Overview
The Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) announces the availability of rapid response pilot grant funding for research projects addressing issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CCTS/CTSA will provide up to $30,000 for one year.

Due Date: The due date is electronic delivery ONLY no later than 12 Noon CST, Friday, May 1, 2020.

Application Instructions

I. ABSTRACT: No more than 250 words summarizing objective and methods

II. RESEARCH PLAN: The research plan should be divided into:
   a) Hypothesis and Specific Aims - Indicate the hypothesis that forms the basis for the research and the specific aims that applicant intends to accomplish with this Award. Specific Aims and the value of the interdisciplinary approach(s) used needs to be clearly framed.
   b) Significance and statement of urgency and implication of results - Discuss the scientific knowledge that led to the stated hypothesis and specific aims, why this project is novel, the importance and urgency of the proposed research and its potential relevance, if successful.
   c) Research Strategy - Briefly describe the procedures and methodology that will be used to accomplish the specific aims, and discuss how potential pitfalls might be avoided. Include the Biostatistical plan in this section.
   d) Time Frame - Provide an estimated time for accomplishing key goals.

* ABSTRACT AND RESEARCH PLAN (SECTION I and II a-d) CANNOT EXCEED 4 PAGES TOTAL COMBINED*

III. LITERATURE CITED: Provide a short list (not more than 30) of applicable literature citations. Literature citations will not be in the 4-page limit for the application.

IV. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: NIH format for all PI and key personnel (not to exceed 5 page NIH format limit).

V. BUDGET & BUDGET JUSTIFICATION: All guidelines pertaining to allowable expenses on federal grants will be applicable for these awards. A thorough justification is needed for all expenses. In addition, please note:
   • No funding is allowed for Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator Salary.
   • No funding will be provided for books and subscriptions, membership fees, graduate student tuition remission.

VI. ANIMAL CARE REQUIREMENTS (IF APPLICABLE): For projects involving animals, investigators should plan to have IACUC approval by the funding start date June 1, 2020. Proof of IACUC approval or evidence of pending review should be included in the application. If animal care requirements are not applicable, please clearly indicate this.

VII. PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS (IF APPLICABLE):
   a) For projects involving human subjects, proof of IRB approval or exemption should be included in the application.
b) Alternatively, the investigator may provide evidence of IRB submission/pending review or a timeline of their submission plan. Investigators who are still in the planning stage of their protocol are encouraged to submit a Development/Center/Training Grant Application.

c) If human subject requirements are not applicable to this project, please clearly indicate this.

VIII. APPENDICES: The only appendices allowed are any required letters of support (e.g. from clinical sites or community collaborators). A letter of support from the Principal Investigator’s Department head endorsing the importance of the project, need for funding and availability of protected time for the PI is required.

APPLICATION FORMAT:
Applications should adhere to the following formatting specifications:
• Maximum is 4 pages for sections I and II (combined)
• 11-point Arial font
• Single-spaced
• 0.5 inch margins on all sides
• 8 ½” x 11” (i.e. standard size) paper
• Number all pages

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:
• Applications will ONLY be accepted via electronic submission at the following URL: https://is.gd/CCTS_RapidResponse.
• All application materials should be compiled into a single PDF file.
• Applicants may attach up to (3) JPG or PDF figures to allow for additional content space in Section II: Research Plan.
• You will receive a confirmation email upon submission. If you have any questions or need to delete an incorrect or incomplete submission, please contact Charlotte Jackson at ccjacks2@uic.edu.

REVIEW PROCESS:
We invite applicants to submit the names of up to three potential reviewers (who are not in the same division/department as the applicant). The review committee will score the proposals and forward their recommendations to the CCTS Steering Committee. The CCTS Steering Committee will serve as the council making final funding recommendations.

We aim to announce award decisions by May 20, 2020.

SCORING FOR FULL APPLICATIONS:
Scoring will occur based on the 9-point NIH scale and will evaluate the following factors: Urgency and Significance, Feasibility, and Qualifications of Research Team.

FUNDING & COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:
Funded projects are required to submit brief semi-annual progress reports as well as a final report. Investigators must acknowledge CCTS funding in all publications and presentations. Investigators will also be invited to participate in further activities with the CCTS as appropriate (e.g., seminar presentations, training course lectures, and review of future applications). No pilot funds will be released without complete IRB and/or IACUC approval or exemption from UIC's Internal Review Board as well as the NIH, NCATS Scientific Review Committee.