



Accelerating Excellence in Translational Science (AXIS) Voucher Program Request for Applications (RFA)

Key Dates

Release Date:	08/09/2018
Application Due Date:	08/20/2018
Anticipated Award Date:	09/03/2018

Overview

One of **Accelerating eXcellence In translational Science (AXIS)** program's overarching goals is to provide the infrastructure to translate scientific discoveries into advances that improve health disparities among underserved communities in Los Angeles and the nation.

In order to augment the quality and quantity of research conducted at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU), the AXIS program is inviting investigators to apply for Vouchers for Core services that encompasses research using animal models utilizing CDU's Vivarium services.

Purpose

The purpose of Core Vouchers is to help supplement the cost of Core services available at CDU, UCLA, LA BioMed, Cedars, USC, RAND, and other sites. The Core Voucher services would be inclusive of basic, clinical, community, technological, animal and statistical research in the areas of Cancer, Cardiometabolic, HIV/AIDS, and Health Services Research. In this RFA, we would like to welcome users that would utilize CDU's Vivarium services.

The AXIS voucher program allows for CDU investigators, including post-doctoral fellows, to apply and improve their research opportunities and ultimately career growth and development. Lastly, the Voucher system serves as a medium whereby CDU researchers can benefit from Cores which are not available at the CDU campus.

Cross-disciplinary projects that address new approaches to health disparities will be given high priority. Partnerships with CDU's Community Faculty and local community groups and organizations are encouraged. For additional information about CDU's Community Faculty please see: <https://axis.cdrewu.edu/functions/communityengagement/faculty>.

If the principal applicant is a junior-level investigator at the Assistant Professor rank, s/he must designate a mid-level or senior-level mentor/collaborator, with a brief but clearly described mentoring plan. Additionally, each application must demonstrate utilization of AXIS resources whenever applicable. The overall purpose of AXIS is to better position CDU for conducting clinical and translational research, especially research that is focused on health disparities.

Available AXIS Core Resources include:

1. Professional Development / Pilot Project Core
2. Biomedical Informatics Core
3. Clinical and Translational Research Resource Core
4. Community Engagement Core
5. Epidemiology and Biostatistics Core
6. Laboratory and Technology Core

Available Vivarium resources include: Access to animal models of interest and maintenance of animal housing (cages) and facility (cleaning, sanitization of equipment) per policy and regulatory requirements.

For detailed information and a description of the AXIS Cores and Resources please contact the AXIS Administration (323-563-4853) or visit the AXIS website at <http://axis.cdrewu.edu/>

Maximum Budget and Project Award Period

AXIS aims to fund investigators with vouchers requesting up to **\$10,000 direct costs**, and the award **must be used by April 30, 2019** (end of AXIS Year 10 fiscal year).

A. Eligibility Criteria will include:

1. Applicants must have a hypothesis driven research project with a health disparities focus encompassing any basic, clinical, community, translational, or biotechnological area in Cancer, Cardio-metabolic, HIV/AIDS, Health Services Research, or other priority area that utilizes Vivarium services.
2. Applicants must be post-doctoral fellows, faculty, or instructors at CDU. Priority will be given to early stage investigators and previous/current AXIS Pilot recipients who request additional funding to better complete AXIS funded pilot studies.
3. Applicants could not have received a CTSI Voucher during the same time period or for the same project.
4. Applicants must pursue a project that could immediately benefit from more than 65 Cores currently available through partnerships between CDU and UCLA, LA BioMed, Cedars-Sinai, or other sites.
5. Applicants requesting support for ongoing Animal or Human Subject research must submit an approval document at the time of application submission. Applicants without documentation at the time of submission will not be considered.

B. Voucher Core Application will include:

1. Brief research project description demonstrating need for specific Cores(s) (2000-3000 characters).
2. Budget and justification for the requested Core(s) services (500-600 characters).
3. Current NIH Bio Sketch.

C. Application Format Specifications

All applications should follow an abbreviated NIH application, using PHS398 form.

All documents should be single sided, single-spaced, 11-pt Arial. Applications should include the following:

1. Cover page (one page maximum) describing: a) collaborative and translational aspects of the project, b) how the project will lead to proposal submission for future funding, c) a description of collaborations with RTRN-CDU-UCLA Cancer Center.
2. Specific Aims are limited to one (1) page.
3. Research Strategy is limited to six (6) pages. All tables, graphs, figures, diagrams, charts, and other displays must be included within the six-page limit. *The application must also include a communications plan and a timeline for seeing subsequent funding.*
4. NIH Bio Sketch and Other Support information of the principal investigators and all key personnel.
5. Itemized budget with justification.
6. **If applicable**, full description of Protection of Human Subjects and Research Risk; Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children in Research, Care and Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research; and Biohazards and Select Agencies. For applications involving the use of human subjects, a Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table Format Page must be included.

D. Review Process and Selection Criteria

1. A peer-review process will follow abbreviated review NIH criteria for Significance, Impact, Innovation, etc. The relevance of the project to health disparities and the feasibility will be heavily factored in the scoring process.
2. The AXIS Administrative Core will collect the scores and summarize.
3. Voucher recipients will be notified and receive information on how to utilize the Vouchers.
4. The AXIS Administrative Core will follow-up with all Voucher recipients to ensure that AXIS and NIMHD Grant support is cited in all presentations, publications, and subsequent grants.
5. AXIS will perform follow-up on the productivity of the projects/investigators after receiving Vouchers for evaluation purposes on how well the system is contributing to the success of the CDU investigator.

E. Priorities

Priority will be given to Voucher submissions in translational research in basic mechanisms, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease that disproportionately affect minority and underserved communities. As per program requirement, special emphasis will be given to Voucher proposals in the areas of Cancer, HIV/AIDS, and cardio-metabolic diseases utilizing Vivarium services.

Priority will also be given to new postdoctoral fellows and early stage investigators (ESI) who did not receive previous pilot funding.

Projects that utilize inter-institutional collaborations through the CDU-UCLA U54 Cancer Center; CTSI; and RTRN are also given priority.

More information can be found here: [NIH Review Criteria at a Glance](#)



F. Contact Information

Please email your application to Dr. Jay Vadgama (jayvadgama@cdrewu.edu), Dr. Petra Wise (petrawise@cdrewu.edu), and Jacob De La Torre (jacobdelatorre@cdrewu.edu).

We encourage inquiries concerning this Voucher RFA and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from prospective applicants.

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