The Vanderbilt Center for Diabetes Translation Research (CDTR) has funds available (up to $30,000 per year for two years) to support pilot studies in translational research in the area of diabetes or obesity. The aim of the Vanderbilt Center for Diabetes Translation Research is to improve prevention and treatment of diabetes and/or obesity by promoting research that supports implementation, dissemination, and sustained use of effective interventions or approaches that improve the health of individuals with diabetes or obesity. The center seeks to support type II translation research. The NIDDK defines type II translational research (e.g., bedside to practice & the community) as testing innovative adaptations of evidence based approaches to prevent & treat diabetes &/or obesity that can be disseminated & sustained in clinical health care practice & other settings outside of the traditional academic research setting.

For the purpose of this FOA, type II translation is defined as research focused on translating interventions/approaches that have clearly demonstrated efficacy into real world health care settings, communities, & populations at risk. Type II translational research is distinct from type I translational research. Type I translational research (bench to bedside) builds on basic science findings & focuses on early phase research to “translate” these findings into potential interventions or therapeutics that might ultimately be tested in clinical trials. While type I translational research is a critically important piece of the research continuum, it is not the focus of this announcement. Type II translational research supported by the CDTR might include effectiveness, dissemination, implementation, & research. The target of this type of research can be varied to include individuals, families, healthcare practitioners or systems, communities, &/or policy makers.

These funds are intended for:

1. New investigators with an interest in a career in diabetes or obesity research,
2. Investigators from other fields willing to bring their research expertise to diabetes- or obesity-relevant research,
3. Investigators currently in the diabetes area whose proposed research constitutes a new direction, or for clinical & translational researchers who propose a joint research project.

The CDTR continues a collaborative relationship with the Vanderbilt Diabetes Research & Training Center in the pursuit of translational research. This funding opportunity is, however, distinct from those of the Vanderbilt Diabetes Research and Training Center.

Submission Guidelines

The application should be submitted on the NIH form PHS 398, which can be obtained from the website: 

The pages we require are:

face page
abstract
key personnel
biographies
resources
research description (FIVE PAGE LIMIT)
literature cited pages
Letter(s) of collaboration
Letter from departmental chair if Research Track Faculty
The application must be assembled into a single PDF document that contains all grant materials including letters of collaboration. Research track faculty MUST include a letter from his/her departmental chair describing how this award will serve in developing an independent research program & external research funding; this letter should also be included in the PDF.

Submit the following by the deadline: February 4, 2019, 11:59 PM

1. The PDF should be submitted electronically to dc.brown@vumc.org. Also include the names, institutions & email addresses of TWO potential INTERNAL & TWO potential EXTERNAL reviewers. These individuals cannot be collaborators or members of your department.

2. Six hard copies (stapled) should be delivered to Ms. Deborah Brown in room 807 Light Hall. Note that it is NOT necessary for the application to go through the Office of Sponsored Programs (formerly Office of Grants & Contracts Management) prior to submission.

QUESTIONS: Persons considering submitting a proposal & not certain of eligibility or persons with questions about Pilot & Feasibility grants should contact Dr. Tom Elasy (615-936-7772 or tom.elasy@Vanderbilt.edu). For questions about the grant submission process, please contact Ms. Deborah Brown (615-322-7990 or dc.brown@vumc.org).

REVIEW CRITERIA: Proposed P&F studies should present a testable hypothesis & clearly delineate the question being asked, detail procedures to be followed, & discuss how the data will be analyzed & lead to future studies. Grants receive both internal & external review. Emphasis is placed on how the research might lead to new research ideas or research funding. For junior investigators, additional considerations include how this award will impact your career & the potential of the applicant to compete for independent research funding in the future. Research track faculty MUST include a letter from his/her departmental chair describing how this award will serve in developing an independent research program & external research funding.

Funded investigators must prepare a yearly progress report & may be required to participate in the DRTC Seminar Series and Diabetes Day Program.

Please click the below for prior award winner project summaries:

2017 Center for Diabetes Translation Research Pilot & Feasibility Recipients »
2015 Center for Diabetes Translation Research Pilot & Feasibility Recipient »
2014 Center for Diabetes Translation Research Pilot & Feasibility Recipients »
2013 Center for Diabetes Translation Research Pilot & Feasibility Recipients »
2012 Center for Diabetes Translation Research Pilot & Feasibility Recipients »

The Center for Diabetes Translation Research is supported by NIH grant DK092986.
Please acknowledge this in your publications.