



## UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, UNC HEALTHCARE & NC TraCS

### ***EMERGING CHALLENGES IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH (ECBR)*** ***Spring 2018***

#### **Requests for Research Proposals to Improve Health**

##### **I. Summary of Award**

The UNC School of Medicine's Office of Research sponsors an annual pilot award, *Emerging Challenges in Biomedical Research (ECBR)* to provide support for innovative, early stage research relevant to NIH strategic priorities. For this round of funding the OoR is partnering with UNC Medical Center and NC TraCS to provide support for innovative, early stage research and implementation for improving human health.

**The purpose of the current challenge (Spring 2018) is to capture the broad interdisciplinary expertise of SOM and Medical Center investigators relevant to both healthcare and precision medicine.**

Healthcare is the maintenance or improvement of health via the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. Precision Medicine is an approach for disease treatment and prevention that takes into account individual variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle of each person.

This RFA dovetails with the NIH *All of Us* initiative which is an effort to compile data from over one million people living in the United States to facilitate research and improve health outcomes. By taking into account individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biology, researchers will uncover paths toward delivering precision medicine and improving patient care in a clinical setting.

Preference will be given to new projects and ideas from cross-cutting teams with the most potential for the highest immediate impact on clinical care and translational research. At least one **UNC SOM** and one **Medical Center investigator** must be actively involved in the research plan. If the UNC Medical Center investigator happens to also be affiliated with UNC SOM, the project needs to also involve a Medical center employee e.g. nurse, pharmacist, or social worker etc.

Research related to any and all disease areas are welcome. However, priority will be given to proposals focusing on diagnosis and improvement of pressing clinical care issues e.g. sepsis, readmission prevention, adverse drug interactions, etc.

The funds are not meant as a supplement or bridge to an existing funded project. The supported project is expected to lead to clinical care improvements and submission of novel interdisciplinary program project grants and multiple PI R01s to improve human health by UNC SOM and Medical Center investigators.

## II. Award Administration

The SOM Office of Research, UNC Medical Center and NC TraCS will jointly administer ECBR funding. The awards will provide up to \$50K for a 1-year period. To receive funding, the lead PI(s) must have primary appointments in either the SOM or Medical Center.

## III. Eligibility

- The **team leaders must hold a primary appointment in the School of Medicine or UNC Medical Center**. Teams may include collaborators from other schools or HCS business units, but the Principal Investigators must be SOM/Medical Center faculty or employees.
- The proposal should represent a new avenue of research for the investigators. This is a key criterion for review. There must be no prior internal or external funding for the project or funding overlap. This award is not intended as supplementary or bridge funding.
- Our ultimate goal is to facilitate the collection of preliminary data that will support competitive federal grants, clinical trials, or cooperative agreements to improve human health.

## IV. Application Process

The Application Components are as follows:

- Title Page
  - Please provide the project title, and the name, title, department/affiliation, and role for each of the key team members.
- Abstract (1/2 page)
- Specific Aims (1 page)
- Research Plan (3 pages) which must include the following:
  - Description of Research Team- Describe how this team is suited to accomplish the project aims
  - Significance
  - Project Design and Methods. (Include statistical analysis and justification)
  - Timeline and goals for future funding.
- Detailed Budget and Justification
  - Funds may be allocated to support research staff, supplies, core facility fees, travel directly related to project goals, and small equipment. Salary support for faculty is not an allowable cost. Salary support for trainees, and technicians are permissible. Funds will support direct costs only.
- NIH Biosketches (for SOM) or current CV (for Medical Center) for Key Personnel
  - Include current and pending support and internal as well as external funding sources.

**All Submissions should be emailed to:** [oor\\_submissions@med.unc.edu](mailto:oor_submissions@med.unc.edu)

Applications must be received by **June 30, 2018**. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Brennan at the email address above or at 966- 8089.