

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:
Great Plains IDeA-CTR Scholars Program**
<https://gpctr.unmc.edu>

LOI is Required

Due Date: September 11th, 2017

The Great Plains IDeA-CTR Network is pleased to announce that funding through an NIH/NIGMS grant is available to support two faculty who are in the early stages of their career.

We are requesting a Letter of Intent (maximum of two pages), to include: Project title, principal investigator and mentor(s), participating institution(s), study aims, hypothesis, methods (brief overview of design, sample, measures, statistical analysis plan), and a statement addressing how the project advances clinical and translational research. Also, include a specific paragraph listing your training needs to support your research program. In, addition, submit your NIH biosketch.

Up to 10 applicants will be invited to submit a full application. Those invited to submit full applications will be notified by October 2nd, 2017. The RFA and requirements for invitees are detailed below. Please email your LOI and NIH biosketch as a single PDF document to the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Office at gpctr@unmc.edu.

Solicited applications will be due: **November 20th, 2017**

The Great Plains IDeA-CTR Network is pleased to announce that funding through an NIH/NIGMS grant is available to support faculty who are in the early stages of their career. The GP IDeA-CTR is a collaboration of 9 institutions which include: University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO), University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL), University of Nebraska Kearny (UNK), University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH), University of North Dakota (UND), North Dakota State University (NDSU), University of South Dakota (USD) and Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC).

Purpose: The goal of this program is to develop successful clinical translational research (CTR) investigators by providing scholars with the protected time and seed grant funding to develop competitive CTR R01 or R01 equivalent funding within 3-4 years.

Description: Scholars accepted into the program will receive salary support of up to 50% FTE (including up to 23% fringe benefits for UNMC or as noted by applicant's institution) and up to \$50,000 annually to support preliminary research efforts for up to four years.

Applicable Research: The definition of clinical and translational research for the IDeA-CTR research training environment training is:

Translational research is about moving applications for treatments, diagnostics and prevention from pre-clinical work to population level impact. For additional questions regarding whether your research satisfies this definition, please contact your local institutional program coordinators (see 'Participating Institutions and Contacts' below).

Machine Learning Approach



T1 Translation to humans

Seeks to move fundamental discovery into health application

T2 Translation to patients

Develops health applications with implications for evidence-based practice

T3 Translation to practice

Investigates the movement of evidence-based guidelines to health practices

T4 Translation to communities

Investigates the impact of evidence-practice and policies to population health impact/investigators providing communities with the optimal intervention

Alternatively, if you have questions about whether your research applies, you may also contact Dr. Ted Mikuls at 402-559-8168 or tmikuls@unmc.edu. Projects deemed as T0 (basic science/pre-clinical) will not be considered.

Priority will be given to research addressing the following areas: 1) mental and behavioral health, 2) access to care, 3) implementation science related to structural health care issues, 4) integrative health approach – community clinical networking (e.g., schools and clinics), 5) diverse focus on urban, rural communities, and 6) social determinants of health.

Eligibility:

- Full time faculty at participating institutions (see below), with preference given to individuals at the rank of Assistant Professor (MD, PhD, or equivalent).
- Eligible to apply for NIH funds (e.g., US citizen or a permanent resident),
- Has an established focus of relevant clinical, clinical-translational, or community translational research without previous NIH R01 or equivalent funding, and is not on a currently mentored K award or a funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) or IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). Current and former PD/PIs of an NIH Small Grant (R03), Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21), Dissertation Award (R36), or SBIR/STTR (R41, R42, R43, R44) remain eligible.

Participating Institutions and Contacts:

- Boys Town Natl. Research Hospital (BTNRH) – Lori Leibold (lori.leibold@boystown.org)
- North Dakota State University (NDSU) – Mark McCourt (mark.mccourt@ndsu.edu)
- University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) – Kimberly Carlson (carlsonka1@unk.edu)
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) – David Hansen (dhansen1@unl.edu)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) – Ted Mikuls (tmikuls@unmc.edu)
- University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) – Sara Myers (samyers@unomaha.edu)
- University of North Dakota (UND) – Jonathan Geiger (jonathan.geiger@med.und.edu)
- University of South Dakota (USD) – Robin Miskimins (robin.miskimins@usd.edu)

Program Expectations:

Participation in the Scholars Program will include:

1. Devote 50% effort to the program to match salary support being provided.
2. Complete Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training within first 6 months of assignment (if needed).
3. Remain current on all required regulatory training based on your project and institutional requirements.
4. Submit an Individual Development Plan (IDP) within 6 months of entrance to the program.
5. Meet with primary mentor weekly and other mentors as needed to discuss progress and concerns. Meet with mentoring team every 6 months.
6. Complete CTR Leadership Seminars 901 and 903 (to begin Fall 2018).
7. Meet (along with your mentor[s]) with the Scholars Program leadership team at least twice a year (every 6 months).
8. Submit an annual written report to be reviewed by our Internal and External Advisory Committees.
9. Present your project and progress to date to the External Advisory Committee during the Annual Scientific Meeting.
10. Attend or watch a minimum of 8 out of 12 monthly lectures offered annually by the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Network.
11. Attend the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) to include a 1-day Mentor Workshop.
12. Submit an R01 or equivalent extramural grant application within 3-4 years of selection.
13. Maintain engagement with the Great Plains IDeA-CTR after graduation via regular communications. Invitations to ongoing Annual Scientific Meetings, Mock Reviews, and Lectures will be extended. Graduates may be asked to contribute to the Scholar Leadership Seminars (901/903) and will be encouraged to join the Mentor Guild and enroll in Mentor Training.

Application Deadline:

Applications are due by 5pm on November 20th, 2017

For a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://gpctr.unmc.edu/about/faqs.html>

Application Requirements:

1. Full curriculum vitae (CV) of scholar applicant (Biosketch not acceptable)
2. NIH biosketch of the proposed primary mentor
3. List of other potential investigators for mentoring team; provide NIH biosketches
4. Completed "IDeA-CTR Scholar Facesheet" in REDCap (this uploads on its own)
5. A personal narrative of no more than 3 pages that describes the applicant.
 - I. Candidate – Relevant review criteria will include:
 - a) Does the candidate have the potential to develop as an independent and productive researcher?
 - b) Are the candidate's prior training and research experience appropriate for this award?
 - c) Is the candidate's academic, clinical (if relevant), and research record of high quality?
 - d) Is there evidence of the candidate's commitment to meeting the program objectives to become an independent investigator in research?
 - e) Do the letters of reference address the above review criteria, and do they provide evidence that the candidate has a high potential for becoming an independent investigator?
 - II. Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives/Plan to Provide Mentoring – Relevant review criteria will include:
 - a) What is the likelihood that the plan will contribute substantially to the scientific development of the candidate and lead to scientific independence?
 - b) Are the candidate's prior training and research experience appropriate for this award?
 - c) Are the content, scope, phasing, and duration of the career development plan appropriate when considered in the context of prior training/research experience and the stated training and research objectives for achieving research independence?
 - d) Are there adequate plans for monitoring and evaluating the candidate's research and career development progress?

Additional considerations:

 - a) Past experience(s) in CTR and rationale for additional training. Gaps in training or career development that will be addressed through further training should be clearly identified.
 - b) Primary CTR area of interest or targeted research area. If applicable, describe how the proposed CTR focus addresses the overall theme of the Great Plains IDeA-CTR (diseases of aging, health disparities pertaining to urban-rural residence or other causes, etc.).
 - III. Mentor(s), Co-Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)
 - a) Potential mentor(s) and their area(s) of expertise.
 - b) Mentors may be chosen from any of the participating institutions, but at least one will be identified near (or at the same institution) to the Scholar to assure adequate observation of Scholar progress. Scholars should have a project that is independent of their mentor's ongoing research

Criteria to evaluate the mentor:

 - a) Are the mentor's research qualifications in the area of the proposed research appropriate?
 - b) Do(es) the mentor(s) adequately address the candidate's potential and his/her strengths and areas needing improvement?
 - c) Is there adequate description of the quality and extent of the mentor's proposed role in providing guidance and advice to the candidate?

- d) Is there adequate description of the quality and extent of the mentor's proposed role in providing guidance and advice to the candidate?
 - e) Is the mentor's description of the elements of the research career development activities, including formal course work adequate?
 - f) Is there evidence of the mentor's, consultants and/or collaborators previous experience in fostering the development of independent investigators?
 - g) Is there evidence of the mentor's current research productivity and peer-reviewed support?
 - h) Is active/pending support for the proposed research project appropriate and adequate?
 - i) Are there adequate plans for monitoring and evaluating the career development awardee's progress toward independence?
6. Research Plan: Include a research proposal that follows the NIH guidelines (e.g., Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, and Methods—design, sample (including sample size calculation), measures, procedures, and data analysis). The Aims (1-page) plus Research Plan (6-pages) should not exceed 7 pages in total.

Criteria to evaluate:

- a) Are the proposed research question, design, and methodology of significant scientific and technical merit?
 - b) Is the research plan relevant to the candidate's research career objectives?
 - c) Is the research plan appropriate to the candidate's stage of research development and as a vehicle for developing the research skills described in the career development plan?
 - d) Is there a strong scientific premise for the project?
 - e) Has the candidate presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed?
 - f) Has the candidate presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects?
7. Budget and Budget justification as well as human subjects, animal welfare (if applicable), and references should be provided and are not included in the 7-page limit. Budget should assume up to \$50,000/year in direct costs to cover research (see attached budget sheet. The award will also cover up to 50% of the applicant's effort, plus benefits and indirect costs. See budget sheet for additional detail.
8. Provide a brief narrative in lay language that describes the project and its importance and/or relevance to the Great Plains states and research community (should not exceed 20 lines of text with the use of half-inch margins and 11-point font text). The significance of your research will be reviewed by the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Community Advisory Board (CAB), to ensure that projects address issues of importance to our community and/or region.
9. Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate: Current resources (e.g. equipment, lab or office space, research resources, clinical coordinator, or statistical support) available to support the pilot research project and lead to submission of an R01 grant application or equivalent, as applicable.

Criteria to evaluate:

- a) Is there clear commitment of the sponsoring institution to ensure that the required minimum of the candidate's effort will be devoted directly to the research described in the application, with the remaining percent effort devoted to an appropriate balance of research, teaching,

- administrative, and clinical responsibilities?
- b) Is the institutional commitment to the career development of the candidate appropriately strong?
 - c) Are the research facilities, resources and training opportunities, including faculty capable of productive collaboration with the candidate, adequate and appropriate?
 - d) Is the environment for scientific and professional development of the candidate of high quality?
 - e) Is there assurance that the institution intends the candidate to be an integral part of its research program as an independent investigator?

10. IRB/IACUC Documentation and approval status

11. Two letters of recommendation (ONLY)

- a) One must be from a proposed mentor detailing their commitment to the applicant throughout the training period. (see above criteria under Mentor(s))
- b) The second letter of reference should be from a senior faculty who can attest to your ability to succeed as a scholar in this program.
- c) The mentor should have a history of external research funding and should not be the applicant's immediate supervisor (e.g. Division Chief, Chair, Dean).
- d) Scholars should have a project that is independent of their mentor's ongoing research.

12. Administrative approval. A letter from the appropriate Division Chief, Department Chair and/or Dean confirming the applicant will have 50% or more protected time for research, if selected, throughout the training period (which will be re-assessed annually).

Application Process:

Application to the program is done centrally through UNMC's REDCap portal. This portal is best supported through Chrome: <https://unmcredcap.unmc.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=RLTK894CKX>.

If you are new to REDCap or have any difficulties during the application process, please contact Satya Lalam at the Research Information Technology Office (RITO) at 402-559-4838 or satyakumar.lalam@unmc.edu.

1. Once all documents are complete, submit your application in REDCap as a single PDF file in the order listed below. The application may be completed in more than one sitting.
 - CV of applicant
 - NIH bio of proposed primary mentor(s)
 - Personal narrative (no more than 3 pages to include: candidate, career development goals and Mentor(s))
 - Research Plan (no more than 7 pages to include: aims, significance, innovation and methods)
 - Budget Justification
 - Lay narrative (describe importance of project to the research community)
 - IRB/IACUC Documentation
 - Two letters (only) of recommendation
 - One administrative letter from Division Chief, Chair or Dean

2. Questions arising during preparation of the application may be sent directly the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Office – gpctr@unmc.edu or 402-552-2260.
3. You should be working very closely with your mentor(s) on the application. Your institutional program coordinator is also available for consultation and should read your materials. See coordinators listed by site on page 2.
4. Applicants must consult with biostatistics or trial design in preparation of this application. If one is not available at your institution or you are located at UNMC, please contact Dr. Fang Yu by email, fangyu@unmc.edu or by phone, 402-559-9436, to discuss who the appropriate statistical consultant would be for your work. Projects are to be reviewed by a biostatistician prior to submission.
5. Applications will receive review in accordance with NIH K23 guidelines for Career Development K-awards. The five criteria considered in providing an overall assessment will include: 1) Qualifications of candidate; 2) Career Development Plan/Goals; 3) Research Plan; 4) Mentor(s); and 5) Environment & Institutional Commitment (click on individual hyperlinks for additional information).
6. Following formal review, the Professional Development KCA leadership (with input from the IDeA-CTR Scholar Selection and Program Committee) will review all applicant portfolios, reviewer scores, and schedule formal interviews for the top candidates.
7. Top candidates will be interviewed by PD KCA Director and Operational Director along with Administrative Core leadership.
8. The KCA Director and Operational Director will make formal recommendations for funding to the Steering Committee. After approval by the Steering Committee, these will be submitted to the EAC and NIGMS for final recommendation for approval.
9. After a scholar has received R01 or equivalent funding, her/his position will be opened for new applications from which a new scholar will be chosen.

Once your application has been submitted, you will receive a confirmation email from REDCap. In addition, you will receive a copy of your submission within one business day from the Great Plains email address listed below. Review the document carefully to ensure that all pages have been received.

For further information, contact: The Great Plains IDeA-CTR Office: 402-552-2260 or gpctr@unmc.edu.

DETAILED BUDGET – <u>YEAR 1 ONLY</u>		Dates: FROM		THROUGH
NAME	Fringe Rate*	SALARY REQUESTED	FRINGE BENEFITS*	TOTAL COST
<i>*Not to exceed fringe allowable rate from applicant's institution; Must provide institutional documentation of fringe rate</i>				
SALARY SUBTOTAL →				\$
RESEARCH EXPENSES (Itemize by category) ** CONSULTANT COSTS EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES TRAVEL OTHER EXPENSES BUDGET JUSTIFICATION:				
OTHER EXPENSES SUBTOTAL →				\$
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR BUDGET PERIOD (NOT TO EXCEED \$ 50,000)				\$
<i>Applications must include an itemized budget indicating the expected amount of salary from this award, up to a maximum of \$50,000 annually for the scholar applicant, plus fringe). Up to \$50,000 per applicant per year may be requested for other research costs. Allowable costs include the following types of expenses: (a) research supplies, equipment and technical personnel; (b) tuition and fees and books related to didactic courses or career development; (c) travel to research meetings or training; and (d) statistical services including personnel and computer time (if required services are not available from the UNMC CCORDA). These funds may not be used for salary support for administrative. Total equipment costs per year should not exceed \$10,000. Funds may not be used for foreign travel or to support construction/renovations. Although stipends for graduate students and post-doctoral trainees are not allowed, wages and salary support is allowed.</i>				