



UNC  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



UNC  
THE NORTH CAROLINA  
TRANSLATIONAL & CLINICAL  
SCIENCES INSTITUTE

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OFFICE OF RESEARCH  
EMERGING CHALLENGES IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH (ECBR)  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

***Winter 2017 Challenge: Research relevant to Alzheimer's disease***

**I. Summary of Award**

The School of Medicine's Office of Research is partnering with NC TraCS to solicit proposals for a new ***Emerging Challenges in Biomedical Research***. The intent of these new awards is to provide support for innovative, early stage research relevant to NIH priorities.

The supported research is expected to lead to submission of novel interdisciplinary program project grants and multiple PI R01s by UNC SOM investigators. Preference will be given to new projects and ideas from cross-cutting teams with the potentially highest impact research across the spectrum of basic and clinical research. The funds are not meant as a supplement or bridge to an existing funded project.

The purpose of the current challenge (Winter 2017) is to capture the broad interdisciplinary expertise of SOM faculty relevant to Alzheimer's disease research. Alzheimer's disease is common, has no current treatments that significantly alter the natural history of the disease, and leads to tremendous suffering and cost to patients and caregivers. The rise in Alzheimer's disease underscores a need for timely research and increased funding by NIH and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act. The NIH's investment in Alzheimer's research for 2017 is summarized here:

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/bypass-budget-fy2017>

It is anticipated that future ECBR funding challenges will be aligned with high profile research objectives and concept clearances from NIH institutes and the [Common Fund](#).

**II. Award Administration**

The SOM Office of Research and NC TraCS will jointly administer ECBR funding. The awards will provide up to \$50K for a 1-year period. To receive funding, the lead PI(s) must have primary appointments in the SOM.

**III. Eligibility**

- The **team leaders must hold a primary appointment in the School of Medicine**. Teams may include collaborators from other schools, but the Principal Investigators must be SOM faculty.
- The proposal should represent a new avenue of research for the investigators. This is a key criterion 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. Our goal is to facilitate the collection of preliminary data that will support a competitive RO1 or Program Project type grant or cooperative agreement. We are particularly interested in attracting new investigators into the field, as well as supporting novel proposals in new areas from established neuroscience investigators.

#### **IV. Application Process**

The Application Components are as follows:

- Abstract (1/2 page)
- Specific Aims (1 page)
- Research Plan (3 pages) which must include the following:
  - Description of Research Team
  - Significance
  - Project Design and Methods. (Include statistical analysis and justification.)
  - Timeline and goals for future funding.
- 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
  - Include current and pending support and internal as well as external funding sources

**All Submissions should be emailed to: [jenbren@med.unc.edu](mailto:jenbren@med.unc.edu)**

Applications must be received by **9am on February 20, 2017**. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Brennan at the email address above or at 966- 8089.