



2015 REQUEST FOR PILOT RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS

Overview

The Center for Regulatory Research on Tobacco Communication (CRRTC) requests applications for innovative pilot research projects with relevance to tobacco regulatory science. We seek to fund interdisciplinary projects that include researchers with expertise in public health, medicine, psychology, communication, media studies, or other relevant disciplines. We are particularly interested in supporting junior researchers including students, postdoctoral fellows, and early career scientists. Proposal budgets may be from \$5,000 to \$50,000 for projects up to 12 months starting 9/1/15.

Our pilot grant program aims to:

- Create larger numbers and new types of inter-disciplinary teams of UNC and WFSM investigators working on FDA CTP research priority areas, using team science approaches.
- Enhance collaboration between UNC and WFSM and other TCORS grantees.
- Increase the number and quality of external grants submitted and funded in tobacco regulatory science.

Guidelines

Scope

Proposals must have tobacco regulatory or policy application, using methods or approaches from behavioral or communication science, broadly construed. Our funding mechanism allows us to fund only pilot research projects that address one or more of the FDA Center for Tobacco Products' research priorities listed on [our website](#). We will not review proposals that are not responsive to FDA research priorities (e.g., we will reject proposals that have cessation-only aims with no policy or regulatory focus, or that address aims related to bench science). **We strongly encourage applicants to share their aims with us before developing a proposal** so that we can confirm whether they are within scope. Contact Quirina Vallejos (quirina@email.unc.edu) to coordinate reviewing your aims.

Eligible Individuals/Teams

The principal investigator (PI) must be a student, postdoctoral fellow, or faculty at any level or appointment (including research associates and senior research associates) who is associated with UNC-Chapel Hill, Wake Forest School of Medicine, or Wake Forest University as of September 1, 2015. Affiliates from other UNC system institutions and institutions outside the UNC system may be co-investigators. Student and postdoctoral fellow PIs must identify a faculty advisor who will agree to ensure the quality of the research and appropriate management of the budget. If you would like to collaborate with one of CRRTC's investigators, contact information for them is available on [our website](#).

Budgets

Budgets should be between \$5,000 to \$50,000. A total of \$140,000 is available. We encourage students to provide a stipend for themselves; CRRTC uses an hourly rate of \$24.84 for doctoral students, but other rates are permissible. Staff salary is permitted. We strongly discourage use of funds to cover faculty salary, although we will in some cases permit this if the applicant provides a compelling reason in the budget justification.

Grant Period

12 months or less. The funding period will begin on September 1, 2015, and awardees must expend funds by August 31, 2016. Our funding mechanism does not allow us to carry over funds from one grant year to another.

Progress Reports

Awardees must complete brief progress reports by February 15, 2016 and June 15, 2016. The one page report describes progress to date by grant aim, any study findings, and any completed or planned dissemination activities (e.g., talks or peer-reviewed publications).

Key Deadlines

Letter of intent (optional): May 1, 2015

Application: Monday, June 1, 2015 (11:59 pm EST).

Award notification: August 3, 2015

Anticipated grant start: September 1, 2015

Progress reports: February 15, 2016 and June 15, 2016

Proposal Instructions

The proposal should have ½” margins on all sides, 11pt Arial font only.

- A. **Cover Page.** Use the template on [our website](#). Include an abstract that has 100 words maximum and the name of a faculty advisor if the applicant is a student or post-doc.

Body of proposal: 4 pages (maximum).

- B. **Specific Aims.** The research questions this study aims to address and how you will evaluate each aim.
- C. **Significance.** Briefly summarize the literature that motivates the study and the significance of the anticipated findings. (Specific Aims and Significance together should be 1 page.)
- D. **Innovation.** Describe one to three key innovations of the proposed research.
- E. **Approach.** (2 pages recommended) Describe the overall strategy, methods, and analyses. These should be well-reasoned and appropriate for accomplishing each of the specific aims proposed. Also present potential problems, alternate strategies, and benchmarks for success. Must include a timeline with 3-month milestones. Your team should use state-of-the-science methods and approaches.
- F. **Collaboration.** Describe your team and any interdisciplinary or multi-site collaboration. Explain how the proposed research involves a team science approach. If PI is a student or Postdoctoral Fellow, please identify your faculty advisor in this section.

G. **Grant Funding.** Describe how the results of the proposed pilot study could inform development of a full-scale research grant proposal.

Appendices (not included in 4 page limit).

H. **Letters of Support.** Optional, but proposal must demonstrate ability to recruit research participants.

I. **Ethics/Human Subjects Protection** (1 page maximum). Prior to receiving funds, projects must obtain approval from the relevant IRB. All investigators and other people named on the budget page must have certification of training in the protection of human subjects (and HIPAA, if relevant).

J. **Budget and Budget Justification** (1 page maximum). Budget may be in applicant's preferred format. Salary support is recommended for students, should be well justified if requested for staff, and is usually not permitted for faculty. Budget justification should be sufficiently detailed for reviewers to assess whether the request is for appropriate resources. Inadequate justification may result in a less favorable score or lower funding. If the investigator has received other grant support for the proposed research or similar research in the past, include this information.

K. **Biosketches.** Include NIH-format biosketches for all key collaborators using either the new or old format.

L. **References.** Numbered references preferred, but optional.

The appendices should not include any other materials.

Proposal Submission

Send completed proposal application **IN PDF FORMAT** to Quirina Vallejos, Project Director, Center for Regulatory Research on Tobacco Communication at quirina@email.unc.edu. Applications are due **Monday, June 1, 2015 (11:59 pm EST)**. Quirina will acknowledge receipt of all applications via email.

If you have questions about the proposal application process, contact Quirina Vallejos, CRRTC Project Director at quirina@email.unc.edu or (919) 966-2760.