

Award Cycle: Fall 2022

Letter of Intent Deadline: October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Application Deadline: January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Expected project period: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023- August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2028

## Overview

The Dakota Community 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:

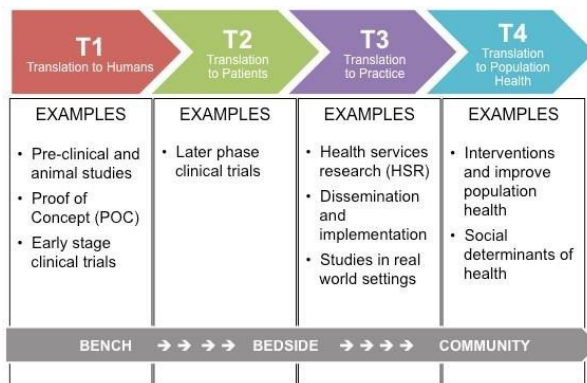
- 1) **Decreasing health research disparities.** Scholars will work collaboratively with the Community Engagement and Outreach Core to conduct key informant interviews and focus groups to further refine community-based health research disparities.
- 2) **T3 or T4 projects related to community-based health research priorities.** Scholars may identify and pursue T3 and T4 research projects related to community-based health research priorities. These priorities include the following:
  - Behavioral health (including substance use disorder, mental health, suicidality, and overall wellness)
  - Food insecurity, nutrition, and food deserts
  - Chronic disease (including diabetes, cancer, hypertension, obesity, and pain)
  - Culturally-safe and trauma-informed healthcare and research (including integrative therapies such as traditional healing, and innovative prenatal and natal, and postnatal care), and
  - Unresolved trauma (including health impacts of trauma and toxic stress, adverse childhood experiences, and disproportionate foster care experiences)

Research is not limited to these T3 and T4 project areas, but researchers are encouraged to consider them and list one or more priority/priorities as relevant to the application on the Community Engagement Relevance survey.

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 CTR over a five-year period. The applicant may propose a collaboration or may contact the Professional Development Core ([christian.buresh@usd.edu](mailto:christian.buresh@usd.edu)) in advance of applying for assistance finding a potential collaborator.
- Attendance and participation in the 2024, 2025, and 2026 DaCCoTA Symposiums. Additional attendance and participation will be required if Year 4 and Year 5 funding is achieved.
- Completion of the curriculum for DaCCoTA Scholars ([https://med.und.edu/daccota/files/pdfs/daccota\\_curriculum.pdf](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 ([lee.baugh@usd.edu](mailto:lee.baugh@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. Letters of intent must include: 1). Study title 2). Study overview 3). Grant category targeted (e.g. Basic Scholars, CROP, CES) 4). Identifying the basic science and clinical science mentor. 5). Supplement page(s) in addition to the letter of intent listing all grants received by the applicant. Use [PHS398 Other Support](#) form for this purpose. Certification signatures on the PHS 398 Other Support form are not required.
  - o Both the basic science and clinical mentor must be identified in your Letter of Intent by the Letter of Intent deadline (October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022) or your Letter of Intent will not be considered.
- Full applications will be invited from selected applicants and will be due.
- Awards will be announced by August 2023. The expected project period is September 2023-August 2028.
- 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 through the following contacts:
  - Professional Development Core
    - Christian Buresh, [christian.buresh@usd.edu](mailto:christian.buresh@usd.edu)
  - Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) Core
    - Dr. Mark Williamson, [mark.williamson.2@und.edu](mailto:mark.williamson.2@und.edu)
  - Community Engagement and Outreach Core
    - Sue Thompson, [susan.thompson2@und.edu](mailto:susan.thompson2@und.edu)
  - Clinical Research Resources and Facilities Core (CRRFC)
    - Miranda Ruiters, [Miranda.Ruiters@SanfordHealth.org](mailto:Miranda.Ruiters@SanfordHealth.org)

### Proposed Timeline

- **RFA Release Date:** September 1, 2022
- **Deadline for Assistance finding a Collaborator:** October 14, 2022
- **LOI Deadline:** October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022
- **LOI Determination:** November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- **DaCCoTA Core Meetings Deadline:** December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022
- **Begin IRB/IACUC/IBC Preparation:** December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022
- **Budget and Grant Approval SPA:** January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- **Application Deadline:** January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- **Letters to Applicants:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- **Grant Start Date:** September 1, 2023

### 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>) 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:
  1. Describe your motivation and commitment for becoming an independently funded investigator.
  2. Identify potential mentors with their area(s) of expertise.
  3. A plan for career development. Include role for mentors in the plan, timeline, and milestones.
  4. 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.

- Personal Learning Network (2-page limit During your participation as a Basic Scholars awardee, you'll be asked to construct a personal learning network (PLN), which is a network of people, organizations, and publications from which you'll receive continuing support during your participation in and following your graduation from the Basic Scholars program. The Professional Development Core and the DaCCoTA believe that overall success in research is based on engagement within the interdisciplinary scientific community. You'll describe your current PLN by answering the following questions:
  - o If you need advice or support in your research, whom do you ask first?
  - o When it comes to reading peer-reviewed literature, what are your habits e.g how often do you read? What do you read? What would you like to read more of?
  - o How do you learn about developments in your field?

You'll describe what you'd like your PLN to become by answering the following questions:

- o In your field, whom do you wish to become better acquainted with?
- o What organizations do you wish to better acquainted with?
- o What will your engagement look like with peer-reviewed literature in the future?

After all these questions are answered, the PDC will construct a visual representation of your PLN and work with you to expand it to fit your needs to support you. Expansion will consist of alerts on conferences, meeting opportunities with experienced researchers in your field, and expanding means of engagement in your field (e.g. social media, blogging, vlogging, conferences attendance, etc.)

- Full Curriculum Vitae of Applicant
- NIH Biosketches : Include for all collaborators, mentors, and other significant contributors.
- Letters of Collaboration and Support:
  - o Letters from the proposed mentors indicating willingness to play this role and how they 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 Letters of support from mentors' and collaborators' supervisors stating that they are approved to work on the project and can dedicate their time towards it
  - 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.
- Budget and budget justification (PHS398 Form Pages 4 & 5)
- Good Clinical Practice (GCP) certification and specific plans for data and safety monitoring, if applicable.
- Community Engagement Relevance survey. The survey is available on the DaCCoTA website.

### **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).

- Indirect costs must be deducted from the award if the applicant's institution warrants such removal.
- Disclaimer: 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

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. Letters of Intent should be submitted as a single PDF document to christian.buresh@usd.edu. Applicants must register as DaCCoTA participants on the DaCCoTA Pathfinder web portal (<https://pathfinder.med.und.edu/>).

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.

### **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](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).

*The DaCCoTA Scholars Program is supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number U54GM128729.*