Request for Applications (RFA)
2014 Innovations Grant for Dissemination, Implementation or Diffusion Research

Description
UC San Diego’s Clinical & Translational Research Institute (CTRI) is offering a cash award of $5,000 to $30,000 (Total available is $30,000)* to fund diffusion, dissemination, or implementation research. This Funding opportunity is specific to the work accomplished over the past several years by Be There-San Diego (abbreviated Be There), also known as the Right Care Initiative. The goals of Be There have been to increase the adoption of evidence-based clinical practices to control blood pressure, lipids, and blood sugar (for patients with diabetes) with the ultimate goal of preventing heart attacks and strokes.

*CTRI recognizes that at this funding level, any awarded project is expected to gather only preliminary data or do preliminary analyses that can lay groundwork for a full proposal for extramural funding.

For the purpose of this RFA, the following terminology is defined:
• **Diffusion Research** is the systematic study of the passive spread of new evidence-based interventions into practice (e.g. into health plans, adoption by primary care provider practice, or integration into policies that encourage the use of evidence-based practices). Outcomes generally assess the reach of knowledge about new evidence-based interventions.

• **Dissemination Research** is an active approach of spreading new interventions into specifically targeted audiences using systematically planned strategies. Interventions may include: the targeted distribution of information and intervention materials to an audience of clinicians and/or health plan administrators through various means; the use of policies and procedures to encourage uptake; reimbursement strategies that encourage uptake, and many others. The scientific goal is an understanding the mechanisms that can successfully be used to increase the spread of knowledge and greater use of the evidence-based intervention. Outcomes are generally about the reach and timeframe for adoption of new evidence-based practices.

• **Implementation Research** is the systematic study of how a specific set of activities and designed strategies are used to successfully integrate and sustain an evidence-based intervention within specific settings (e.g., primary care practices, Independent Practice Associations (IPAs), medical groups). These are studies of the factors necessary for successful adoption, adaption and sustained use of an intervention. Factors associated with implementation success might be individual (provider practice), organizational (characteristics of the organization seeking adoption), community (characteristics of the population intended to benefit from the intervention, i.e. age, SES, access to care, transportation etc.) or environmental or system factors (availability of funding, policies, etc.). This type of research involves both organizational outcomes (reach, adoption, adaption, fidelity) and also population level outcomes (patient population outcomes improve as a result of the adoption of the evidence-based interventions).

Note that the purpose of this type of research is not to demonstrate that a specific intervention is efficacious or effective, but to examine the factors that are associated with the successful spread and implementation of an evidence-based practice. **Evidence-based** means that the intervention has already undergone sufficient scientific evaluation to be proven to be efficacious or effective (e.g., the intervention is considered valid or “proven” because it has scientifically linked to a desirable outcome).
For the purposes of this RFA, be sure to define and describe the characteristics of the evidence-based intervention for which you are studying its dissemination or implementation (e.g., a hypertension treatment algorithm).

Other Terms used in Dissemination, Implementation and Diffusion Research

- Adoption refers to the uptake of the desired intervention into the target population or uptake by the implementers.
- Adaptation or tailoring refers to the modifications of the intervention itself or the necessary alterations in the supporting infrastructure to ensure implementation without losing fidelity.
- Fidelity refers to “the adherence of actual treatment delivery to the protocol originally developed” or “the degree program developers implement programs as intended by the developers.”
- Outcomes and impacts are the end results of public health interventions which include effects that people experience and care about, such as change in the ability to function, improved health, quality of life, satisfaction, or cost.
- Scalability describes the adoption of an intervention resulting in wider usage that retains or improves its effectiveness, affordability, and sustainability.
- Sustainability is achieved when the evidence-based intervention is routinely executed. Long-term sustainability can be dependent upon funding availability and policies which support a functional infrastructure that maintains fidelity of the evidence-based intervention (e.g., training, laws, and reimbursement for services).

Purpose
The mission of the Clinical & Translational Research Institute (CTRI) is to create an environment that advances health care through interactions between basic scientists, clinical investigators, community physicians, and patients. We intend to address the barriers that inhibit productivity and rapid translation of research progress into new therapies, and the dissemination of these therapies to patients serviced by UCSD and other health agencies and community providers. A goal of CTRI’s Community Engagement unit is to promote the participation of community-based clinicians and agencies in clinical translational research.

The CTRI recognizes that the Be There Initiative has broad support and collaboration of multiple health service agencies in the San Diego region, that Be There reflects the health priorities of these agencies with regards to optimizing the practice of local clinicians and the outcomes of our local population. While Be There’s activities over the past several years may have already achieved some of their goals, this collaborative group has not systematically studied which activities of the collaborative group, or which activities of its individual health service agency partners have led to the most successful adoption and implementation of recommended clinical best practices.

Examples of Research Questions that Could be Answered Are:
1. Different, but comparable, health plans, medical groups or IPAs in San Diego County have adopted various strategies in order to increase utilization of evidence-based practices by clinicians. We encourage studies that compare different strategies implemented in terms of their ability to reach the target audience of providers and encourage adoption and sustained implementation. What are the
factors associated with reach, implementation and sustainability? Are there cost-benefits of one strategy over another?

2. Within any one medical group, there have been significant differences in the extent to which an evidence-based practice has been successfully applied to different patient populations (males vs females, old vs. young, by race/ethnicity, poor communities, etc.). Do strategies need to be adapted or tailored such that health care providers can reach specific types of patients? If so, what are the factors associated with successful reach, implementation, and sustainability for these patients?

3. It has been suggested that tying physician medical license “Maintenance of Certification” projects to an evidence-based practice can increase adherence to using that evidence-based practice. We would encourage prospective studies to determine whether this strategy is effective in terms of reach, implementation and sustainability of evidence-based practice.

**CTRI’s aims of this funding opportunity are to:**

1. support research that reflects the priorities of local clinicians and their respective health service agencies;
2. stimulate more dissemination, implementation and diffusion research in San Diego County;
3. encourage local clinicians, health administrators, and health science scholars to adopt diffusion, dissemination, and implementation research as an important part of their careers;
4. generate new publications on diffusion, dissemination, implementation research in peer-reviewed health journals;
5. generate data that will lead to research funding from: Agency for Healthcare Research Quality (AHRQ), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) or other agencies or foundations that fund research in this field.

**Eligibility and Project Requirements**

- A principal investigator for this project must be a member of the CTRI. Salaried faculty members at UCSD, SDSU, VA Hospital, Rady Children’s Hospital, Palomar-Pomerado, Salk, LIAI, J Craig Venter, and Sanford-Burnham are eligible to be CTRI Members. (Note: the applicant may join the CTRI shortly before submission and still be eligible. To join, go to [http://ctri.ucsd.edu/about/membership/pages/membership-application.aspx](http://ctri.ucsd.edu/about/membership/pages/membership-application.aspx))

- Co-investigators from health service agencies other than CTRI partner agencies are strongly encouraged.

- UC Health System data within the *Be There* collection of data or activities, must be included as part of the research.

- Analysis of data/activities from other health service agencies (non-UCSD) that are also members of *Be There* are very strongly encouraged.

- For purposes of this application as well as for any data reporting after the award, the identity of health plans, medical groups, or IPAs to be studied may remain completely anonymous.

- The proposed research project cannot overlap with, or be a logical extension of, ongoing funded research.

- Awardee is expected to publish their findings in a scholarly peer-reviewed journal and present this research at professional research and clinical meetings.
• All publications, grants, and presentations resulting from research funded by the CTRI or using CTRI resources must cite the CTRI as a contributing source of support and indicate the NIH CTSA grant title and number: University of California, San Diego, NIH CTSA grant # 5UL1TR000100.

• The principal investigator(s) selected to receive funding will be required to submit a six-month progress report and a one-year Final Progress Report at the end of the funded project. An additional report one year later will also be required. This report will consist of a detailed description of progress to date and a listing of all submitted publications and grant applications (pending or funded), meeting abstracts, and seminars relating to the pilot project.

• Investigators are responsible for submitting any peer-reviewed journal articles resulting from research funded by this award to PubMed Central, the NIH digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature. See http://publicaccess.nih.gov/.

• It is not expected that findings from these awards will be ready for presentation during the funding period.

Budget Guidelines

• Funds may be used to collect data (e.g., random chart reviews) that are not currently collected through billing, HEDIS and other current Be There mechanisms.

• Funds must be spent within one year of being awarded. All funds not spent by the end date will be returned to the CTRI. Investigators must have IRB approval in place before the beginning of the funding cycle.

• No funding will be provided for travel, books and subscriptions, graduate student support and tuition remission, or publication expenses.

• If equipment is budgeted, it will need a thorough justification.

• Indirect costs will not be awarded to UCSD investigators. Awarded funds that transfer to sub-contracted agencies outside of UCSD may be eligible for indirect or overhead costs. In those circumstances where indirect costs are required by the agency, a maximum of 10% overhead will be provided.

How to Apply

1. It is highly recommended that during preparation of your application, your project be discussed with Sue Lindsay, Ph.D., MSW, MPH, Executive Director of SDSU’s Institute for Public Health (and Core Faculty of the CTRI’s Community Engagement Unit). Dr. Lindsay can be reached her via e-mail at: slindsay@mail.sdsu.edu.

2. If you are unfamiliar with the Be There [Right Care Initiative] data base, reach Kitty Bailey at k3bailey@ucsd.edu or Allen Fremont, MD PhD of the RAND institute at fremont@rand.org

3. Provide a maximum 4-page application describing the project. Proposed projects will be scored using an NIH 9-point scoring guideline. Use the following outline:
   a) Specific Aims
   b) Background and Significance
   c) Preliminary Studies or Data Collection / Analysis (if applicable)
   d) Research Design and Methods
   e) Literature Cited (need not be included in 4-page limit)

4. Provide a detailed budget with budget justification (not included as part of 4-page maximum)
5. Provide an additional one page (maximum) description of how this project maximizes CTRI’s five major aims for providing this funding opportunity (see PURPOSE section, above).

6. Provide a maximum two-page biosketch (brief curriculum vita) for each of the following: the principal investigator, all co-investigators, and any postdoctoral fellows, residents, graduate or medical students you know will be involved in the proposed project.

7. If any funds in the budget are designated for an institution or agency outside of UCSD, provide a letter from that institution or agency, on their letterhead, that describes: (a) the agency’s support for the proposed project, (b) agency’s role in the project, (c) the name, address, and contact information (e-mail and telephone) of the agency representative who has primary responsibility for that portion of the project;

8. Submit an IRB application at the same time as submitting the application.

9. Applications should adhere to the following formatting specifications:
   - 11-point Arial font
   - Single-spaced
   - 0.5 inch margins on all sides
   - 8 ½” x 11” (i.e., standard size) paper
   - Numbering of all pages

10. Application deadline is 11:59pm, Thursday Sept 4, 2014

How to Submit your Application:
Send the application to Kathleen Kennedy at k kennedy@ucsd.edu [Tel Number: (858) 657-5143]