

Call for Applications – Seed Grant Funding

The **Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center (OTRC)** is soliciting applications for research grant funding. Applications are invited for small-scale research projects designed to move forward the field of tobacco-related research, which includes innovative research ideas and the collection of preliminary data that will enable investigators to compete successfully for national research grants. All levels of investigators are invited to compete.

OTRC expects to fund up to two proposals. Proposals are expected to have a maximum term of one year and maximum direct costs of \$50,000.

A letter of intent with a brief description of the proposed project is **required**. Letters will be reviewed by the OTRC Scientific Advisory Committee, and those identified as having the greatest merit, and the most promise of leading to future extramural funding, will be invited to submit a complete proposal.

Key Dates:

February 19, 2018: **Letters of intent must be received (via email) by 5:00 pm**

March 5, 2018: Applicants will be notified if full application is requested

April 9, 2018: **Full applications must be received (via email) by 5:00 pm**

May 1, 2018: Funding decisions announced

July 1, 2018: Start date for awards

No late materials or changes to your application will be allowed after the submission deadline

Eligibility

Investigators from Oklahoma universities, state, tribal, and not-for-profit organizations are eligible for funding. Research undertaken with OTRC funds must be conducted primarily in Oklahoma. The PI must conduct and supervise the research project directly and in person. Eligible PIs include those with the skills, knowledge and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. Junior level PIs are encouraged to apply. A PI is considered a Junior Investigator if he/she has not previously competed successfully as PI for a significant NSF or NIH independent research award (such as an R01). Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible as PIs unless he/she will be assuming a faculty position at an Oklahoma university on or before July 1, 2018.

Maximum Annual Award

Maximum annual direct costs: \$50,000.

Indirect costs are paid to eligible institutions. (See below for information on indirect costs.)

Term: 1 year, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. Carryover of unused funds will not be allowed.

Indirect Costs

In accordance with TSET's indirect cost policy, OTRC seed grant indirect costs are limited to an amount not to exceed 10% of all direct costs associated with the project.

The OTRC Research Vision and Mission

Vision: To reduce, and ultimately eliminate, tobacco-related cancer morbidity and mortality in Oklahoma with an overarching focus on addressing tobacco-related health disparities.

Mission: To build and maintain a program that spans the entire translational research continuum, including:

- 1) discovery of basic mechanisms
- 2) development and evaluation of novel treatments
- 3) dissemination and implementation of these interventions in the real-world through community engaged partnerships.

OTRC funds research in all relevant scientific disciplines designed to reduce tobacco-related morbidity and mortality, including population-based tobacco control. Research that is community-based and utilizes a collaborative approach, with direct application or translation to Oklahoma tobacco prevention and control programs, is particularly encouraged. In addition, projects involving health disparities, American Indian, and/or chemoprevention themes are encouraged.

The program advances tobacco-related science by:

- funding only the highest quality research, as determined by peer review
- supporting a comprehensive research infrastructure in Oklahoma
- encouraging talented investigators to pursue careers in tobacco research
- supporting participatory research with diverse communities
- disseminating the results of funded research to OTRC stakeholders
- serving as an information resource on critical tobacco issues

Source of Funds

In 2007, the Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center (OTRC) was established within the Stephenson Cancer Center to reduce the burden of tobacco-related health problems in Oklahoma by stimulating the generation and dissemination of knowledge and the implementation and diffusion of effective practices. Funding was provided by the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) with the purpose of extending the impact of TSET's tobacco control initiatives and leveraging TSET's investments to bring additional funding dollars from the NIH, NSF, CDC, and other sources to bear on tobacco use in Oklahoma.

Evaluation Process

Letters of intent and full applications in response to this call will be reviewed by the OTRC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC is a panel of reviewers recruited from multiple research entities in Oklahoma specifically for their expertise in the scientific disciplines relevant to tobacco research.

The SAC will review letters of intent and identify those most promising. Full applications will be requested based on this review.

The SAC will evaluate full proposals and assign a scientific merit score to each full application. The assigned scientific merit score is based on a scale similar to that used by the National Institutes of Health.

The assigned scores for applications are one factor in the decision-making process. Together with responsiveness to the program's mission, the scores are used by the SAC to recommend specific applications for funding.

Investigators from Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Groups

OTRC recognizes the value to science and society of increasing the number of investigators who are members of racial and ethnic groups underrepresented among tobacco-related researchers.

Underrepresented racial and ethnic investigators are encouraged to submit applications.

Application Process

OTRC Research Award Application Form: [Click Here](#)

Certification of Non-Acceptance of Tobacco Funds: [Click Here](#)

Submit application materials to: Eric-Crowder@ouhsc.edu

Guidelines for Letters of Intent:

1. Cover letter on institutional letterhead with PI contact information, title of proposal, 2-3 sentence description, and other collaborators.
2. Brief description of the project (no more than 1 page) to include
 - OTRC relevance statement, specifically how the proposed research will benefit Oklahoma and advance the mission of the OTRC
 - Background/rationale for the study
 - Specific aims/research questions
 - Research strategy overview
 - Expected results—pathway to future funding mechanisms

Letters of Intent are due by February 19, 2018.

If a full application is requested after review of the letter of intent, the submitted application must include

1. Completed Research Award Application Form
2. PI Biosketch on NIH PHS 398 biosketch format page
3. Itemized budget using NIH PHS 398 form page 4
4. Detailed budget justification
5. Abstract of the proposal not to exceed 350 words
6. Specific Aims (1 page)
7. Research Strategy (not to exceed 6 pages). Score driving elements including:
 - a. Background and significance, including how the project furthers OTRC's vision and mission
 - b. Investigators
 - c. Innovation
 - d. Approach
 - e. Environment
7. Literature cited
8. Relevant letters of support (if necessary)
9. Signed Certification of Non-Acceptance of Tobacco Funds

Questions concerning the **application or award process** should be directed to:

Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center
Attn: Eric Crowder
655 Research Parkway, Suite 400
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104
Eric-Crowder@ouhsc.edu

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