

## **PILOT AND FEASIBILITY FUNDS 2009**

The Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CICATS) area consortium partners and the Lowell P. Weicker Jr. General Clinical Research Center (GCRC) are pleased to announce the availability of Pilot and Feasibility Funds during the upcoming grant year. The purpose of these funds is to promote collaborative clinical research projects between investigators at CICATS consortium partnering institutions and faculty of the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC). The goal will be to establish inter-institutional collaborations to gather pilot data in preparation for submission of applications to extramural funding sources. UCHC faculty and investigators at CICATS partnering consortium institutions [Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC), Hartford Hospital, St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Hospital for Central Connecticut, Hospital for Special Care, Institute for Community Research, BEACON, Hispanic Health Council, and Community Health Center Association] are eligible to apply for this pilot funding.

To comply with GCRC guidelines, each project must have a UCHC investigator with a UCHC faculty appointment and an investigator from a CICATS consortium institution. Either investigator can be designated as principal investigator (PI) or Co-PI. Preference for funding will be given to applications that involve a multidisciplinary clinical research team with meaningful contributions to the project by the UCHC investigator and the investigator at the collaborating institution. Collaborative projects between UCONN Health Center and Hartford Hospital are encouraged to consider use of the functional MRI or overnight stay unit at Hartford Hospital. Collaborative projects between UCONN Health Center and Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) are encouraged to consider use of the resources of Connecticut Children's to perform research on children. Patient-oriented, translational research project applications are encouraged. Translational research can either be T1 research (bench to bedside) or T2 research (bedside to community).

A total of \$60,000 is available; however, no requests should exceed \$20,000 in GCRC funding. These funds can be used for costs of patient care ancillaries (clinical laboratory tests, pharmacy costs), GCRC core laboratory supplies, data entry costs, and any other expenses allowed under GCRC guidelines. (Please note – subject payments, capital equipment, travel expenses and salary support for faculty and staff are not allowed). In addition to the award, all GCRC clinic and staff resources at UCHC (e.g., exam rooms, treatment rooms, nursing, dental assisting, core laboratory, research subject advocate, informatics, biostatistics, administrative services) will additionally be available and their use encouraged. Thus, the total support will be substantially greater than the amount awarded. Based on the current GCRC research coordinator study activity, GCRC clinical staff availability to perform clinical services at consortium institutions cannot be guaranteed.

In addition to the GCRC resources being requested, applications should also include a description of the resources (staff time, space, funding, etc.) available to the project from the partnering consortium institution. The investigator from the consortium member institution should contact their institutional research administrator (listed below) for details of services/funding available that may be available for their proposed project. Investigators from

any of the 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers in CT (FQHC), must contact Community Health Center Association of CT, as the consortium member, who would initiate the proposal on behalf of the FQHC member.

Administrative contacts for consortium sites include:

1. CCMC: Dr. Georgina Burke ([gburke@ccmckids.org](mailto:gburke@ccmckids.org))
2. Hartford Hospital: Dr. Laurine Bow ([lbow@harthosp.org](mailto:lbow@harthosp.org))
3. St. Francis: Dr. Gregory Makoul ([GMakoul@stfranciscare.org](mailto:GMakoul@stfranciscare.org))
4. Hospital for Central Connecticut: Dr. Steven Hanks ([shanks@thocc.org](mailto:shanks@thocc.org))
5. Hospital for Special Care: Dr. Roger Thrall ([thrall@nso2.uchc.edu](mailto:thrall@nso2.uchc.edu))
6. Institute for Community Research (ICR): Dr. Jean Schensul ([schensu@aol.com](mailto:schensu@aol.com))
7. Beacon: Dr. Joseph Bronzino ([joseph.bronzino@beaconalliance.org](mailto:joseph.bronzino@beaconalliance.org))
8. Hispanic Health Council: Ms. Grace Damio ([graced@hispanichealth.com](mailto:graced@hispanichealth.com))
9. Community Health Center Association of CT: Mr. Scott Selig ([sselig@chcact.org](mailto:sselig@chcact.org))

The deadline to submit an application is September 4, 2009. The Pilot and Feasibility awards will be announced by September 16, 2009. IRB approval at the appropriate institutions must be obtained prior to study initiation.

Information and application forms may be obtained from Ms. Lisa Godin, Administrative Assistant, in the GCRC. Email address – [godin@nso.uchc.edu](mailto:godin@nso.uchc.edu); phone – 679-4145. All applications must be submitted electronically, along with one hardcopy, which should be sent to Ms. Godin (GCRC, MC-3805).

Questions related to the program should be directed to Ms. Pam Fall, GCRC Administrative Manager, ([fall@nso.uchc.edu](mailto:fall@nso.uchc.edu) or 679-2880) or Dr. Jonathan Covault, GCRC Pilot Program, ([jocovault@uchc.edu](mailto:jocovault@uchc.edu)).

**Cheryl Oncken, M.D., MPH**  
**GCRC, Program Director**