Call for Applications for the
DaCCoTA Basic Scholars Program

DaCCoTA
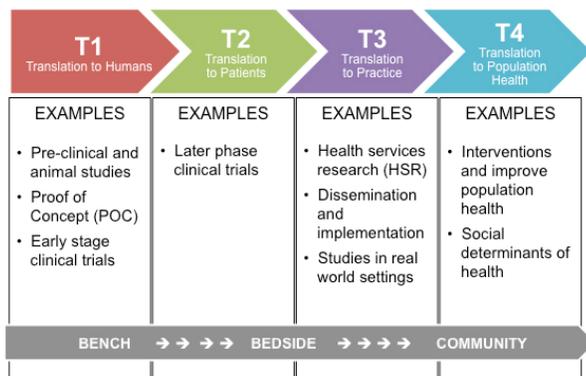DAKOTA CANCER COLLABORATIVE
ON TRANSLATIONAL ACTIVITY

Award Cycle: Spring 2020
Letter of Intent Deadline: April 15th, 2020
Application Deadline: May 27th, 2020
Expected project period: September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2023

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.**"

- *Rubio DM et al. Defining translational research: implications for training. Acad Med 2010; 85(3): 470-8.*

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.
- Attendance and participation in the 2021 and 2022 Annual DaCCoTA Symposiums.
- Complete the DaCCoTA Scholars curriculum (https://med.und.edu/daccota/_files/pdfs/daccota_curriculum.pdf).
- 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 uestions about qualifications, please contact the core director (William.Mayhan@usd.edu).
- Must hold a current, full-time faculty appointment at a participating; priority will be given to those at the Assistant Professor level. Partnering institutions can be found on the DaCCoTA Website (https://med.und.edu/daccota/).

- 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.
- All proposals must have completed internal approval at their respective institutions.
- Applications should be submitted as a single PDF document via email to daccota@und.edu .

Application Deadlines & Required Materials
Letters of intent (1-page maximum) are due April 15th, 2020.

Full applications invited from selected letters of intent are due May 27th, 2020, 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).
  - 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:
  - Describe your motivation and commitment for becoming an independently funded investigator.
  - Identify potential mentor(s) with their area(s) of expertise.
  - A plan for career development. Include role for mentors in the plan, timeline, and milestones.
  - 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.

- Two letters of recommendation, one from inside and one from outside your current institution. One can be from the mentor(s).
- 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.
- 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.
- Budget and budget justification (PHS398 Form Pages 4 & 5)

Budget
- A maximum of $160,000/year *including* up to 50% salary support, research project funding, and indirect costs.
  - 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).
  - The awardee will also receive up to $50,000 annually for up to 5 years.
  - Indirect costs must be deducted from the award if the applicant's institution warrants such removal.
- 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 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. William Mayhan (William.Mayhan@usd.edu) or the Co-Director Dr. Donald Sens (donald.sens@med.und.edu).