February 7, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Department Heads and Faculty, Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Research and Departmental Administrators, UT Southwestern

FROM: Dr. Mike Criscitiello, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, TAMU
Dr. Bob Toto, Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research, UTSW

SUBJECT: ***Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Request for Pilot Award Proposals***

Core H1 of the UT Southwestern Medical School CTSA is a collaborative effort between the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, aimed at facilitating cross institutional research partnerships. The core is particularly focused on translational research and science, where animals with naturally-occurring diseases that recapitulate human conditions of high concern and the use of veterinary clinical trials are leveraged amplify the development of translational research models leading to novel therapeutics and diagnostics, as well as improved outcomes, in both humans and animals. The core also aims to accelerate access to large animal models and facilities at TAMU and UTSW.

The core in Year 5 of the award is able to offer two $40,000 pilot grants for innovative research ***that incorporates a collaboration between TAMU and UTSW where researchers from both institutions are actively engaged in the research project.*** No more than 75% of the budget can be awarded to a single institution in the partnership.

If you need assistance in identifying potential partners for the establishment of collaborative research teams, please contact one of the following individuals at relevant institution:

TAMU-VMBS

- Dr. Michael Criscitiello, mcriscitiello@cvm.tamu.edu
- Dr. Ashley Gustafson Seabury, agustafson@cvm.tamu.edu

UTSW

- Rhonda Oilepo, Rhonda.Oilepo@UTSouthwestern.edu
- Dr. Melissa Torres-Altoro, Melissa.Torres-altoro@UTSouthwestern.edu

Full proposal requirements are listed below:

1) Proposal Title*
2) Hypothesis and Objectives*
3) Background and Significance*
4) Experimental Approach and Timeline*
5) Literature Cited (1 page max)
6) Budget and Justification (1 page max)**
7) C.V. of Co-PIs (2 page max each)

*Items #1-4 above can be no more than **three** pages.
** No indirect cost or faculty salary can be included in the budget.

DEADLINES:
Full proposal due date: April 1, 2025 by 5:00pm CST
Proposal review completed and award notifications: May 2025
Awarded funds must be spent: April 30, 2026

If you have questions in this regard, please contact Dr. Michael Criscitiello (mcriscitiello@cvm.tamu.edu) or Dr. Melissa Torres-Altoro (melissa.torres-altoro@utsouthwestern.edu).

The CTSA and Pilot Award Program is supported by NIH Award: 1UL1TR003163-01A1.

CTSA Pilot Award Proposal Cover Sheet

Proposal Title:

Co-PIs	Institution	Department	Email

Budget

Institution	Budget Amount Requested
UTSW	
TAMU	
TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTED (*$40,000 max*)	

** No more than 75 % of the budget can be awarded to a single institution.*

Compliance Items

Compliance Item	Yes or No	Details
Vertebrate Animals		Species:
Client Owned Animals		CRRC Approval:
Recombinant DNA and Transgenic Organisms		
Biohazards		
Select Agents		Type:
Involves the use of Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) facilities or BSL-3 non-elect agent		

What Biosafety Level will this work require?
Do you have the appropriate IBC permit to do the proposed research?
Does the work require an AUP?
Do you have the appropriate AUP to do the proposed research?

Signatures

Co-PI Signature: Date:

Department Head Signature: Date:

Co-PI Signature: Date:

Department Head Signature: Date:

CHECKLIST

Please complete this list and submit with the application.

☐ **Proposal Cover Sheet Completed and Signed (use the provided template)**

☐ **Proposal conforms to all stated guidelines (page limits, budget, etc.)**

☐ **Does your research involve the use of living vertebrate animals? If yes, the proposed research must be described in an approved animal protocol at UTSW or TAMU.**

- ☐ **If the research is already included in an approved animal protocol, you may move onto the next item.**
- ☐ **If the research is not included in an approved animal protocol, please complete the following:**
  - **UTSW**: An Animal Protocol Number (APN) form must be submitted to the IACUC via the TOPAZ online submission system. Please log into TOPAZ to submit a new Protocol Submission or to amend a currently approved APN to include the proposed research. **The IACUC approval date or a copy of the pending Protocol/Amendment with submission date must be included with this application.** All personnel listed on the APN must enroll in the Worker Protection Program. Please go to ADAPT and login using your UTSW Username and Password to complete the annual Health History Questionnaire. For additional information, please visit the UTSW IACUC website.

- **TAMU**: An Animal Use Protocol (AUP) form must be submitted to the IACUC via the iRIS online submission system. Please log into https://imedris.tamu.edu to submit a new AUP application or to amend a currently approved AUP to include the proposed research. **The IACUC approval letter or a copy of the Protocol/Amendment with submission date must be included with this application.** All personnel listed on the AUP must enroll in the Biosafety Occupational Health Program. For details please visit the following website: http://rcb.tamu.edu/bohp.

☐ **Does your research involve client-owned animals (TAMU only)?** If yes, a Clinical Research Review Committee (CRRC) Informed Owner Consent form must be completed and ***submitted to the IACUC office*** along with your AUP application. You may obtain this form at http://vetmed.tamu.edu/research/crrc.

☐ **Does your research require the use of biological hazards?** If yes, any proposed use of recombinant materials, cell lines, or infectious agents in or on living animals may not commence until you have obtained approval from the IBC.

- **UTSW:** To register the use of biological materials, you may submit an IBC permit form via Safety Stratus. For additional information, please visit the UTSW Biological Safety website.

- **TAMU:** To register the use of biological materials, the IBC permit form can be accessed at https://imedris.tamu.edu.

Note (TAMU only): The compliance approvals MUST have the exact same title as your proposal.