I. Summary of Award

The School of Medicine’s Strategic Plan includes an annual award jointly administered by the Office of Research and NC TraCS—the Translational Team Science Award (TTSA). This award is aimed at capitalizing on the “culture of collaboration” at UNC Chapel Hill to foster new synergistic interdisciplinary teams of basic science and clinical investigators. “Translational” is defined broadly and is not restricted to human subjects and tissues. Proposals may include research using cellular and animal model systems; however the project should clearly translate across basic and clinical disciplines.

There are multiple stages of TTSA applications and awards (see application process, below). After submission of an initial Concept paper, selected teams will be invited to submit a Phase I Feasibility proposal for review. If awarded, TTSA Phase I Feasibility grants will provide a 6-month period to begin to fully engage team members in the development of a competitive continuation proposal for TTSA Phase II (2 years). Advancement to the next award stage is contingent on the merit of the proposed plan and progress in the prior period. The intent of these awards is to provide the planning time and initial funds for support of early stage denovo research teams that would otherwise not be possible. TTSA support research should lead to submission of novel interdisciplinary program project grants and multiple PI R01s by UNC SOM investigators.

Since the inaugural cycle of the TTSA in October 2013, 13 teams have been selected for funding. A summary of these awards can be found on the Office of Research website- http://www.med.unc.edu/oor.

II. Award Administration

TTSA awards will be made jointly with funding from the SOM Dean’s office and NC TraCS pilot funds. To receive TTSA funding, the two lead PIs must have primary appointments in the SOM.

Review of Phase I and Phase II applications (defined below) will be provided by the NC TraCS review panel with equal consideration for proposals across the translational spectrum.

III. Eligibility

- TTSA grants will support the development of new research teams. Project Teams should include at a minimum two PIs: one basic and one clinical. To qualify as a new team, the two PIs should not have previously submitted a successful grant proposal.
- Teams should consist of at least 1 basic and 1 clinical faculty member, and the team leaders must hold a primary appointment in the School of Medicine. Teams may include collaborators from outside institutions, but no indirect funds are available for external collaborations. If research is performed outside the US, no more than 50% of the funding can be expended outside the US or to support research on samples obtained outside the US.
The proposal should represent a new avenue of research for the investigators. This is a key criteria for review. There must be no prior internal or external funding for the project or funding overlap. This award is not intended as supplementary or bridge funding.

Anyone may submit at the Concept Paper stage. If you need assistance identifying additional basic or clinical collaborators, please contact the Office of Research or the TraCS navigator service for help.

Review of the Concept Papers will select the teams eligible to submit for a Phase I – TTS Feasibility grant. Only those teams that have completed a Phase I grant and submitted a progress report may submit for Phase II funding.

IV. Application Process

1. Submit a one-page Concept Paper describing the proposed research. The Concept paper should include:
   - Title
   - Team Description: List the names and affiliations of the clinical and basic PIs as well as other key players. Include a brief definition of how this is a 'new' team, and why a new team is needed for this project.
   - Specific aims and brief description of project
   - Scientific and translational impact
   - NIH biosketches should be provided for each key player

2. Upon review of the Concept papers, the most competitive teams will be selected to submit a Phase I feasibility application. The Phase I grant awards up to $60,000 for a six-month period. These funds can be used to obtain whatever data/approvals are needed for proof of concept and can be used to support trainees and/or for reagents and other costs. The milestones must be clearly stated and feasible for the 6-month phase I project period, Salary support for faculty is not an allowable cost.

3. At the end of Phase I, the team may submit a proposal for a 1-2 year Phase II TTSA grant. These proposals are competitively reviewed and must include a final progress report for the Phase I project period. Phase II awards provide up to $100,000/yr for a two-year period contingent upon successful progress in the first year.

4. Teams that received a Phase I Grant are not required to submit a proposal for Phase II funding, but they must submit a final report. Investigators who do not submit a final report will be ineligible for future funding from this award mechanism.

5. Phase I and Phase II Application Components:
   - Abstract (1/2 page)
   - Specific Aims (1 page max)
   - For Phase II only—Final Report from Feasibility grant activities (2 page max)
   - Research Plan (2 pages for Phase I, 4 pages for Phase II)
     - Description of Research Team.
     - Project Significance, Design and Methods. Include statistical analysis plan and justification.
     - Timeline and goals for future funding. For a phase I proposal, the initial phase I goals must be clearly stated and feasible relative to a projected Phase II timeline.
   - Detailed Budget and Justification
     - Funds may be allocated to support research staff, supplies, core facility fees, travel directly related to project goals, and small equipment. Salary support for faculty is not an allowable cost. Salary support for
trainees, and technicians are permissible. Funds will support direct costs only.

• NIH Biosketches for Key Personnel
  o Include current and pending support

V. Application/Grant Timeline

• TTSA Concept papers due: December 8, 2014
• Concept paper award notification by December 31, 2014
• TTSA Phase I Feasibility Proposals due: February 27, 2015
• TTSA Phase I Feasibility Award start date: March/April 2015
• TTSA Phase II Proposals (with feasibility progress report) due: October 2015
• TTSA Phase II Award start date: December 2015

ALL SUBMISSIONS should be EMAILED to jenbren@med.unc.edu

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Brennan at the email address above or at 962-5977.