



CTSA One Health Alliance (COHA) 2020 Pilot Grant Program

Section I. Introduction

Successful COHA pilot projects will:

- Include cross-CTSA collaboration among no fewer than 3 COHA institutions (please see page 5 for list of current COHA members); collaborations should build upon existing strengths and resources while addressing gaps and obstacles that challenge veterinary/medical partnerships in the CTSA network.
- Prioritize areas of emphasis as embodied in the COHA subcommittees. See Section V: Appendix for statement of the COHA mission and description of COHA subcommittees.
 - Clinical studies
 - Tissue and DNA banking
 - Clinician-scientist training
 - Communication and collaboration

Proposals may address a wide variety of activities including collection of data for joint proposal or publication preparation, convening thematic working groups with translational relevance, catalyzing partnerships across institutions and professions and addressing the need for innovative communication.

- Enhance translational science to the benefit of human and animal patients.

COHA pilot grants will enable innovative collaborations to overcome system-wide barriers to translational effectiveness as highlighted in the June 2015 Institute of Medicine program report

(<http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2013/The-CTSA-Program-at-NIH-Opportunities-for-Advancing-Clinical-and-Translational-Research.aspx>).

Section II. Award Information

One COHA veterinary school per proposal must be designated as the lead for purposes of grant management. Principal/co-principal investigator must hold a faculty position at a COHA member institution. Additional eligible academic partners must be affiliated with COHA member institutions or be justified as invited industry, government or foundation partners. Proposals addressing COHA subcommittee priorities and with subcommittee support are preferred. All NIH guidelines regarding use of animals, human subjects or biohazards must be met. Cost sharing is desirable but not required.

Section III. Application and Submission Information

Applications will include:

- **Statement of Intent** that will provide descriptive title of proposed activity, names, addresses and email contact of principal investigator and other key investigators. The statement of intent should be submitted to Lori Muhr (lori.muhr@tufts.edu) no later than **May 1, 2020. Postponed to June 1 due to COVID-19.**
- **Proposal**
The **Research Plan (maximum length 3 pages)** will include the following sections:
 - **Abstract:** Summary of key features of the proposal including concise listing of partners, aims and rationale, methodology, metrics/outcomes assessment and impact. Maximum length 400 words.
 - **Specific Aims:** Briefly state the specific aims of the project, indicating how the project will contribute to advancing translational science and build on COHA subcommittee initiatives.
 - **Research Strategy:**
 - **Statement of problem** and its significance to translational science.

- **Rationale for the proposed activity.** If successful, how would the proposed activity address the problem or transform/enhance some aspect of translational science or strengthen the role of veterinary/medical translational partnerships.
- **Methodology used to accomplish specific aims.** The description should include each institution's role and responsibilities. Each partner must consent to inclusion in the proposal.
- **Anticipated obstacles/solutions**
- **Outcomes assessment.** Description including indication of whether the proposed research is an extension of an active area of research or a new project for the investigators.
- **Budget:** Maximum award: \$15,000; budget to include expenses and brief justification (e.g., personnel, supplies, equipment/facilities, travel and other). Institutional cost-sharing is encouraged but is not mandatory. No indirect cost return is allowed as funding for this program comes directly from grantee institutions. No cost extensions may be requested by the PI no later than one month from the termination of grant. Requests may be sent to Lori Muhr (lori.muhr@tufts.edu) and must include justification, balance to be carried forward, and anticipated completion date for proposed activities.
- **Personnel:** Include NIH style CV for PI/Co-PIs.
- **Communication and Final Report:** Results must be communicated to COHA and CTSA partners, including submission of a final report (max 2 pages) within 3 months of completion of the project.

Submission Information:

- Submissions will be electronic and according to the following timeline. All materials should be submitted to Lori Muhr (lori.muhr@tufts.edu).

Statement of Intent:	May 1, 2020 , extended to June 1, 2020
SOI Approval Notification:	May 15, 2020 extended to June 15, 2020
Proposal Submission:	July 1, 2020
Notification of Awardees:	September 16, 2020

Section IV: Review of Applications

Priority Considerations:

Proposals must address one or more of the following priorities:

- Promotion of collaboration and communication across member institutions and health disciplines.
- Acceleration of data collection to support joint proposal preparation or publication.
- Creativity in identifying mechanisms and formulating plans to sustain cross-institutional partnerships.
- Impact of proposed activity on translational science relevant to animals and humans.
- Build on COHA subcommittee initiatives or strengths

Upon receipt of statement of intent, number and expertise of reviewers needed will be determined. The COHA Pilot Grant Working Group will assess and score applications. Proposals will be assigned an overall score based on priority considerations. A ranked list of proposals will be provided to the deans of COHA schools for review and final approval.

As per terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), funds will be accounted and dispersed through the AAVMC.

Section V: Appendix

COHA website: <https://ctsaonehealthalliance.org/>

COHA Mission

One Health is the integrative effort of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals and the shared environment. (Modified from AVMA: <https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/One-Health94.aspx>)

The Clinical and Translational Science Award One Health Alliance (COHA) is comprised of veterinary schools partnered with medical and other colleagues through a National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). COHA's mission is to advance our understanding of diseases shared by humans and animals. The alliance will leverage the expertise of physicians, research scientists, veterinarians, and other professionals to find solutions for medical problems and to address the well-being of humans, animals and the environment.

COHA subcommittees are focused in priority areas as described below.

Clinical Studies

The initial charge of this subcommittee is to characterize the breadth of veterinary clinical trials resources and expertise across member institutions and to establish recommendations for uniform operating procedures to facilitate multi-institutional trials. Specific actions to be taken by this subcommittee include:

- Catalog the existing resources, personnel and organizational structure of clinical trials units at each of the member institutions.
- Develop recommendations intended to increase uniformity of policies and procedures (e.g. multi-institutional master agreements, recruitment, data collection, reporting) between institutions where appropriate.
- Explore the use of a common data management platform (e.g. Redcap or equivalent) and shared data storage resources.
- Establish a veterinary clinical trials users group. The initial membership would include unit directors, administrators and clinical trials coordinators of member institutions with broader membership anticipated in future.

Tissue and DNA Banking

The initial goal of this subcommittee is to develop a plan that outlines infrastructure, data management systems, and personnel needs required to establish a national veterinary/animal bio-specimen repository and/or repository registry. This resource is envisioned to provide archival access to well-characterized and broadly phenotyped biological samples from veterinary patients. Specific parameters to be determined by this subcommittee include:

- Organization as a multicenter repository registry, with a large number of contributing sites vs a more centralized model
- Scope of the envisioned project including numbers of samples that would be collected on an annual basis; contributor profile; and projected future needs
- Facilities, personnel, and equipment that is required to start, build, and maintain samples
- Bioinformatics for archiving all specimen data
- Nature of samples to be included in the collection (e.g., species, types of tissues/fluids, and recorded attributes)
- Budgets for each component

In addition, the committee will develop policies for:

- Potential vendor participation in both plan development and implementation

- Access and distribution
- Logistical issues, including ownership & permissions, implementation of technological advancements, IT and overall handling of bio-repository samples.

Clinician-Scientist Education

The goal of this subcommittee is to implement a plan to expand opportunities for clinical and translational research training to veterinary students and veterinarians. Possible approaches include:

- Providing clinical research training workshops to veterinary students (possibly associated with the existing annual Veterinary Scholars Symposium or by annual videoconference).
- Expanding the scope of the existing Clinician Scientist Training Workshop for house officers.
- Providing clinical research training workshops for new veterinary faculty.
- Generating a shared library of web-based clinical research training modules.

Communication and Collaboration

The goal of this committee is to develop priorities and an implementation plan to increase awareness of the capabilities of COHA and other veterinary schools to support collaborative, translational research. To foster research collaborations and encourage trans-disciplinary grant seeking, COHA seeks to build a suite of programs including,

- An innovation video series featuring stories from COHA institutions and collaborators
- One Health tracks at national medical meetings.
- One Health regional research symposia.

This subcommittee will seek initiatives that enhance inter-professional collaborations among academic institutions and industry, educate patients and clients, and enhance clinical trials recruitment.

COHA Institutions:

CTSA Consortium Members	COHA Institutions	COHA Executive Committee
University of Alabama Center for Clinical and Translational Science	Auburn University	Calvin Johnson
Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute	Colorado State University	Mark Stetter
CTSA at Weill Cornell Medical College	Cornell University Ithaca	Lorin Warnick
Frontiers: University of Kansas Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of Kansas Medical Center	Kansas State University	Bonnie Rush
University of North Carolina Translational and Clinical Science Institute	North Carolina State University	Paul Lunn
The Ohio State University Center for Clinical and Translational Science	The Ohio State University	Rustin Moore
Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute	Purdue University	Willy Reed
Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute	Tufts University	Alastair Cribb
UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center	University of California Davis	Michael Lairmore
University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute	University of Florida	Dana Zimmel (Interim)
Georgia CTSA	University of Georgia	Lisa Nolan
University of Minnesota Clinical and Translational Science Institute	University of Minnesota	Laura Molgaard (Interim)
Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences, Washington University School of Medicine	University of Missouri	Carolyn Henry
University of Pennsylvania Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutic	University of Pennsylvania	Andy Hoffman
University of Wisconsin Madison Institute for Clinical and Translational Research	University of Wisconsin Madison	Mark Markel