



## Request for Applications

# Global Health Research Pilot Projects

**A Joint Initiative Sponsored by  
Indiana CTSI and IU Center for Global Health**

**Round 3 – 2017-18**

**ELECTRONIC RECEIPT DATE**

**December 8, 2017**

*Please note that you will be submitting through the Indiana CTSI's new grants management software WebCAMP.  
Please allow enough time to be familiar with a new system.*

*The WebCAMP user's guide is also available under the funding announcement here:  
<https://www.indianactsi.org/funding/all-open-rfps/>*

# INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

## I. Purpose

The Indiana CTSI with the IU Center for Global Health is soliciting proposals from applicants developing or currently involved in collaborative global health research projects. The purpose of this RFA is to foster and encourage the development of new collaborative interdisciplinary research that seeks to identify innovations to address key global health challenges and improve health outcomes in resource limited settings. This RFA will fund pilot research projects with: (1) a high potential for attracting new extramural research funding; (2) a focus on strengthening collaborative multidisciplinary research collaborations between Indiana CTSI partner institutions (IU, Purdue, and Notre Dame) and key academic research centers abroad; and (3) an emphasis in key, high-yield, research-related initiatives, including basic and translational sciences research, biobanking, cancer, population focused disease control, informatics and decision support systems, and implementation research dissemination.

## II. Types of Projects

Projects funded by this RFA will seek to develop new research to address critical global health challenges in resource-limited countries and regions. Research should focus on the development of innovations that will: (1) improve population health outcomes, particularly among women, children, and other vulnerable populations; (2) strengthen sustainable health care delivery systems; (3) address major disease burdens in low- to middle-income countries. Projects must include at least one academic partner outside of the United States. Strong preference will be given to proposals that seek to strengthen and expand existing strategic partnerships with institutions in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda though high potential collaborations with new partners in other regions will also be considered. Proposals should include plans for sustaining and expanding international research collaborations after the end of support from this RFA, describing how collaborative partnerships and mutual benefit will be developed and sustained. Additional preference will be given to projects that are likely to produce: (1) written products and publications (e.g., journal manuscripts, conference abstracts and presentations, evaluation reports, etc.); (2) fundable applications for extramural funding; (3) a beneficial long-term impact on an important global health issue; and/or (4) result in the creation of intellectual property (IP).

## III. Eligibility

This funding opportunity is open to investigators at Indiana CTSI partner institutions (IU, Purdue, and Notre Dame) and investigators at international institutions with existing cooperative relationships with an Indiana CTSI partner. Eligible proposals must be collaborative and include at least one co-principal investigator from an Indiana CTSI partner institution. Principal investigators/project directors must have the requisite skills, knowledge, time, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. This opportunity is open to individuals with full-time faculty appointments, graduate level trainees, and post-graduate fellows. Individuals who have received salary support from the Indiana CTSI in the 12 months prior to the submission deadline or served as the principal investigator/project director for another Indiana CTSI global health pilot award under this funding mechanism may not serve as the principal investigator/project director and cannot derive salary support.

#### IV. Funding Amounts

Up to **\$20,000** total in pilot funding per project and will fund as many as **4 pilot projects**. Projects will be funded for a period of up to two years.

#### V. Application Requirements

Eligible candidates should complete, sign and upload the application using the **Start a Submission** link found here: [CTSI Global Health](#). Each application should include the following items:

##### 1. Face Page

##### 2. Project Summary/Abstract

Provide a brief summary (300-400 words) describing the project focus, its significance, expected outcomes, international partner, and proposed plans for the expansion of future research if pilot funding is awarded.

##### 3. Project Description (No more than 6 pages, single-spaced, Arial 11-point font, and 1/2 inch margins)

###### ***a. Focus and significance of project***

Describe in detail the global health challenge the proposed research will address and explain the potential significance of the proposed research.

###### ***b. Specific aims***

Summarize the specific aims and objectives of the proposed research project.

###### ***c. Project design and methods***

Describe the project design and methods that will be used to achieve the stated project aims and objectives.

###### ***d. Collaborative partners***

Provide a detailed description of all collaborating partners including details on the unique qualifications, resources, and abilities of each partner that will enable successful conduct of the proposed project. Describe how this work will support ongoing, collaborative international partnership.

###### ***e. Innovation***

Describe how the proposed research will challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

###### ***f. Dissemination plan***

Description of how research outcomes will be disseminated.

###### ***g. Proposed plans for expanding research collaboration***

Describe planned next steps for expanding the proposed research project/collaboration

after the expiration of this award. Include plans for pursuing extramural funding, producing written products and publications, and/or intellectual property that will be pursued.

**4. Proposed project timeline and milestones**

Describe the timeline for all major components of the project including descriptions of key milestones.

**5. References/Works Cited**

**6. Detailed Budget & Budget Justification**

All applications require a concise, convincing, and realistic explanation of the proposed budget, which includes all planned expenditures. Submitted budgets that request the maximum without adequate explanation for that level of support, if awarded, will be reduced to a justifiable funding level based on the proposed project. If there are other resources committed to the project, please indicate these funds in the total budget. Total project costs may exceed \$20,000 when other funding entities have committed to the project.

No indirect costs or finance and administration costs are allowed. Funds cannot be used to purchase equipment or for meeting-related / hospitality expenditures (no exceptions); travel expenses are limited to those that are demonstrated to be necessary to achieve the aims of the proposed project.

Proposed project periods cannot exceed 24 months from the project start date. The required start date is May 1, 2018 (see Section IX for details). Up to one 12 month no-cost extension may be granted with proper documentation and notification provided to the CTSI Finance Office.

**7. NIH-formatted biosketch of principal investigator and co-principal investigators (Limit 5 pages per biosketch)**

**8. Letters of Support (Maximum of 3)**

**9. IRB Approval (if available).** Note that local IRB approval for all involved institutions will need to be obtained for funds to be dispersed.

**VI. Review Criteria**

All eligible proposals received by the application deadline will be reviewed by a committee that includes representative global health research leaders from the Global Health Research Program of the IU Center for Global Health. After review and approval, proposal revisions may be requested prior to implementation.

Proposals are scored using the NIH scoring system defined below:

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses</b>
High	1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
	2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses

	3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
Medium	4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
Low	7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
	8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
	9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses
<p><b>Minor Weakness:</b> An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact  <b>Moderate Weakness:</b> A weakness that lessens impact  <b>Major Weakness:</b> A weakness that severely limits impact</p>			

Scored criteria include the following:

1. **Overall Impact:** how well will the project establish a sustained research program with a high likelihood of producing a sustained research program or significant new intellectual property, strengthening international collaboration, expanding research opportunities, and attracting future funding? **[1-9 points]**
2. **Significance:** how well does the project address a significant global health challenge and its potential impact on related policies, health systems, environment, and/or field of research? **[1-9 points]**
3. **Investigators:** How well suited to the project are the PIs and international collaborators; how feasible is the proposed international collaboration; and will the collaboration produce high quality results? **[1-9 points]**
4. **Innovation:** How well does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? **[0-9 points]**
5. **Approach:** Are the proposed study design and methods sound? Does the study use evidence based or best practices? **[0-9 points]**
6. **Environment:** How well will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? **[0-9 points]**
7. **Future Expansion:** Will this proposal lead to the expansion of research and future funding? **[0-9 points]**

In addition to the above scored criteria, reviewers will evaluate the proposal's focus on strengthening collaborative multidisciplinary research collaborations between Indiana CTSI partner institutions (IU, Purdue, and Notre Dame) and key academic research centers abroad, with particular emphasis given to building up existing international partnerships and emphasis on key, high-yield, research-related initiatives, including basic and translational sciences research, biobanking, cancer, population focused disease control, informatics and decision support systems, and implementation research dissemination. All successful proposals must include a budget and budget justification.

## VII. Funding Decisions

The review committee will submit final rankings and scores to the Indiana CTSI Global Health Research Platform Chair for review. The Chair will make final funding recommendations to the Indiana CTSI Executive Committee. All applicants will be notified of the funding decisions and given specific feedback on their proposals soon after those decisions have been made. A brief description of the funded proposals will be posted on the CTSI and IU Center for Global Health web pages after all applicants have been notified of award decisions.

## VIII. Post-Award Requirements

Projects selected for funding will be expected to comply with the following requirements:

- **Responsible Conduct of Research** – Documentation that all personnel in the project have completed a course in the responsible conduct of research such as CITI or an equivalent training.
- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure** – All personnel must have an up-to-date conflict of interest disclosure form on file with Indiana University. Non-IU affiliated personnel should submit a non-IU affiliate conflict of interest disclosure form available online: [http://researchcompliance.iu.edu/coi/coi\\_disclosure.html](http://researchcompliance.iu.edu/coi/coi_disclosure.html).
- **Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval** – The project must provide documentation that all required IRB applications have been submitted no later than 30 days from the day a Notice of Award is received. Documentation of IRB approval must be provided before award funds will be released.

Once all regulatory documentation is on file, the CTSI Finance Office will facilitate the release of funds to the academic partner. Recipients will have 24 months from the grant start date to complete proposed project activities.

Funded recipients will be required to:

- Acknowledge: Acknowledge the Indiana CTSI support in all presentations, publications, and reports. Details can be found here: <https://www.indianactsi.org/cite-indiana-ctsi/>
- Report Progress:
  - Submit progress reports every 6 months during the life of the award including a complete description of the work accomplished and related budget expenditures.
  - Submit a final project report 60 days after the end of the project period including:
    - A summary of the project and primary findings for dissemination to the public (1 page).
    - A final project summary report which will include project results; lessons learned; any publications and extramural funding applications applied for and/or received; and plans for sustainability, dissemination, and other next steps (up to 5 pages).
  - Submit an annual progress report for two subsequent years that will include:
    - A status report on the project
    - A status report of the on-going regulatory approvals (IRB)
    - Data on publications, extramural funding, or IP that resulted from the project

- Submit:
  - Submit at least 1 grant application and 2 publications – generally reported on the annual progress reports
- Present:
  - Attend a required “face-to-face” meeting with the Chair of the Indiana CTSI Global Health Platform. Subsequent meetings will be either face to face or via teleconference.
  - Present their project results to the Indiana CTSI Global Health Platform leadership committee
  - Present their project at a Indiana CTSI or IU Center for Global Health-sponsored event, if requested
- Notify the CTSI in writing if:
  - The science begins to take a different turn, or if the PI leaves the university prior to the closure of this project
  - The expenses in a particular area of the project become 25%+ more or less than originally budgeted (as per NIH guidelines)

If necessary and deemed appropriate, a no-cost extension (NCE) may be granted to pilot grant awardees. Note that only ***one*** (NCE) may be granted to each awardee according to current CTSI procedure. Awardees are encouraged to carefully calculate the estimated time needed to complete the project and to request the maximum amount of time that they believe will be required.

**IX. RFA Timeline**

RFA Release Date	September 1, 2017
Proposal Deadline	December 8, 2017 (5:00 PM EST)
Notification of Award Decisions	March 2, 2018
Initial Grantee Meeting	March 16, 2018
Deadline for IRB Approval	April 30, 2018
Grant Start Date	May 1, 2018
First Progress Report Due	November 1, 2018
Second Progress Report Due	May 1, 2019
Third Progress Report Due	November 1, 2019
Initial Project Period Ends	May 1, 2020
Final Report Due (unless NCE is approved)	July 31, 2020

**X. Contact Information**

Questions regarding this competition should be sent to David Plater, [dplater@iu.edu](mailto:dplater@iu.edu), Assistant Director of Research, IU Center for Global Health.

Questions on use of the WebCAMP, the Indiana CTSI’s grant management software can be directed to Julie Driscoll, [judrisco@iu.edu](mailto:judrisco@iu.edu) / 317.278.2822