CCTSI Center for NeuroScience Pilot Program (CNS-Pilot)  
2019 Request For Applications

I. Description
The CCTSI Center for NeuroScience Pilot Program (CNS-Pilot) supports one-year awards to encourage cross-disciplinary and collaborative research in basic and translational neuroscience, with awards in four categories: Basic Research Independent, Basic Research Team Science, Translational Research Independent, and Translational Research Team Science.

Principal Investigators must have full-time faculty appointments at one or more of the following CCTSI-affiliated academic institutions:

- CU School of Medicine
- CU School of Nursing
- CU School of Pharmacy
- CU School of Dentistry
- CU School of Public Health
- National Jewish Health
- CU Boulder
- CU Denver Downtown Campus

Translational research is intentionally broadly defined, and includes any basic, pre-clinical or clinical research with promise to improve human health. Basic research at the cellular and molecular level, pre-clinical research in animal models, clinical research in humans, and outcomes or health services research are eligible if the ultimate goal is to improve human health.

II. Key Dates

- **Mandatory Intent to Apply DUE:** August 13, 2018 5:00pm MDT
- **Cost Share Budget Review DUE (if applicable, IIIf):** September 28, 2018
- **Application DUE:** October 1, 2018 5:00pm MDT
- **Selection Notification:** February 2019
- **Start of Award: (with completed regulatory approvals, IIle):** March-June 2019

III. General Considerations for all CNS-Pilot Applications

a) All CNS-Pilot awards are contingent upon funding made available to CNS from the UC Denver School of Medicine,
b) Revisions of unfunded applications from last year are encouraged. Revised proposals are considered new applications rather than resubmitted applications.
c) Principal Investigators must be Center for NeuroScience Members at time of application and may register at CNS Membership webpage. Applications received from investigators who are not CNS members OR who are ineligible to be CNS members will not be reviewed. Principal Investigators, co-Investigators and Mentors must also be CCTSI Members at time of application. Check status or become members at CCTSI Membership webpage.
d) CNS-Pilot awards are not federally funded, and pre-application review (“routing”) is not required for UC Denver applicants by the Office of Grants and Contracts before submission. However, applicants from affiliate organizations (Section I) may have internal pre-application review requirements. Applicants from affiliate organizations are strongly encouraged to work with the sponsored programs office at their institution to meet all pre-application requirements specific to their organization.
e) Regulatory approvals are not required at the time of application. Applications selected for award must obtain regulatory approvals prior to receiving award. These approvals may include COMIRB, IACUC, Biosafety, SARC, IBC, CHRI, or any other regulatory groups relevant to the proposal.

f) Applications may include collaboration with a non-affiliate organization (Section I). If the non-affiliate organization will receive any funding from the proposal, budget caps and cost share requirements necessitate Cost Share Budget Review with Sandy Chalmers by September 28, 2018.

- Budget Cap: up to 25% of total award may be allocated to the non-affiliate organization.

- Cost Share Requirement: The non-affiliate organization must contribute 50% of the non-affiliate costs as mandatory Cost Share. A Letter of Support is required including a detailed Scope of Work, justification of total non-affiliate budget, and statement of commitment to meet the cost share requirement. The total budget including cost share must not exceed the award amount of the total Pilot award – cost share is not additional funding to the total Pilot award.

- Calculation example based on a 30K proposal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Items</th>
<th>Award Total Budget</th>
<th>Funded CCTSI</th>
<th>Funded Non-affiliate Cost Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affiliate directs</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-affiliate directs</td>
<td>$7,500 (cap 25% of 30K)</td>
<td>$3,750</td>
<td>$3,750 (50% of $7,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$30,000 total award</td>
<td>$26,250</td>
<td>$3,750</td>
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</table>

g) Underrepresented and minority applicants are particularly urged to apply. Groups that have historically been underrepresented in biomedical research include, but are not limited to, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans (including Alaska Natives), natives of the U.S. Pacific Islands, individuals with disabilities and individuals from socially, culturally, economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds that have inhibited their ability to pursue research careers.

h) Applicants are reminded to avoid public disclosure of results without first determining if intellectual property exists, as this may result in a lost opportunity to protect and commercialize any invention. Please contact the Technology Transfer Office before presenting or publishing results.

IV. General Restrictions for all CNS-Pilot Applications

a) Investigators from non-affiliate organizations (Section I) are ineligible to be Principal Investigators on CNS-Pilot awards, but may collaborate with an eligible CCTSI affiliate PI.

b) PIs with an award in the most recent three cycles are ineligible to apply for the current cycle.

c) An individual may be included in a Key Role (Principal Investigator, co-Principal Investigator, co-Investigator) on only one application in an award year between CO-Pilot, CMH-Pilot, CNS-Pilot, and CE-Pilot Joint Programs. This restriction is not applicable to NM-Pilot or CE-Pilot Partnership Development programs, or to roles such as consultant, research assistant, fellow, tech support, etc.

d) Multiple PI roles are restricted in this program by category (Section V).

e) Renewal or follow-on funding to any previously funded CCTSI Pilot award is not allowed.

f) Pilot awards do not support indirect (F&A) costs.

g) Pilot awards do not support funding of international entities. However, proposals with limited aspects of the research (such as data or sample collection) conducted at international sites may be considered for funding portions of the work conducted locally in Colorado.

h) Any clinical trials proposed in Pilot applications are restricted to Phase I-IIA. In accordance with the congressional authorization for creation of NCATS, the CCTSI cannot directly fund Pilot Program clinical trials beyond Phase IIA. If you anticipate submitting an application including a Phase IIB or Phase III clinical trial, please contact the Pilot Program Office PRIOR to submitting Intent to Apply.
V. Award Categories

Basic Research Independent Awards - $30,000 for one year
- Funding is comprised of $20,000 from CNS, and $10,000 match from the PI’s department.
- This award is an opportunity for investigators (typically assistant, associate or full professors) to complete data collection for a novel grant application in basic neuroscience research.
- One individual must be the Principal Investigator - Multiple PI roles are not supported.
- These applications must be accompanied by a Letter of Support from department chair(s) committing financial support for the application.

Basic Research Team Science Awards - $75,000 for one year
- Funding is comprised of $50,000 from CNS, and $25,000 match from the PI’s department.
- This award is an opportunity for experienced investigators (typically senior assistant with prior research funding, associate or full professor) to support novel cross-disciplinary collaborative basic neuroscience research between investigators in clinical and basic research departments.
- This award supports Multiple PI roles, with one person designated as the primary contact for award administration. A Multiple PI Plan must be included in the application.
- This award mechanism is not designed to support pre-existing collaborative projects.
- These applications must be accompanied by a Letter of Support from department chair(s) committing financial support for the application.

Translational Independent Awards - $30,000 for one year
- Funding is comprised of $20,000 from CNS, and $10,000 match from the PI’s department.
- This award is an opportunity for investigators (typically assistant, associate or full professors) to complete data collection for a novel grant application in translational neuroscience research.
- One individual must be the Principal Investigator - Multiple PI roles are not supported.
- These applications must be accompanied by a Letter of Support from department chair(s) committing financial support for the application.

Translational Team Science Awards - $80,000 for one year
- Funding is comprised of $54,000 from CNS and $26,000 match from the PI’s department.
- This award is an opportunity for experienced investigators (typically senior assistant with prior research funding, associate or full professor) to support novel collaborative translational neuroscience research between investigators in clinical and basic research departments.
- This award supports Multiple PI roles, with one person designated as the primary contact for award administration. A Multiple PI Plan must be included in the application.
- This award mechanism is not designed to support pre-existing collaborative projects.
- This award is an opportunity for experienced investigators to benefit from strong cross-disciplinary collaboration in translational neuroscience research.
- These applications must be accompanied by a Letter of Support from department chair(s) committing financial support for the application.

VI. Application Process

Information and Resources:
Please refer to the CNS-Pilot website for information regarding:
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Informational Calls
- Rank Eligibility Table
- CCTSI Resources
- 2019 Application Checklist
- Award Information

Submission Method:
Intent to Apply and Application may only be submitted online, and will be time-stamped upon submission. Items received after the deadlines will not be accepted. A PC with Internet Explorer 10, Chrome or Mozilla Firefox as the internet browser is recommended for best operation of online submission.
Intent to Apply:  
The mandatory Intent to Apply must be submitted ONLINE by 5pm MDT August 13, 2018. Submission access is available from the CNS-Pilot website. The online form collects minimal information for development of review panels. While submission of Intent to Apply is mandatory, the information collected is not binding and may be changed at the time of application.

Application:  
The Application must be submitted ONLINE by 5pm MDT October 1, 2018. Submission access is available from the CNS-Pilot website. The full application consists of an online application form that will be attached to your proposal as a cover page, and the proposal materials described below. Applicants will have the opportunity to access and revise the form and proposal as often as needed up to the time they certify and submit the final application.  
Final applications cannot be modified after submission – no exceptions.

Online Application Form  
- The online application form collects required information for application validation and review procedures, and will be converted into a cover page for your proposal. Please do NOT attach a separate cover page. Applicants will have the opportunity to access and revise the online application form as often as needed up to the time they certify and submit the final application.

Proposal Overview  
- The proposal should clearly describe a one-year research project using NIH-style structure, comprised of Abstract, Research Plan, References, Multiple PI Plan (if applicable), Budget and Justification, Biosketches, Letters of Support, and 2019 Checklist. No appendices.
- All proposal materials below must be combined into a single PDF document uploaded with the Online Application Form. You may use standard PHS 398 forms, although this is not required unless otherwise noted. Format must be Arial 11pt font, single-spaced, with 1/2 inch margins.

Proposal Materials  
1. Abstract (limit 250 words)  
   - Provide a concise summary of project for application review and announcement of award. Include overall goal, specific aims, anticipated outcomes, and how the research meets RFA objectives.

2. Research Plan (limit 4 pages): All applications are considered new proposals. Revisions from prior unfunded submission should be incorporated in the Research Plan within the 4 page limit.  
   - Specific Aims  
     ▪ Provide a clear, concise summary of the Hypothesis to be tested and your Specific Aims, including the clinical or translational research areas applicable.  
   - Research Strategy  
     ▪ Significance: Explain the importance of the problem or barrier to progress in field that the proposal addresses. Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.  
     ▪ Innovation: Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Approach: Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project within the one-year timeline. Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted, as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work. Describe proposed tests, procedures, subject population and ages in sufficient detail to allow adequate evaluation of your approach.
  - If applicable, incorporate information on background and preliminary studies within the Significance, Innovation and Approach sections above.
  - If applicable, incorporate information on the use of CCTSI Resources, or rationale for using alternative resources, within the Significance, Innovation and Approach sections above. Use of CCTSI resources is not required but is strongly encouraged.

3. References (no page limit)

4. Multiple PI Plan (1 page)
   - For applications with multiple PIs, provide a Multiple PI Plan consistent with NIH requirements:
     - Rationale for choosing a multiple PI approach.
     - Description of the governance and organizational structure of the leadership team and research project including communication plans, process for making decisions on scientific direction, and procedures for resolving conflicts.
     - Roles and administrative, technical, and scientific responsibilities for the project or program should be delineated for the PIs, including responsibilities for human or live vertebrate animal subject studies as appropriate.

5. Budget and Justification (2 pages)
   - Clearly define project expenses with cost categories relevant to the project, such as Personnel, Supplies, Lab Testing, Animals, Human Subjects, Non-affiliate Organizations, etc.
   - Salary support commensurate with percent effort is allowed for PI and lab personnel, subject to NIH-salary cap restrictions.
   - Unallowable expenses include, but may not be limited to: indirect costs (F&A), international entities, computers, telecommunications, food, furniture, administrative support, non-project specific office expenses, and professional dues/fees.
   - The justification must align with budget and any financial commitments in Letters of Support, and other support for the project should be described.
   - Cost Share Budget Review: if required, acknowledge in Budget Justification. All applications including collaboration with non-affiliate organizations with budget requirements: Cost Share Budget Review (IIIf) with Sandy Chalmers is required by September 28, 2018

6. Required Biosketches (current NIH format and page limit required)
   - All individuals in Key Roles (Principal Investigators, co-Investigators)

7. Required Letters of Support (no page limit)
   - All applications with additional financial commitments, including departmental funding or non-affiliate collaborations with cost-share requirements: Letter should clearly indicate the scope of work and cost calculations, the amount should be aligned with the application budget, and should be provided by the official authorized to honor the financial commitment.

8. 2019 Checklist Form
   - Required checklist is available at CNS-Pilot website in Information and Resources.
VII. Review Criteria

Reviewers with appropriate expertise will evaluate eligible applications with a specific emphasis on research that furthers neuroscience research. Recommendations will be presented to the CCTSI and/or CNS Executive Committees as appropriate for approval. All Executive Committee decisions will be final. Short informative critiques of application strengths and weaknesses will be provided to all applicants after selection notifications are made.

Factors considered in the success of the application are:

- **Innovation** - Is the proposal innovative and novel in its hypotheses, approaches, and techniques? Does the application represent a changing research direction or a transition to a new area of research that broadens an investigator’s research program in clinical and translational areas?
- **Approach/Scientific Merit** - Are hypotheses and experimental approach sound? What is the likelihood of success given the experiments / proposal as outlined? Are there explicit plans for development of future funding for the project, whether from the NIH, foundations, or commercial sources?
- **Cross-disciplinary or Collaborative focus** – For Team Science applications, does the research involve a cross-disciplinary or collaborative focus? For Translational applications, are attempts made to bridge basic and translational researchers in discovery translation?
- **Significance** - Will the results further our understanding / diagnosis / prevention/ or treatment of human diseases?
- **Investigators** – Do the investigators have the necessary expertise and capacity to complete the proposed research? Have the investigators made use of new collaborations? Are attempts made to integrate basic and translational researchers in discovery translation? Are efforts made to collaborate with community researchers or community members, if relevant? Is the Multiple PI Plan appropriate, if applicable?
- **Environment** - Does the research environment improve the likelihood that the proposed research can be completed and have an impact? Does the proposal consider use of CCTSI resources, including Design, Biostatistics, Technology Resources, Patient and Clinical Interaction Resources etc.?

VIII. Contacts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alina Rich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alina.rich@ucdenver.edu">alina.rich@ucdenver.edu</a></td>
<td>303-724-7928</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Neuroscience</td>
<td></td>
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<td>- Program Assistance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Chalmers</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandra.chalmers@ucdenver.edu">sandra.chalmers@ucdenver.edu</a></td>
<td>720-848-7797</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCTSI Pilot Programs Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Technical Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Pre and Post Award Management</td>
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IX. Questions

1) The majority of Program questions are addressed directly in this RFA or on the CNS-Pilot website in Frequently Asked Questions – **thorough review of RFA and FAQs is strongly recommended.**
2) Program questions not addressed in the RFA or FAQs may be asked during Informational Calls, dates and times posted on the CNS-Pilot website.
3) CNS research questions may be directed to Alina Rich.