

**Request for Applications**  
**Pilot and Collaborative Clinical and Translational Studies**  
**MU Institute for Clinical and Translational Science**

The MU Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (MU-ICTS) announces the availability of funds for pilot projects in clinical and translational science. The goal is to support projects that, if successful, will be highly competitive for external funding. Studies with a strong, central theme of translational research will be given highest priority for funding. Key elements of translational research include the following:

1. Bi-directional research themes from the laboratory, to the clinic, to the community, but also back from the community, to the clinic, to the laboratory. Translational research is inherently collaborative and interdisciplinary in nature.
2. Advancement of novel findings obtained from basic research into testable hypotheses for evaluation in clinical trials in human subjects.
3. Clinical investigation with human subjects (patients or normal volunteers) in which knowledge obtained from basic research with genes, cells, or animals is translated into diagnostic or therapeutic interventions that can be applied to the improvement of human health in community environments.
4. The process of applying ideas, insights, and discoveries generated through basic scientific inquiry to the treatment or prevention of disease. The utility of translational research is usually determined on the basis of the likelihood that successful completion of the proposed work will move towards effective therapies that eventually can be implemented in community environments. The central themes of translational research are the clinical interface and the improvement of health for a population.

**Eligibility.** Medical students, graduate students, and post-doctoral trainees can compete for funds to pursue educational research projects. Faculty can compete for pilot funds to support new research programs. Strategic funding for novel methods and/or break-through science will be given a high priority; interdisciplinary collaboration also will be emphasized. Involvement of clinicians (e.g., as collaborators or consultants) is strongly recommended.

**Funding.** In general, funding levels for medical students, graduate students, and post-doctoral trainees will not exceed \$10,000; funding levels for faculty generally will not exceed \$50,000. Awards will not support the following: salaries or stipends of faculty; graduate research stipends for greater than 50% time; travel to meetings or symposia; construction or remodeling of facilities; indirect costs; secretarial support or general departmental supplies; projects of longer than one-year in duration.

**Selection Criteria.** The selection criteria will be as follows:

1. Scientific excellence
2. Relevance to clinical and translational science
3. Evidence of interdisciplinary, collaborative participation
4. Evidence of innovation and/or transformational potential

5. Qualifications of applicant and, if applicable, the mentor
6. Potential for development of a competitive extramural application
7. Potential for eventual healthcare application

**Letter of Intent.** A one-page Letter of Intent (LOI) will be required to permit review of the compatibility of the proposal with the selection criteria <http://som.missouri.edu/research/docs/LOI%2012-17-08.pdf>. LOIs that are deemed consistent with the selection criteria will be identified for solicitation of a full proposal.

**Review Process.** A Scientific Peer Review Committee will review applications according to the NIH scoring system. The application process will require well-developed proposals that follow the outline of the **Application Form** <http://som.missouri.edu/research/docs/Application%2012-17-08.pdf>.

**Deadline for Applications.** LOIs must be received by January 30, 2009; full applications must be received by the end of business on March 6, 2009. Copies of forms and guidelines can be obtained at <http://som.missouri.edu/Research/docs/RFA%201-8-09.pdf>. Applicants will be limited to PI-status on only one application.