broad program of funded research. Collaboration with Faculty in the biomedical sciences will be viewed positively.

Eligibility: All 80% or greater FTE faculty members of UC, CCHMC, or the Cincinnati VAMC are eligible for this award. Applicants must be CCTST members. To join free of charge, go to http://cctst.uc.edu/about/cctst-membership.
Funding priorities: Proposals will be evaluated based on the scholarly merit of the proposed activities, innovativeness of the proposed interdisciplinary program, capabilities of the principal investigators, and potential for future extramural funding.

Awards: For interdisciplinary projects, up to $10,000 may be requested for a 1 year award. For summer fellowships, $8,000 ($4,000/month) for 2 months of summer stipend support will be available. It is anticipated that 2 or 3 grants and fellowships will be funded based upon merit of applications.

Grant conditions and allowable costs:
- Any publications resulting from this research effort should acknowledge CCTST support.
- Funding is available for projects for one year. Extensions are not possible.
- Allowable costs will typically be those associated with successful completion of a research or scholarly project, and may include equipment, research assistant salaries or services. This grant does not fund faculty salary support for the academic year. Travel to meetings or conferences is not supported. Travel that is essential to successful completion of the aims of the project is permitted. Publication costs (e.g., charges associated with reproduction of materials or obtaining copyrights) are allowable.

Application must include:

1. Application cover sheet: Complete the cover sheet attached to the close of this application. Include the names of all faculty.

2. Biographical sketches in NIH format (not to exceed four pages from each investigator)

3. Listing of research support for each investigator. Limit your listing of support to the past five years. For each grant or contract, list the project title, project period and the direct and indirect funds awarded. For current or pending awards, describe the scientific and budgetary overlap with this proposal.

4. Proposal: Write the proposal such that a panel of reviewers with diverse backgrounds can clearly understand the project. The proposal must not exceed five (5) single-spaced typewritten pages (11 pt. font minimum; Arial 11 pt or Times New Roman 12 pt, preferred) including tables and illustrations. A minimum of one-inch margins is required. References are not included in the five-page limit. Divide the proposal into the following sections:
   - Significance
   - Background
   - Preliminary Data (if any)
5. Budget Justification: Indicate how the budgeted items relate to the research project.

6. Human Subjects and Animal Research: If human subjects and/or animals will be used in the proposed research project, please document that the IRB or IACUC protocol is submitted or approved. If approved, please include a copy of the signed cover sheet to this proposal.

**DEADLINE:** Friday, January 20, 2012 by Midnight
Please email proposals as a single .pdf file to Catherine Scharf (Catherine.Scharf@cchmc.org).
Title: _________________________________

Primary Investigator:
Title:
College/Institution:
Department:
Mail Location:
Phone Number:
Email Address:

Co-Investigators: (for all co-investigators list name, title, college/institution and department).

Proposed Budget:

Available Funding:

Human Subjects Involved?
IRB #

Animals Involved?
IACUC #

Purpose: Please provide a brief description of no more than 150 words.