

**Call for Proposals: New Research Partnership Opportunities**

The ACTRI invites faculty to propose projects for **2 separate** opportunities that will be included in the May 2024 renewal of the ACTRI Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) application.

RC2 grant:

The project must demonstrate ability to perform its proposed clinical and translational science (CTS) objectives with a maximum annual budget of **$500k over 3-5 years**. RC2 grants are submitted as separate grants that is separately scored and accompanies the CTSA UM1 grant. Up to 2 RC2 grants can be submitted by each institution.

Element E of the CTSA UM1 grant:

“Element E” is submitted as an integrated section of the CTSA UM1 grant and will contribute to the overall score. It is funded if the UM1 is approved for funding. We anticipate submitting 2-4 Element E projects with budgets of **$200-400k for 3-4 years**.

More information on this overall program can be found here: [This request for proposals (FOA)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-340.html#_Section_II._Award_1)

The RC2 and Section E programs catalyze development of our ACTRI/CTSA hub capabilities, research platforms, and resources. The goal is to address roadblocks in CTS at awarded UM1 CTSA Hubs. The UCSD CTSA hub is part of a national, collaborative consortium focused on advancing CTS by:

1. Developing, demonstrating, and disseminating innovations that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of clinical translation from identification to first-in-human studies through community health dissemination;
2. Promoting partnerships and collaborations that facilitate and accelerate translational research;
3. Creating, providing, and disseminating innovative research programs and partnerships across institutions and communities to address health disparities;
4. Creating and implementing scientific and operational innovations that increase the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of clinical research;
5. Providing a national resource for the rapid response to urgent public health needs; and
6. Creating, providing, and disseminating CTS training for clinical research professionals.

Successful applicants will demonstrate alignment with the NCATS mission, especially as it relates to the following concepts:

* ***Translation:*** The process of turning observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and communities – including diagnostics, preventions, treatments, medical procedures and behavioral changes.
* ***Clinical Translational Research (CTR):*** Traversing a step of the translational process for a particular target or disease.
* ***Clinical Translational Science (CTS):*** Investigation focused on understanding the scientific and operational principles at each step of the translational process, namely *research to investigate the translational research process itself*.

**Opportunity 1: (We plan to submit 2 - 4 projects)**

**Clinical and Translational Science Research Program (Section E)**

* $200 - $400k direct costs per year for 3 - 4 years

Successful applicants will have their projects **included as a required component of our parent CTSA grant application**.

Successful applications will be designed to address a truly significant roadblock in CTS.

**Research should not only address a CTR question** in a particular disease or intervention development-dissemination context, but also provide ***generalizable CTS innovations or insights*** that can be applied to other translational research projects in other diseases.

**Opportunities 2 and 3 (Two separate applications that accompany the CTSA application):**

**RC2 Funding Mechanism – High Impact Specialized Innovation Program (SIP)**

* Up to $500k direct costs per year for 5 years
* **to $500K direct costs per year for 5 years**

[SIPs](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [support](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [unique](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [activities,](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [resources,](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [capabilities](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [and/or expertise](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [at](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [awarded](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [CTSA](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [UM1](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [hubs](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [to](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [advance](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [one](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [or](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [more](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [of](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [the](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) NCATS CTSA Program goals [(](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action).](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [The](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [SIPs](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [support](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) novel approaches [in](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [areas](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [that](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [address](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [specific](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [knowledge](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [gaps,](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [scientific](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [opportunities,](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [new technologies/platforms,](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [data](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [generation,](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [or](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [novel](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [research](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [methods](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [that](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [will](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [advance CTR](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [and](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [CTS.](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action) [***Resources,***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***activities,***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***and***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***expertise***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***supported***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***through***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***the***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***RC2 mechanism***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***must***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***be***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***integrated***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***into***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***the***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***parent***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***Hub***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)[***activities.***](https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/action)

# Selection Process

**Proposals will involve external and internal review to assess (in addition to the usual NIH criteria (investigators, innovation, significance, approach, environment):**

* Potential for transformative impact on health
* Relevance to current NCATS vision for the CTSA program
* Likelihood of project completion within the 3-5 year budget period
* Clear pathways to implementation and dissemination of research findings
* Integration with UCSD CTSA goals and programs

# Timeline

1. Informational Webinar (Please click the link below to register) – June 13, 2023, 2:00 to 3:00 PM
2. Letter of intent submission due date – **June 27, 2023**
3. Letter of intent screening process and decisions – June 30 – July 5, 2023
4. Invitation to make a pitch with instructions – July 6, 2023
5. Pitch day – July 20, 2023
6. Selection of proposals – July 26, 2023

**Application Requirements**

Planning Application must include:

* Abstract (500 words)
	+ Include 3-5 key words pertaining to your project
* Specific Aims of the Proposed CTR and CTS
* Research Planning Description (3 pages max, plus references)
	+ Significance (must address the translational potential of the project)
	+ Innovation
	+ Planning and Team Building Approach (e.g., team building, preliminary data, production of summary or review manuscript, etc.)
	+ Alignment with ACTRI and NCATS vision and goals
	+ Evidence that the research team can complete the proposed study within 3 to 5 years and within the annual ~$300-500k budget.
* Biosketch for each P.I. and Co-Investigator (NIH format); optional for key personnel

**Submit applications to:** **ResearchComm@health.ucsd.edu**

***Final selections will be made by the ACTRI.***

# Questions

Dr. Sam Ward will serve as the liaison and researchcomm@health.ucsd.edu as the administrative contact for the application process. Please reach out if you have any additional questions regarding this effort. A webinar will be held for more information and to field questions on June 8, 2023

[**Click Here to Register for the Webinar**](https://ucsd-actri.jotform.com/form/231305945215148)

**NCATS Funding Opportunities**

* Additional information for opportunity #1 funding (Element E) [Clinical and Translational Science Award (UM1 Clinical Trial Optional)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-293.html)
* Additional information for opportunities #2 and #3 funding[Limited Competition: High Impact Specialized Innovation Programs in Clinical and Translational Science for UM1 CTSA Hub Awards (RC2 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-340.html)