Call for Novel Studies in Diabetes and Obesity to Eliminate Disparities: Team Science Across the Translational Continuum

Center for Diabetes Translation Research (CDTR), Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC), Diabetes Research Center (DRC), Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS), and Institute for Public Health (IPH)

Program Overview and Application Instructions

The major objective of this rapid funding mechanism is to stimulate transdisciplinary team research to advance novel approaches in the prevention and treatment of diabetes/obesity with the goal of eliminating disparities. This opportunity will support novel research directions targeting the interaction of social determinants with biological and environmental mechanisms through which social disadvantage increases diabetes/obesity burden and inform new leverage points for intervention.

Awards will provide up to $60,000 direct costs, per year, for one or two years. The second year of funding will depend on demonstrating adequate progress during the first year. Preference will be given to projects focusing primarily on the St. Louis region.

ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM TYPES
All teams must include:

(1) Multi-PI application with at least two faculty members, one of whom must be from Washington University School of Medicine, and

(2) Faculty members who represent at least two different stages of the translational continuum defined as:
   - T0 Research – Preclinical research;
   - T1 Research – Translation to humans;
   - T2 Research – Translation to clinical settings;
   - T3 Research – Translation to practice;
   - T4 Research – Translation to population.

PRELIMINARY PROJECT FEEDBACK
We strongly encourage potential applicants to seek feedback on their ideas. Applicants are encouraged to submit an electronic notification of intent by May 4th for feedback, or to contact Debra Haire-Joshu (djoshu@wustl.edu) or Allison Phad (allisonphad@wustl.edu) with questions.

RAPID REVIEW AND DECISION
Teams will receive notice of funding award within 4-6 weeks after the submission deadline.
SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS *(revised 3/30/2020)*

Applications Open: February 24, 2020  
**Electronic LOI due (optional):** May 4, 2020  
Full Proposals Due: May 18, 2020 (5 pm, CT)  
Award Decisions: June 15, 2020

Step 1: Contact program staff *(allisonphad@wustl.edu)* with questions regarding this announcement.

Step 2: **Electronic notification of intent form** is requested by **May 4, 2020 (optional).**

Step 3: Submit full proposal applications (details below) by **5:00 p.m. (CT) on May 18, 2020.** This deadline will be strictly adhered to with no exceptions. An entire copy of the proposal must be e-mailed as a single PDF document to **allisonphad@wustl.edu.**

Step 4: Proposals will be assigned to two scientific reviewers and be evaluated by the participating center directors. Applicants will receive a summary statement including comments from the scientific peer reviewers and will be notified of funding decisions by **June 15, 2020.**

Step 5: Awardees must submit all JIT materials (e.g. IRB approval) and meet all compliance requirements prior to receiving funds for a **July 1, 2020** start date.

**APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

- Principal Investigators must be members (or eligible for membership) of the Washington University CDTR, NORC, DRC, ICTS, or IPH.
- Applicants must hold a faculty level appointment. Fellows in the final year of training with a letter of commitment from their department head for a faculty position effective by the time of award are also eligible.

Investigators in the following categories are encouraged to apply.

- New investigators who do not yet have their own extramural, peer-reviewed research support. NIH ‘New Investigator’ definition: The individual has not competed successfully for a substantial, competing NIH research grant. In terms of NIH awards, the PI still fits into the New Investigator category if the PI only received such awards as a Mentored Career Award (K08, K12, K23, etc.) or small or early stage research awards, including R03, R15, R21, etc. This approach will also apply to funding from other agencies.
- Established investigators who are working in other fields but are interested in exploring new directions in diabetes/obesity translational research.
- Established investigators already active in the field of diabetes/obesity research, but whose proposed project is different from their previous work.
- Investigators collaborating with community-based organizations.

**TERMS OF AWARD**

- All awardees must have appropriate institutional regulatory approvals (Human Research Protection Office-HRPO, Animal Studies, etc.) before funds will be released.
REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

• Acknowledge CDTR, NORC, DRC, IPH support on all publications related to this award.
• Comply with NIH Public Policy: http://publicaccess.nih.gov/
• Assist in collecting follow-up data regarding their career progression.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1) **PHS 398 facepage** – including department grants administrator contact information
   a. “Official Signing for Applicant Organization” is not required

2) **Research Plan** - maximum of 5 single-spaced pages for sections A - C (described below) including tables and/or figures; use Arial 11 point font size or larger; minimum 0.5 inch for all margins for all pages. The following headings should be used noting “N/A” for non-applicable sections:

   A. **Specific Aims:** State concisely the hypothesis to be tested and the specific aim(s) to be achieved during the pilot award. The aims must be reasonable to achieve during the one-year budget period of the grant.

   B. **Research Strategy:**
      i. **Significance:**
         1. Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
         2. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
         3. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventive interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
      ii. **Innovation:**
         1. Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
         2. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s).
         3. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
      iii) **Approach:**
         4. Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Unless addressed separately, include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plan as appropriate.
         5. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
         6. 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.
         7. Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.

**Preliminary Studies.** If applicable, include relevant information on Preliminary Studies. Discuss the PI’s preliminary studies, data, and/or experience pertinent to this application as part of the Research Strategy, keeping within the sections listed above: Significance, Innovation, and Approach.
C. **Next Stage Funding:** Identify potential funding sources for the next stage of this project. If known, include all four of the following: 1) name of PI (or multi-PIs) for external grant submission; 2) funding agency; 3) funding mechanism; and 4) anticipated date of submission.

D. **Bibliography and References Cited:** Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Research Plan. Each reference must include names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Include only bibliographic citations. Follow scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials relied upon in preparing any section of the application.

*The references should be limited to relevant and current literature.* While there is not a page limitation, it is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed research.

E. **Protection of Human Subjects (follow NIH guidelines):** Go to the [Supplemental Instructions](#) for Preparing the Protection of Human Subjects Section of the Research Plan. Do not use the protection of human subjects section to circumvent the page limits of the Research Strategy. Include a [Planned Enrollment Report](#) and a [Data and Safety Monitoring Plan](#), if applicable to your project.

3) **List of key personnel/other significant contributors**

A. Key Personnel are individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not salaries are requested. (These individuals will have effort included on the budget or will be a paid consultant.)

*If PI is an Established Investigator: Describe how this project will lead to a new direction in your research or is different from your previous work.*

B. Other Significant Contributors are individuals who have committed to contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project, but are not committing any specified measurable effort to the project. Unpaid consultants/collaborators should be included if they meet this definition.

4) **Detailed Budget Pages** – see below for allowable costs

5) **Budget Justification** - provide a short justification for all costs (both personnel and non-personnel). Describe the role of each individual listed on the project. Do NOT include any salary figures in the justification. For non-personnel costs, itemize the expenses and describe how they will be used to conduct this project.

6) **Biosketches** - Submit biosketches in the new NIH format for Key Personnel and Other Significant Contributors. The biosketch is limited to five (5) pages and includes 4 sections: Personal Statement, Positions and Honors, Contribution to Science, and Research Support.

7) **Letters of Support** – from any collaborators not listed as key personnel

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**BUDGET GUIDELINES**

**Allowable Direct Cost Items**

Funding will be provided for items essential to the conduct of the project.
Personnel
• Allowable personnel expenses include salary and applicable fringe benefits for: the principal investigator(s), co-investigator(s), postdocs and graduate students if employees receiving a salary, and other professional and technical staff.
• The current NIH salary cap must be used if applicable. Cost sharing of salary is necessary when using the salary cap or in other situations where the effort exceeds the amount of salary being requested.
• Current KL2/K12 scholars may not request support for effort already supported by their K award. This effort should be shown as cost shared on the budget form pages (show effort, no dollars) and described in the budget justification.

Consultant Costs
• Provide the names and organizational affiliations of all consultants other than those involved in consortium/contractual costs and provide any expected compensation, travel and other related expenses. When applicable, signed agreements which meet all compliance requirements of the individual grantee organization must be in place prior to any project-related consultant work being performed.

Equipment
• Only equipment essential to the conduct of this project is allowed. A detailed description must be provided with an explanation as to how it directly relates to this project and is not otherwise available.
• For budget submission purposes, equipment should be defined as items >$5,000 and having a useful life of more than 2 years. Upon award, a grantee institution may re-categorize items to meet internal definitions. **Items costing less than $5,000 should be included in the Supply category.**

Travel
Travel must adhere to the grantee’s established travel policy and is only allowable if needed to conduct the project. **Travel to general scientific meetings is not allowable.**

Other Expenses
Publication costs are limited to $1,000.

Consortium/Contractual Costs
Sub-agreements proposed to organizations (includes associated community organizations) **must be approved prior to submission of the application.** The participating consortium organization must submit a separate face page, detailed budget page(s), and budget justification to the PI who will include it as part of the overall application submission.
**Other allowable budget categories include: Supplies and Patient Care Costs.**

Unallowable Direct Cost Items
Funding will not be provided for the following:
• Administrative personnel
• Stipends for students/trainees
• Dependent Tuition Fringe Benefit
• Administrative supplies/services normally considered indirect costs (i.e. office supplies, phone, fax and modem line charges, etc.)
• Office equipment and furniture
• Tuition
• Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books
• Dues and membership fees
• Honoraria or travel expense for lectures
• Maintenance/Service Contracts
• Construction, alteration, maintenance or rental of buildings or building space
• Faculty/Staff recruiting /relocation expenses
• Entertainment/Social Expenses
• Pre-award costs
• Any expense contrary to applicant’s institutional reimbursement policies

Facilities & Administrative Costs (F&A)
Do not include F&A Costs in the applicant or consortium organization budgets. F&A costs are expected to be a contribution to the program by institutions outside of WU. Any exceptions will be identified in the Notice of Award.