Request for Application

Project Funding for Translational Research Leading to Biomedical Commercialization

This funding (up to $40,000) is intended to support research & development efforts that will lead to the introduction of new products to the healthcare field.

KEY DATES

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The NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), which funds OCTRI and its awards program expires at the end of this fiscal year. Therefore, funding awarded but not spent by June 30th, 2016 is not guaranteed to remain available. OCTRI has contingencies in place for the unlikely possibility that we will not be able to carry forward funding. In addition, the BIP team will work closely with each awardee to craft a budget that takes this into consideration.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) is now accepting letters of intent to apply for Biomedical Innovation Program funding. The intent of this funding mechanism (up to $40,000) is to accelerate the delivery of health care technologies from academia to the marketplace and thereby to improve health care. This funding mechanism is offered in close collaboration with Technology Transfer and Business Development and the SOM Research Roadmap, and it is open to all OHSU faculty and qualified employees as outlined in the eligibility guidelines.

The Biomedical Innovation Program is designed to identify and foster creative solutions for important health care problems. Critical elements of successful proposals will be a well-developed idea or vision for the end product and collaboration between clinicians, scientists, and bioengineers; that collaboration will make possible the identification of a significant clinical problem, an innovative idea for a device or diagnostic to address the problem, bioengineering approaches for device or diagnostic development, voice of consumer studies, and early clinical trials.

This funding opportunity is not intended to support basic biomedical research. Rather, it is geared toward innovative bioengineering solutions for important clinical problems, and funded projects should yield clinically useful products in a relatively short period. Additionally, an overarching program goal is to foster collaborative translational research that leads to technology commercialization within a 3-5 year time period.

Applications will be judged not only on scientific feasibility, but also on the clear articulation of the vision for the potential product, the importance of the clinical problem, the clinical need for the new
technology, the patentability of the solution, and the effect this funding will have on further investment in or commercialization of the project.

The Program supports the early stages of concept development, and because the focus is on early-phase experiments intended to yield proof of concept results, Biomedical Innovation Program funding is comparable to an R21 grant. Specifically, funding is intended to allow the bioengineering necessary to create a prototype device or diagnostic and evaluate initial clinical effectiveness (proof of concept). The identification of mentors and career development opportunities that complement efforts to license the technology are also a part of the Program’s support.

Projects will typically be supported for an initial one-year period, with specific pre-defined milestones and quantitative metrics of success evaluated on a quarterly basis. Continuation and renewal applications will be evaluated on a competitive basis; particular attention will be paid to milestones achieved vs. outcomes outlined in the original award. Awardees should expect to have interactions with and support from Program staff and members of the Scientific Review Committee over the course of the award period.

Inventorship of any intellectual property (IP) will be determined in accordance with United States patent law. IP ownership will follow OHSU’s IP and Royalty Distribution Policy (OHSU Policy No. 04-50-001). Non-OHSU employees who serve on the Scientific Review Committee have assigned their inventorship rights in any IP under the OHSU Biomedical Innovation Program to OHSU. Such non-OHSU employees will be treated as OHSU employees for the purposes of royalty distribution per OHSU Policy No. 04-50-001. Any IP generated by parties being funded by OHSU out of the OHSU Biomedical Innovation Program will be subject to the contractual terms of such funding, and the contractual terms of such funding will override any other terms herein if language conflicts.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Principal Investigators must fit OHSU eligibility requirements. Budgets may include costs for outside engineering and prototype development, study staff, laboratory tests, costs to generate preliminary data and other expenses, such as animal care costs, research assays, supplies, and study-specific travel. A limited pool of funds is available annually, so the Review Committee looks for compelling opportunities with the potential for high impact. Funding requests that involve partnering with other sources (e.g. departmental sources) are strongly favored. Because the funds are so limited, it is expected that investigator salary expense will be provided by the department or with another cost sharing mechanism.

Funding preference will be given to those projects in which follow-on funding from other sources and follow-on commercialization activity (i.e., licensing) is promising.

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Proposal submission is a three-stage process.

- Step 1: Submit a 1-2 page “Letter of Intent” (LOI), which will be reviewed and evaluated by a Scientific Review Committee composed of experts in clinical science, bioengineering, business development, and technology transfer.
- Step 2: Projects selected by the Scientific Review Committee will be asked to submit a Full Application.
- Step 3: A small group of finalists will be invited to present to the Scientific Review Committee, which will then select the projects to receive funding.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The primary review criteria will be the responsiveness to the specific requirements in the program description above. Additionally, submissions will be scored on their strengths in the following categories:

1. **Leverage Pilot Funding.** Given the limited amount of funding available for these awards, it is important to demonstrate how this funding will move the technology to the next phase of development.

2. **Impact to Human Health.** Does the proposed product solve an important problem or remove a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will clinical practice be improved? Who will benefit: the patient, the consumer, the clinician, or the health care provider?

3. **Commercial Potential.** Describe the market need for the proposed product, such as the number of patients likely affected, expected savings in health care/societal expenditures, etc. How many potential applications or products could be derived from your invention?

4. **Product Design and Feasibility.** Demonstrate whether an invention is feasible from a testing and manufacturing perspective. Can your proposed product be made? What technical barriers exist and what is your plan to overcome them?

5. **Patentability.** Demonstrate that your invention meets the requirements for filing a patent: novelty, utility, non-obviousness, and enablement.

6. **Commercialization Path.** Demonstrate an understanding of exit strategy and how to secure second stage funding. Are there target companies identified as potential partners or licensees? Is this invention something around which you could start a business?

LOI SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

**Letters of Intent:** The LOI is a 1-2 page narrative that provides a general description of the intended product and the unmet or poorly met clinical need. It should include some metrics, such as the number of patients affected annually, health care expenditures for treatment and/or diagnosis, likely future trend of the problem, etc. How would the proposed device/solution solve the problem and how/why is it better than everything else on the market and what clinicians are currently using? The LOI should include:

1. The proposed solution: This section should be focused on the idea for the planned technology. The details of the technology need not be described, but sufficient information should be provided to allow a determination of the feasibility of the approach. Please note that all letters of intent and
applications are treated as confidential documents and terms of non-disclosure and confidentiality are in place with all members of the Scientific Review Committee.

2. Preliminary data, such as published articles (if any), that support the feasibility of and future clinical demand for the proposed technology.

3. A likely total R&D / product development timeline (i.e., “bench to bedside” time): Is this a 1-2 year project expected to yield proof of concept? Describe a strategy for pursuing 2nd phase funding (e.g., sponsored research agreements, joint ventures, or additional grants to further commercial development after BIP funding concludes).

4. A gross estimate of the direct R&D costs for study personnel, minor equipment, and supplies (do not add in the university overhead) for the award period. For PI salary, please work with your department administrator to include a cost share letter signed by the department chair or a letter explaining how PI effort will be subsumed.

5. Identification of similar commercial products or solutions clinicians currently use for this problem.

6. The Intellectual Property status of your proposed technology, including existing invention disclosures, filed patent applications, shared IP ownership with others, patents awarded and/or technologies licensed, and third party IP. Prior to submitting your LOI, you must submit an Intellectual Property Disclosure Form to the OHSU Tech Transfer and Business Development office. The Intellectual Property Disclosure Form can be found here.

Submit your letter of intent to OCTRI via a redcap survey at: https://octri.ohsu.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=LXobritQRx.
Please direct all questions to the Project Manager, Jonathan Jubera (jubera@ohsu.edu).

The Scientific Review Committee will evaluate the LOIs. Proposals with the highest ranking will be invited to submit a Full Application. Investigators will be notified with the result of the LOI submission on or before September 9, 2015.

BIOMEDICAL INNOVATION PROGRAM Q&A SESSION

All applicants are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the Biomedical Innovation Program Question and Answer Session with OCTRI Director, David Ellison, held August 11, 2015 from 12:00 – 1:00 in Mac Hall 3198. Representatives from OCTRI and Technology Transfer & Business Development (TTBD) will also be on hand to answer questions about the program and the application process.

FULL APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Instructions and an application form will be provided to finalists. The Full Year funded translational research grant proposal should be modeled from the LOI and must include a complete discussion of the following (5-page maximum):

1. The unmet or poorly met clinical need or disease, including the current approaches for assessment or treatment of your chosen clinical problem and the known shortcomings of those approaches.
2. The clinical relevancy and market need for the proposed research, including the market metrics for your proposed product, such as the number of patients likely affected, expected savings in health care/societal expenditures, etc.
3. The envisioned future healthcare industry product, including a description of the technological solution and the advantages it would have compared to current approaches.
4. The expected R&D timeline to create the proposed product.
5. Specific quarterly and yearly milestones and the plan for their achievement.
6. Intellectual property status, strategy, and future plan. Include invention disclosures, patent applications filed, IP ownership shared with others, patents awarded and/or technologies licensed, and third party existing IP related to your proposed technology. All projects selected to submit a full application must have filed an invention disclosure with TTBD prior to submitting an LOI.

7. Estimated R&D costs to achieve the complete clinical product.

8. A plan for obtaining additional sources of funding after OCTRI funding expires, in the event that the technology is not ready to be licensed at the end of Program support.

**PROPOSAL PRESENTATION**

Instructions and a presentation format will be provided to finalists. Each applicant will have 10 minutes to present the main points of his/her application or market case, with the assumption that everyone present has read each application. The brief presentation will be followed by a 15 minute Q&A session with the Scientific Review Committee members.

**POST-AWARD**

All award recipients will be required to submit progress reports using the following guidelines. Reports should not exceed 3 pages.

1. Project progress:
   - Describe the progress achieved during the quarter in a brief narrative.
   - Include a table showing the Research Milestones projected for the year and the % of progress towards achieving them.
   - Explain any problems or issues that have arisen and how you solved them.
   - Explain any changes to the Research Plan.
   - Summarize major conclusions and next steps.

2. List any project-related presentations and manuscripts submitted or published during the reporting period.

3. List and describe any invention disclosure or patent activity during the reporting period.

4. Describe any progress towards project-related commercialization, licensing, or technology transfer activity during the report period.

5. Describe any project-related grants or other funding applications or awards during the project period.

For any questions related to the submission process, contact Jonathan Jubera (jubera@ohsu.edu) or the Research Navigator program (503-418-9790, octri@ohsu.edu).