

Call for Applications for the DaCCoTA Community Engagement Scholars Program

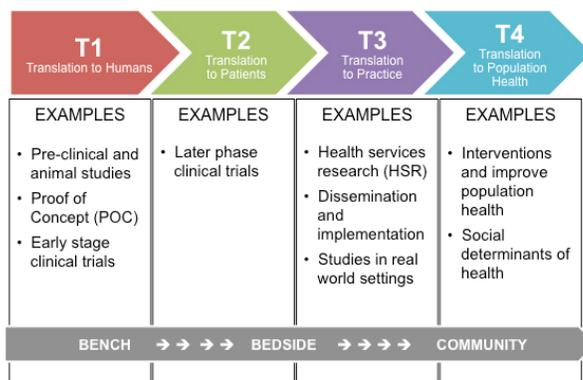
The Dakota Cancer Collaborative on Translational Activity (DaCCoTA) sponsored by the NIH/NIGMS welcomes applications for the Community Engagement Scholars Program. This program is a joint effort between the Professional Development and Community Engagement and Outreach Cores with the goal of developing successful clinical and translational research (CTR) investigators. Two areas will receive priority:

- 1) **Decreasing cancer research disparities.** Scholars will work collaboratively with the Community Engagement and Outreach Core to conduct key informant interviews and focus groups to further refine community-based cancer research disparities.
- 2) **T3 or T4 projects related to community-based cancer research priorities.** Scholars may identify and pursue T3 and T4 research projects related to community-based cancer research priorities. These priorities include the following:
 - colorectal cancer (CRC) screening, stage and diagnosis, treatment, and mortality;
 - tobacco-related cancer disparities; and
 - breast cancer disparities in screening, stage at diagnosis, and mortality.

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

- 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.
- Completion of the curriculum for DaCCoTA Scholars (https://med.und.edu/daccota/files/pdfs/daccota_curriculum.pdf).
- Submission of an annual productivity report and consent to be tracked longitudinally 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 (William.Mayhan@usd.edu).
- Must hold a current, full-time faculty appointment at a partnering institution. 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.).
- 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 Deadlines

- Letters of intent (1-page maximum) are due April 15th, 2020.
- Full applications will be invited from selected applicants and will be due May 27th, 2020.
- Awards will be announced by September 2020. The expected project period is September 1, 2020 – August 30, 2022.
- 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.

Required Application Materials

- 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 and Budget Justification

- 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 up to 50% salary (plus benefits).
 - 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 support 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.

Application Process

- All proposals must have completed internal approval at their respective institutions.
- Applicants must register as DaCCoTA participants on the DaCCoTA Pathfinder web portal (<https://pathfinder.med.und.edu/>).
- Applications should be submitted as single PDF documents via email to daccota@und.edu.
- The Scholar Selection Committee will review all applications and schedule interviews for the highest ranked candidates.

Review Criteria

Applications will undergo a rigorous 3-stage review process consisting of an initial study section review, review by the DaCCoTA External Advisory Committee, and a final review and approval by NIH/NIGMS program staff. Applicants will be required to revise their proposals based on feedback from the study section before their proposals are reviewed by the EAC. All applicants proposing studies involving human subjects or vertebrate animals must initiate the process of obtaining IRB or IACUC approval prior to submitting their applications.

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).

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