Request for Applications:

Pilot Funding for Development of Novel Research Methodologies
This funding is intended to support research & development efforts that will lead to the dissemination and implementation of new and novel research methodologies.

KEY DATES

Application deadline	Open
Funding is subject to availability each fiscal year	July 1st through June 30th
Notification of award	Within 4 weeks of submission

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) is now accepting **applications** for Pilot Funding for Development of Novel Research Methodologies. The intent of this funding mechanism is to encourage and accelerate the creation, dissemination, and implementation of **novel translational and clinical research methodologies**.

The development of new methodologies is critical to the advancement of translational and clinical research. OHSU investigators have often been actively involved in creating translational research methods, and this program provides a dedicated funding mechanism to accelerate such work. **The goal is to facilitate development of state-of-the-art tools for translational research and to make them rapidly available to investigators.**

Novel Research Methodology Development Awards support the development of novel clinical and translational methods and can encompass a wide range of techniques. Examples of pilot projects that would be viewed as responsive include but are not limited to:

- New methods for phenotyping
- Predictive toxicology
- Novel and effective clinical subject recruitment techniques
- Ethics research specific to populations
- Clinical informatics for longitudinal studies
- Novel comparative effectiveness research methodologies
- Mass spectrometry-based techniques
- Innovative use of imaging and/or biomarkers to assess treatment prognosis;

- Genomics research methodology
- Improved methods for community outreach
- Design or implementation of assays in medium throughput screening for drug discovery
- Innovative experimental design and development of statistical methodologies for clinical and translational research applications including innovative clinical trial design
- Technologies for clinical decision support.

Proposed methods should have wide applicability and should be ready for dissemination to the research community by the end of the one-year award period. Specifically, methods whose feasibility is questionable should not be developed via this award, since the emphasis in this mechanism is the development of tools that are applicable in a relatively short period of time.

If you are unsure whether your proposed project falls within the scope of this RFA, you may submit a one-paragraph abstract to the OCTRI Awards Program for review: jubera@ohsu.edu.

This funding is open to all OHSU faculty and qualified employees as outlined in the eligibility guidelines.

Two levels of novel research methodology funding are available:

1. **Development and dissemination of novel research methodologies (up to $25,000)**
This opportunity is to support the development of new methods. *It is assumed that effort is required to create and validate new methods, and funding is aimed at supporting that work*. It is assumed that the funding will also be sufficient for the publication of the new method. *Publication (or other effective methods of dissemination) of the results is critical since the ultimate objective of this award is to positively affect the process of clinical and translational research.* That cannot happen if the new method is not widely disseminated to other investigators.

2. **Publication/Dissemination of novel research methodologies (up to $5,000)**
This award assumes that OHSU investigators have commonly developed new methods for their own research that would be generally helpful to the field, but have not yet disseminated it. This funding is specifically to support the *completion of a publication (or other method of impactful dissemination, e.g., web communication) that makes the method widely available*. We are interested in supporting publications in high impact venues (imagine Nature Methods, Nature Biotechnology or leading specialty journals) and that are of broad interest. The funding can be used to support investigator FTE, publication costs, etc.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Application (5-page maximum, 11-pt, single-spaced)

1) Project Abstract: Provide a 250-word paragraph providing a clear and concise description of the project's preliminary hypothesis for developing a new translational research method and a defined plan for the publication/dissemination of the proposed methodology and anticipated results. The abstract should state how the project meets program intent.

2) Proposal Narrative (Please adhere to the following outline):

   a) Background and Significance: Describe the scientific context of the proposed work with reference to other relevant work in the relevant field(s) and, in that light, the significance of the project. What is the major opportunity that drives the proposal? Why is the project innovative? Describe how the project could overcome existing barriers, open up new possibilities, or how it otherwise merits attention. Highlight any unique combination of background, prior experience and capabilities that are being brought to bear on the project. Explain why this project is a good opportunity for the people who are involved. Briefly describe the current status of related research at OHSU, including existing strengths and opportunities.

   b) Preliminary data: Describe the work that supports the scientific worth and feasibility of the proposal, and thus enables the project.

   c) Project Plan: Against the background provided in the previous sections, describe the potential impact of the proposed methodology and a compelling plan for its dissemination and implementation. For Methodology Development, make it clear to reviewers that you have devised a well-crafted plan based on solid preliminary data that makes good use of talent, experience and existing resources. This should include sufficient details of the methodology proposed to judge the feasibility of the plan. After reading this section, reviewers should appreciate how expected outcomes would address the critical opportunities and barriers that you identified in the previous section. For Methodology Dissemination, demonstrate that there is a clear plan for writing the publication and a specific target journal, or similar tactics for other means of dissemination.

   d) Plans for dissemination: ***This is a key section for both Development and Dissemination funding***. Priority will be given to those proposals that are likely to result in publication in high impact peer reviewed journals or similarly impactful alternative means of dissemination (e.g., project website, conference presentations, workshops, etc.). For Dissemination funding, a specific target journal or dissemination method should be clearly specified.

   e) Milestones and Timeline: Provide a timeline for completion of the proposed work in simple, readable form such as a *table or diagram* Include up to 10 project milestones. Project progress reports will include queries as to milestone progress.

3) **Budget Guidance:**

a) For Methodology Development, applicants may request budgets up to $25,000 for one year in direct costs.

b) *It is highly unlikely that a project would have a budget of exactly $25,000.* Simply asking for the maximum allowable without clear rationale will be a disadvantage. Proposals will be critically reviewed from this perspective.

c) Up to $5000 can be requested for the publication/dissemination of new methods that have already been developed. It is assumed that this funding would likely provide FTE needed to develop and submit a publication/dissemination method. *For this award, the funding will not be awarded until the publication is submitted (or alternate dissemination method enabled).*

d) No indirect costs are available due to the structure of the OCTRI pilot fund.

e) Cost sharing with other sources of funds (e.g. departmental or other non-federally funded support) is strongly encouraged. Cost sharing must be from unrestricted funds and you will need to fill out a Committed Cost Sharing Agreement with the application.

f) Account for all expenses required to complete the scope of work in the proposal. Include specific requirements regarding the urgency of the need and funding timeline. Provide a brief budget justification for all expenses. Your budget must be appropriate for the proposed work, and budgets that make efficient use of support to achieve the goals of the program are desired.

g) All cost must meet the OMB guidelines for allowability. Allowable costs can include: Personnel, animal care costs, research assays, supplies, and other expenses, such as research beds, nursing or bionutrition staff, routine laboratory measures, biostatistics and informatics support, and generation of preliminary data. Investigator salary and project required travel are allowed, but a clear justification of why they are necessary must be provided (i.e., funds should be used principally to directly support the research). Equipment that is essential for the study, and is not otherwise available, may be requested, but large equipment expenditures are discouraged.

h) Detailed Budget: You must use the PHS 398 budget template available here: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html; Form page 4 "Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period".

i) OCTRI Cost Estimate: In order to request OCTRI services you must include a cost estimate, obtained through the Research Navigator, as part of your budget. For a listing of OCTRI services see: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/octri/resources/octri-research-services/index.cfm. The costs of these services must be included in the online application section and the budget justification as a separate line item as well as in the PHS 398 detailed budget. Contact the Research Navigator at 503-418-9790 or octri@ohsu.edu to obtain a cost estimate for OCTRI services. Requests for OCTRI cost estimates should be submitted to the Navigator at least 2 weeks prior to the planned submission date.

j) Budget Justification: A budget justification is a narrative explanation of each of the components of the budget, which "justifies" the cost in terms of the proposed work. The explanations should focus on how each budget item is required to achieve the aims of the project and how the estimated costs in the budget were calculated. When a detailed budget is submitted, all items in the budget must be justified. Please refer to: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.pdf; Form page 4.4 "Budget Instructions".

k) Sub-award/Consortium Expenses: If the application involves multiple institutions, a separate budget should be submitted for each institution using the PHS 398 budget template. On the budget for the project PI's institution (primary site), the total sub-award/consortium expenses should be listed in the appropriate location.

4) CO-PI / CO-INVESTIGATORS / KEY PERSONNEL

Include biosketches for the Principal Investigator (PI) and any Co-Investigators and Key Personnel whose involvement is a unique and important contribution to the project.

- You may use a short-form or long-form biographical sketch prescribed by any federal agency or listing such as the most recent version of the NIH Biographical Sketch Format Page (attached and available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html).

FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS

Font: Use black ink, standard font, 11 points or larger

Page Margins: Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.

Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figure Legends, and Footnotes:

- You may use a smaller type size but it must be in black ink, readily legible, and follow the font typeface requirement.
- Do not include figures or other materials that are not inserted directly into the body of the application.

Documents and file names:

- Biosketches should be uploaded as *.pdf. All others as *.doc or *.docx
- Turn off tracked changes and accept all changes before submitting documents.
- Documents should be named according to the following naming conventions **(with appropriate file extension):**
  - Research Plan: PI last name_proposal.doc
  - Budget: PI last name_budget.doc
  - Budget Justification: PI last name_budget justification.doc
  - OCTRI Cost Estimate: PI last name_cost estimate.doc (submit only if services are being requested)
  - Biosketches: PI last name_biosketches.pdf

REVIEW CRITERIA

An expert panel of research scientists appointed by OCTRI will review applications. The primary review criteria will be the responsiveness to the specific requirements laid out in the above instructions. Additionally, submissions will be scored on their strengths in the following categories:

1. **Likelihood of Meeting the Goals of the Program:** For Methodology Development support: Will this project result in the development of a novel method within one year that is beneficial to a variety of investigators? Does this project have the potential for immediate dissemination to the research community with the publication of results? For Methodology Dissemination support: Will the publication likely be of broad interest and in a high quality publication or utilize a highly impactful alternative means of communication?   The impact of the target journal will be a factor in the proposal review.

2. **Significance.** Does the project address an important methodological problem or critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

3. **Investigator(s).** Are the PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If early-stage investigators, new investigators, or in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance, and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

4. **Innovation.** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research paradigms? Is the proposed methodology novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense?

5. **Approach.** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed?

If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities, members of both genders, and children justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

6. **Environment.** Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

7. **Overall impact.** Reflects all scored criteria plus additional criteria regarding the protection and inclusion of human subjects; vertebrate animal care and welfare; biohazards, and criteria specific to this funding opportunity.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND QUESTIONS

Full applications must be submitted to OCTRI via the OCTRI Novel Research Methodologies Application: [OCTRI Development of Novel Research Methodologies Application [up to $25,000]](#)

Or

https://octri.ohsu.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=otNqUW6KFi

1. Fill in the questions on the online application
2. Upload the Research Plan, Budget, and Budget Justification
3. Upload OCTRI Cost Estimate: PI last name_cost estimate.doc (submit only if services are being requested)
4. Upload the biosketches for PI and Key Personnel (Combine all biosketches into a single PDF document)

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