Call for Applications for the
DaCCoTA Basic Scholars Program

Award Cycle: Fall 2021
Letter of Intent Deadline: October 30th, 2021
Application Deadline: January 17th, 2022
Expected project period: September 1st, 2022-August 31st, 2025

The Dakota Cancer Collaborative on Translational Activity (DaCCoTA), sponsored by the NIH/NIGMS, welcomes applications for the Basic Scholars Program. The purpose of this award is to stimulate the development of new clinical and translational research (CTR) investigators. Applications are expected to address cancer-related CTR and can consider the multilevel manifestations of cancer (e.g. neurological, psychiatric), demographic risks, and social impact.

For the purpose of the DaCCoTA Scholars Program, CTR is defined as:

“...research (that) fosters the multidirectional integration of basic research, patient-oriented research, and population-based research, with the long-term aim of improving the health of the public.”


Program Requirements

Participation in the Scholars Program will involve the following:

- 50% time commitment in a mentored cancer-relevant CTR over a five-year period. The applicant may propose a collaboration or may contact the DaCCoTA (daccota@und.edu) in advance of applying for assistance finding a potential collaborator.
- Submission of an annual productivity report and consent for longitudinal evaluation for reporting DaCCoTA success to NIH.
Eligibility

- Terminal degree of MD, PhD, or equivalent (e.g. PharmD, OT, PT, NP). If there are questions about qualifications, please contact the core director (Lee.Baugh@usd.edu).
- No current or prior support from an R01 or equivalent.
- No current project funding (PI role) through an NIH IDeA program (e.g., COBRE, INBRE, etc.)
- A focused area of relevant CTR or basic science investigation.
- Demonstrated success in conducting mentored or independent research.
- Early track record of publication.
- Eligibility to apply for NIH funds (i.e., US citizen or permanent resident).

Application Process

- Applicants must register as DaCCoTA participants in the DaCCoTA Pathfinder web portal (https://pathfinder.med.und.edu/).
- Applicants must consult the Professional Development Core well in advance of application submission for assistance with project development.
- Applicants must also consult with the Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design Core; the Community Engagement and Outreach Core; and the Clinical Research Resources and Facilities Core prior to submitting their applications. You can contact these cores by logging into the Pathfinder Portal and selecting the communication tab at the top of the page.
- Letters of Intent should be submitted as a single PDF document to christian.buresh@usd.edu.
- All proposals must have completed internal approval at their respective institutions.
- Applications should be submitted as a single PDF document via the DaCCoTA Pathfinder web portal. Select the proposals tab at the top of the page and upload completed application.

Application Deadlines & Required Materials

Letters of intent (1-page maximum) are due October 30th, 2021.

Full applications invited from selected letters of intent are due January 17th, 2022, and should include the following:

- Face page (PHS398 Form Page 1 signed by institutional signing official, PHS398 forms are available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html). Instructions for the PHS398 forms are available at U.S. DHHS Public Health Service Grant Application (PHS 398) (nih.gov).
  - Project Summary (PHS398 Form Page 2)
  - Relevance (no more than two or three sentences describing the relevance of this research to North and South Dakota and the research community.
- Research Plan (follow NIH guidelines for an R21 mechanism format):
  - Specific Aims (1-page limit)
  - Research Strategy (6-page limit)
  - References (no page limit)
• Personal Narrative (3-page limit) with the following elements:
  o Describe your motivation and commitment for becoming an independently funded investigator.
  o Identify potential mentor(s) with their area(s) of expertise.
  o A plan for career development. Include role for mentors in the plan, timeline, and milestones.
  o Describe your past experience(s) in CTR and how you would benefit from additional training; Identify gaps in training or career development that you would like addressed through further training.

• Full Curriculum Vitae of Applicant
• NIH Biosketches: Include for all collaborators, mentors, and other significant contributors.
• Letters of Collaboration and Support: Letter(s) from the proposed mentor(s) indicating willingness to play this role and how s/he will assist with the development plan. The mentor should have a history of funding and not be the immediate supervisor (Division Chief, Chair, Dean, or someone you have previously published with). Scholars should have a defined area of research independent from any proposed mentor.
  o Two letters of recommendation, one from inside and one from outside your current institution. One can be from the mentor(s).
  o A letter from the appropriate Division Chief, Department Chair and/or Dean confirming you can and will have 50% or more protected time for research, if selected, throughout the training period and that the institution will provide equivalent support in years four and five if independent extramural funding has not been achieved.
    • Continuous support will be contingent on satisfactory progress as judged by the DaCCoTA Internal and External Advisory Committees and the Executive/Leadership Committee.
  o Letter of approval for the project from the Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design Core endorsing the project as statistically sound, as well as letters from any other core whose resources will be required for the project to be completed.
• Statement of consent to have subsequent productivity tracked after application.
• Evidence for submission of Human Subjects and/or Animal Welfare, if applicable.
• Good Clinical Practice (GCP) certification and specific plans for data and safety monitoring, if applicable
• Budget and budget justification (PHS398 Form Pages 4 & 5)

Proposed Timeline:
• RFA Release Date: September 1, 2021
• Deadline for Assistance finding a Collaborator: October 15, 2021
• LOI Deadline: October 30, 2021
• LOI Determination: November 15, 2021
• Identifying Reviewers/Consent: December 1, 2021
• DaCCoTA Core Meetings Deadline: December 20, 2021
• Begin IRB Preparation: November 30, 2021
• IRB Draft Application Deadline for CRRFC Consultation: January 7, 2022
Budget
A maximum of $160,000/year including up to 50% salary support, research project funding, and indirect costs.
  o Scholars accepted into the program will receive salary support (50% FTE plus fringe) that guarantees a minimum of 50% protected research time for the project. The DaCCoTA will provide the first three years of funding, and the final two years will be funded by the applicant’s home institution (contingent on adequate progress). o The awardee will also receive up to $50,000 annually for up to 5 years.
  o Indirect costs must be deducted from the award if the applicant’s institution warrants such removal.
  o Disclaimer: Full scholar funding for the first three years will be subject to DaCCoTA receiving grant renewal from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health. DaCCoTA is funded through August 31st, 2023.

If a scholar receives R01 or equivalent funding, her/his Basic Scholars Program award will terminate. The scholar will be required to continue to participate in DaCCoTA activities and may be asked to serve as a mentor or collaborator in other DaCCoTA projects.

Review Criteria
Applications will be reviewed by NIH according to general NIH guidelines for K01 applications (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-18-369.html#_Section_V._Application). These criteria include, but are not limited to, the potential for future funding, the support of the Department/Division, the significance/novelty of the project, and the strength of the applicant and mentoring team.
Additional Information
Applicants or sponsoring institutions may address questions that arise during application development to the Professional Development Core Director Dr. Lee Baugh (Lee.Baugh@usd.edu) or the Co-director Dr. Donald Sens (donald.sens@UND.edu).

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