

## Call for Letters of Interest

### Due Friday, September 6, 2024

The Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research is seeking ideas for innovative clinical and translational science projects for potential inclusion in our upcoming NIH/NCATS Clinical and Translational Science Award grant application. These projects must focus on strategies and innovations to overcome important barriers in clinical and translational research processes that are generalizable across different diseases and/or types of research studies. This is an exciting opportunity for new and existing partners to collaborate with the Irving Institute and be part of Columbia's next CTSA Program hub.

#### BACKGROUND

[The Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research \(Irving Institute\)](#), home to Columbia University's [Clinical and Translational Science Award \(CTSA\)](#) Program hub funded by the [National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences](#) (NCATS), is one of over 60 medical research institutions across the nation that work together to speed the translation of research discovery into improved patient care.

The Irving Institute is preparing for its next CTSA grant application due in May 2025. The CTSA [NOFO](#)'s main **UM1 award** includes five Elements: A. Overview, B. Strategic Management, C. Training and Outreach, D. Clinical and Translational Science Resources and Pilots, and E. Clinical and Translational Science Research Program. We seek to engage our investigator community for potential partnership on **Element E**, an important discrete program area of the application that will have multiple clinical and [translational science](#) projects over the 7-year UM1 grant period.

**We are inviting Columbia University faculty to submit Letters of Interest (LOIs) describing projects that may be included in and funded via the CTSA UM1 Element E mechanism.** The selection process will be multi-stage, starting with the submission of a brief LOI. Selected LOIs will be invited for further discussions with CTSA leadership for potential project development and inclusion in the Irving Institute's May 2025 CTSA UM1 application. In the final stage, CTSA leadership will identify projects for inclusion and work with teams over several months, providing support for project development and data collection, as needed. Teams will write project plans (3-6 pages) to be included as a required component of our parent UM1 CTSA grant application.

#### PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

##### *Element E: Clinical and Translational Science Research Program*

The Clinical and Translational Science Research Program will support discrete research project(s) in clinical and translational science (CTS). These projects should:

- Address a truly significant opportunity for innovation or roadblock in clinical and translational research (CTS) (that is a priority to local stakeholders).
- Address a translational research question in a particular disease, intervention development and/or dissemination/implementation context, **AND**
- Provide generalizable innovations, principles or insights that can be applied to other translational research project contexts or diseases and increase the overall efficiency or effectiveness of research translation.
- Budget up to \$250,000 in direct costs per year for a period of 2-4 years.

**We welcome projects across the translational spectrum from basic science to clinical implementation to public health delivery and scale-up.**

Examples of project areas include, but are not limited to:

- Generalizable approaches to increasing diverse representation in the clinical workforce or in clinical research study participants
- Generalizable approaches to human-centered AI
- New approaches and acceleration of commercialization
- Clinical trial innovations
- New applications for cell therapy
- Public health emergencies or responsiveness
- Data interoperability
- Life course approach to health and aging research
- Implementation and integration of social determinants of health (SDOH) screening and service delivery to promote health equity

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

- Project leaders (Applicants/Principal Investigators) must have a faculty appointment at Columbia University of assistant professor or higher.
- Applicants may submit multiple LOIs.
- LOIs from individual PIs or partially formed teams are eligible. The Irving Institute can work with selected project leaders to identify collaborators, as needed.
- We welcome interdisciplinary teams from across the university.
- We encourage applications from project leaders and/or teams from [underrepresented groups](#).
- Special consideration will be given to projects that include research plans reflecting alignment with the [Irving Institute commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#).

#### **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Stage 1 – LOI Submission: The application process is multi-stage, starting with the submission of a brief LOI. Applicants should submit LOIs via Survey Monkey Apply, as described below.

Stage 2 – Invited Exploratory Discussions: Selected projects will be invited for further discussion with Irving Institute/CTSA leadership on potential project development and inclusion in the Irving Institute's new CTSA application.

Stage 3 – Collaboration and Grant Writing: After these discussions, we will identify the partners and projects that will be included in the grant application. We will work with teams over several months and provide support for project development and data collection, as needed. Successful applicants will write project plans (3-6 pages) to be included as a required component of our parent UM1 CTSA grant application.

Grant writing and planning with the CTSA will take place from fall 2024 through winter 2025. The new CTSA grant would start in June 2026, at the earliest.

#### **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

1. All applications must be submitted through the web-based [Survey Monkey Apply](#) portal. (<https://irvinginstitute.smapply.io>) Log in with your Columbia UNI. Under Programs, navigate to 'Element E LOI' and create an application.

2. Fill out the web-based application form:
  - A. Project Team – List any identified team members with their roles, academic titles, and contact information.
  - B. Project Title
  - C. Budget Total (up to \$250,000 in direct costs per year for 2-4 years)
  - D. Project Duration
  - E. Upload your LOI (1 page PDF). *Provide at least one-half inch margins (½"); 11- or 12-point font required; Arial typeface preferred.*
    1. Aims and Approach – List your specific aims and describe your approach.
    2. Rationale and Innovation
      - i. Opportunity: What opportunity for innovation or for overcoming key roadblocks/barriers in Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) will this project address?
      - ii. Methods: What methods, frameworks, or approaches will you use to catalyze innovations in the research process and/or address opportunities or roadblocks in CTS?
      - iii. Generalizability: How will this project provide generalizable innovations or insights that increase the overall efficiency, effectiveness, or broader impact of translation in other contexts, settings, or disease domains?
3. Submit the LOI application by selecting the “Submit Your Application” button in the web-based [SM Apply](#) portal.  
**All applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM ET on Friday, September 6, 2024.**

**LOI DEADLINE:** Friday, September 6, 2024.

**APPLICANT NOTIFICATION and INVITED DISCUSSIONS:** September and October 2024

#### **REVIEW PROCESS**

An internal committee will review the Letters of Interest for the strength of the CTS approach and alignment with CTSA program and Irving Institute goals and priorities. Investigators will be notified if their proposal is under consideration, and they will be invited for further discussions with CTSA leadership for potential project development and inclusion in the Irving Institute’s renewal application.

#### **PROGRAM CONTACT**

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