ANNOUNCEMENT
YCCI CLINICAL JUNIOR FACULTY PILOT
PROJECT GRANTS 2019
Funding Opportunity

YCCI invites applications from Yale clinical junior faculty. This award is intended to support junior clinician educator faculty who are interested in developing research as a component of their academic life. We anticipate the awardees will be very active clinicians, who would benefit from a period of protected time and resources to pursue research ideas. The primary aim of these awards is to provide early career pilot support and to allow a career trajectory which successfully integrates clinical care and research. An emphasis will be placed on career development and mentoring plans, by successful senior clinical faculty capable of understanding the challenges of integrating very active clinical care with a robust translational research portfolio.

Scope: Awards, which provide salary, research funds, and mentorship will be made to a select number of junior faculty members who are committed to clinical care, but wish to incorporate clinical, community-engaged or translational research. Translational research includes basic science studies that are related to human disease, including studies that utilize animal models or in vitro studies such as cell cultures. Individuals must be nominated by a department chair, division head/section chief, or center/program director.

Areas of Special Emphasis:
The YCCI Program will be open to all applicants training across the full span (T1-T4) of clinical and translational research. All applications will be accepted and reviewed based on scientific merit; however, some priority will be given to investigators who are an underrepresented minorities, see special emphasis below for additional information.

Eligibility requirements: This award is specifically for clinically active junior faculty considering the integration of clinical/translational research as a component of their long-term career objective. Only junior faculty who are at an early stage of their careers (assistant professor or equivalent) are eligible to apply. The applicant must have been a faculty member for no more than 6 years by the anticipated start date. This 6-year period is cumulative and includes all appointments as assistant professor, associate research scientist, lecturer, or instructor at any institution (any part time appointments and leaves of absence should be described and will be considered in calculating the total time at a faculty rank). Applicants must not have held an independent K career award, R01, or equivalent support or a departmental start-up package with substantial protected time. Applicants must be an MD or PhD with substantial clinical responsibility. MDs or PhDs without clinical responsibilities are not eligible for this award.

Funding available and years of support: Funds can be requested to cover up to 20% of an individual's salary (up to the NIH cap) and up to $20,000 of research support per year for a clinical, community-based, or translational research project for up to two years. A third year may be considered. Consideration will be based on progress and will require a departmental cost share commitment. Although the intent is to allow protected time of the clinician, YCCI (with prior approval of the department/center) will allow the flexible use of the funding to support research dedicated staff, such as a research coordinator or technician. The awardees will receive additional career development and mentoring support. Awards are not renewable or transferable.
Awardees supported by this pilot funding are eligible to apply for an individual K award. If such an application is successful, the awardee will be required to give up YCCI salary support. In rare instances, it may be possible to keep the YCCI research support, provided that funds are available and the project is distinct from that supported by the individual K award. Projects that involve human subjects research or live vertebrate animals will also need to be approved by the NIH before we can release funds for the research component of the proposal. The second year of funding is contingent on satisfactory progress during the first year.

**Special emphasis: Promote Diversity in Translational Research**

The YCCI is committed to the development and support of a research workforce that engages the ideas, creativity, and innovation from all diverse backgrounds and segments of society. YCCI seeks to promote diversity in all of its training and research programs, and to increase the participation of underrepresented groups. We have therefore decided this year to launch a new initiative focused on the further promotion of diversity in translational research.

YCCI announces this request for applications to Promote Diversity in Translational Research, which will provide support to under-represented clinical junior faculty members. Translational research includes clinically-based, laboratory-based, population-based or community-based research that is focused on understanding or treating human diseases. The goal of the program is to attract outstanding clinical junior faculty members who are members of populations that are under-represented in the biomedical research workforce and who want to pursue careers in any type of translational research. The program provides training in the use of state-of-the-art research tools; enhances the abilities of the clinical junior faculty members to work collaboratively in complex multidisciplinary research teams; and provides outstanding mentoring (including concordant mentoring) by experienced and diverse faculty that support the clinical junior faculty member’s long-term professional development, including connecting diverse individuals to supportive networks; and providing resources for retention and eliminating barriers for career transition. Specific Requirement, Applicants must be a member of a population identified by NIH as under-represented in the U.S. biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences research enterprise (see NIH NOT-OD-18-210).

**Application Process:** Letters of intent may be submitted by visiting http://www.ycci.yale.edu/. Applications must be submitted using the templates which will be available online at the YCCI website.

**Application Deadlines:**
Due date for letters of intent: April 12, 2019 at 5:00 PM
Due date for full applications: May 17, 2019 at 5:00 PM
Earliest anticipated start date: August 1, 2019

**For questions, please contact:**
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All full applications must be submitted by the respective deadline with no exceptions. Copies of the application templates can be downloaded from the YCCI website at [http://ycci.yale.edu](http://ycci.yale.edu) under the Pilot Programs heading.

**Review Process:**

Important elements in the review process will be:

- **Significance:** Does this study address an important problem in clinical and/or translational research? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field?

- **Scientific merit:** Does the proposed research explore creative, original and potentially transformative concepts? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches or methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

- **Approach:** Are study design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential pitfalls and consider alternative strategies? Does the applicant identify the next steps in research or clinical endeavor to move the concept forward?

- **Outcomes/Funding:** Has the applicant provided a plan or set of criteria by which to judge whether the proposal has been successful? If this project is successful, would it likely lead to external peer-reviewed funding? Could the research be accomplished without funds from this RFA?

- **Budget:** Can this project be completed with the funds requested? Does this project provide cost sharing approaches?

**Selection criteria and process:**

Applications will undergo a rigorous review by an in-person meeting of a multi-disciplinary committee patterned after an NIH study section peer review process to ensure that all pilot projects are of high methodological quality, and can answer the scientific question proposed. Criteria for selection include significance, approach, innovation, recognition of clinical opportunities, strong project design, good basic science behind a truly interdisciplinary project, and ultimate translation to the community to benefit human beings, environment, and investigators. Pilot studies should have a clear path forward along with criteria for go/no go decisions, next steps if the pilot is successful, and a plan for reporting negative results if not successful. Pilot project metrics may include the generalizable translational solutions developed; demonstration of feasibility accomplished; enumeration of pilot projects funded, along with a rationale of methodological quality of trial design when applicable and performance, measured for instance by power calculations; measures to minimize bias; measurement of impact, not only in publication or further funding obtained but also impact on one or more extant translational roadblocks; and plans for implementation or dissemination. The number of awards to be made will depend upon the number of proposals received and the caliber of projects submitted.
### Additional Requirements

- **Awards are not renewable or transferable. No cost extensions will be permitted.**
- The abstracts and the names of all investigators funded through the Pilot and Collaborative Studies Program will be posted on the YCCI site and may be posted or submitted to the national CTSA website. In addition, a full progress report will be required at least annually with updates requested as needed for our grant renewal reporting and evaluation functions.
- Investigators must acknowledge the Yale Clinical and Translational Science Award (Award Number: UL1 TR001863 from the National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in any publications or patents resulting from the supported studies.
- Awardees must obtain all regulatory approvals (e.g. IRB, IACUC, or Radiation Safety) and meet all compliance requirements prior to receiving funds and maintain approvals during the entire length of the award. Projects that involve human subjects research or live vertebrate animals will also need to be approved by the NIH before we can release funds for the research component of the proposal.
- Awards do not include indirect costs.
- Applicants may submit applications for multiple projects for a single mechanism provided that each project is different. Applicants may not submit identical projects to multiple pilot funding mechanisms.
- Cost sharing is allowed.
- Foreign subcontracts are unallowable under this mechanism, and research at foreign sites will require approval by NCATS prior to an award.
- Applicants may not request salary support for themselves or Co-PIs; salary support is allowable for research staff.