The overall goal of the Columbia’s new Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) is to enable CUMC to restructure and energize existing, outstanding resources in basic and clinical research, so that the barriers or ‘silos’ that often exist around individuals or small groups of investigators are replaced with a coordinated structure and collaborative environment within which multi- and interdisciplinary clinical and translational (C/T) research may flourish. Central to achieving this goal is providing incentives for both young C/T investigators as they obtain pilot data prior to submitting funding applications, and more senior investigators who may not otherwise take that extra step and engage in multi- and interdisciplinary research.

The goals of one of the CTSA’s Key Resources, the Pilot and Collaborative Clinical and Translational Studies Resource, are:

1. to support multi- and interdisciplinary research
2. to train and mentor a new generation of multidisciplinary C/T investigators
3. to expand and optimize the utilization of outstanding new and existing resources on CUMC
4. to enhance recruitment of outstanding C/T investigators to pre-clinical and clinical departments at CUMC

With these goals in mind, the CTSA will provide a two-phase funding process to support the formation of newly-configured investigative teams with the aim of addressing a significant health problem at the cellular, individual or community level. **Four (4) planning grants of $25,000 each will be announced on September 5, 2007,** to assist in the formation and planning activities of novel, cross-disciplinary research teams involving both senior and junior faculty from at least two of the four CUMC schools. (A second school selected from the downtown campus may be an option). In addition to the collaboration between schools, proposals with faculty from more than one department within at least one of the schools will be considered more competitive. These teams will then have six (6) months to prepare a pilot grant submission for competitive internal review (due March 1, 2008). **In Phase II, the top two applications will receive a one-year, $125,000 award to support pilot work with the clear goal of submitting a major NIH proposal, i.e., a program project or center grant.**

**Phase I. $25,000-Planning Grant Awards (applications due Monday, July 9, 2007)**

The proposed planning activities should bring together faculty with expertise from diverse disciplines and may include outside consultants with unique experience or expertise in innovative approaches not currently available on CUMC. In order to track the evolution of these multidisciplinary collaborations, planning activities must be documented as part of a progress report within the Phase II application.
Because we are particularly interested in the processes utilized to produce multidisciplinary proposals, the second application will be judged in part by the methods each team developed to create their final proposal. Other criteria for selection will include creativity, importance of the topic under study, meaningful involvement of the junior investigators, and the likelihood that the pilot project will progress to a major, funded NIH project.

Applications for a Phase I planning grant may have a single or multiple principal investigator(s). A brief proposal of no more than seven (7) pages is due by the close of business Monday, July 9, 2007, with the expectation that the selected collaborative planning teams will be announced by September 5, 2007. In addition to the application, an NIH biographical sketch for each investigator should be included, along with a simple budget. Instructions for the Phase II application will be announced in early fall.

Start off with a cover page that includes the names, academic titles, departments and schools of each cross-disciplinary research team member and the title of the research project. Use the following headings to structure your proposal and be sure to limit the total number of pages to seven (7):

- Hypotheses and Aims (1 page)
- Public Health Significance of the Proposed Study (1 page)
- Phase I Multidisciplinary Approach – Brief Overview (3 pages)
- Phase I Planning Activities and Timeline (1 page)
- Long-term Aims, including plans for future funding (1 page)

An original plus five (5) copies of the formal application should be delivered no later than 5:00p, Monday, July 9, 2007, to Ms. Fran Hughes, Irving Pilot and Collaborative C/T Prize Committee, Columbia University, Irving Center for Clinical Research, 622 West 168 Street, PH-10, New York, NY 10032. Please begin with a cover page that includes the names, academic titles, departments and schools of each cross-disciplinary research team member as well as the title of your research project.

Qualified applicants should hold a full-time faculty appointment at the level of Assistant Professor or above.

For more information about all the CTSA Resources, please visit our Web site at:

http://gcrcweb.cpmc.columbia.edu/ctsa/