2024 CCTSI Pilot Grant Program Overview

Natalie Julie Serkova, Ph.D.
CCTSI Pilot Grant Program Director

Christopher Baker, MD
CMH-Pilot Grant Program Director

Sue VandeWoude, DVM
CSU Pilot Grant Program Director

Kristen House
CCTSI Pilot Grant Program Administrator
CCTSI Funding Opportunities

CCTSI awards $2.8 million/year in pilot grants, microgrants, and pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research scholar awards

Funding Sources

• National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS)
• University of Colorado School of Medicine Dean’s Office
• Children’s Hospital Colorado Research Institute
• Traystman’ Fund

$520K in 2024 for CCTSI Pilot Grants

https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/funding
CCTSI-Pilot Grant Categories

- Early Career Diversity CO-Pilots
- Mentored CO-Pilots
- Junior CO-Pilots
- CU-CSU CO-Pilots
- General TM-Pilots
- CSU Investigators TM-Pilots
- Biostatistics/Bioinformatics TM-Pilots

- CO-Pilots
- CMH-Pilots
- TM-Pilots
- CE-Pilots

- Mentored CMH-Pilots
- Junior CMH-Pilots
- Joint Project CE-Pilots
- Partnership Development CE-Pilots

Colorado Pilots (CO-Pilots)
Child and Maternity Health (CMH)
Community Engagement (CE)
Translational Methods (TM)
CCTSI Pilot Grant Award Eligibility

• CCTSI Members
• Faculty at CCTSI Partner Institutions

Graduate, undergraduate, postdoctoral students, fellows and PRAs are encouraged to participate in Non-Key Roles.

Underrepresented, female, and minority researchers are particularly urged to apply, as the CCTSI intends to contribute to the creation of a research workforce that is representative of the U.S. population.

CU Anschutz Medical Campus  University of Colorado Hospital
CU Boulder  Children’s Hospital Colorado
CU Denver  National Jewish Hospital
Colorado State University  VA Eastern CO Health Care System
Kaiser Permanente Colorado

https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/aboutus/affiliated-institutions
https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/funding/membership
Total Number of Awarded Pilots: 186

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CU-Anschutz Medical Campus</th>
<th>Colorado State</th>
<th>CHCO</th>
<th>CU-Boulder</th>
<th>All other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</table>

A higher percentage of females received a translational pilot award.

Of grantees who received Translational Pilot Awards were underrepresented minorities (URMs)
What is new in 2024 Pilot Grant Cycle?

- We are in the new NCATS UM1 Cycle (2023-2029)
- We have increased $$ amount per Pilot Award!
- Under the new NCATS guidelines, a pilot project should address overcoming a barrier or roadblock in translational science as well as a research question
- No-cost extensions will not be allowed for the 2024 award cycle (all projects must be completed by 7/31/2025)
1. An individual may apply in a Key Role on only one application between the CO-/CMH-/CE-Pilots. This restriction is not applicable to the TM-Pilots, nor to Non-Key Roles.

2. Key Role individuals on a no-cost extension (NCE) Pilot award are not allowed to apply for the new cycle.

3. Applications proposing to continue the work of a previously funded CCTSI Pilot Grant Project are not allowed.

4. CCTSI Pilot Grant Awards may not be used to support research conducted outside of the United States. However, proposals that use data or samples collected at international sites through other means may be considered for funding if the portion of the work conducted locally occurs at CCTSI Affiliate Institutions.

5. The CTS-Pilot Program is not designed to fund “translational research projects” (which are only focused on crossing a particular step of the translational process for a particular target or disease) that do not also address to some extent a generalizable translational roadblock in translational science.
## 2024 Pilot Grant Cycle Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CO-Pilots</th>
<th>CMH-Pilots</th>
<th>TM-Pilots</th>
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<td><strong>2024 Award Cycle</strong></td>
<td><strong>08/01/2024 – 07/31/2025</strong></td>
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Colorado
(CO-Pilot) Grant Program

To encourage cross-disciplinary and collaborative research in clinical and translational medicine focused on improving human health

*Basic research at the cellular and molecular level, pre-clinical research in animal models, clinical research in humans, outcomes, and health services research*

**Program Directors**
Natalie Serkova, PhD
Sue VandeWoude, DVM

**Award Categories**
- Early-Stage Investigator Diversity Award
- Mentored Faculty
- Junior Faculty
- CSU/ CU Collaboration
Colorado
(CO-Pilot) Grant Program

Amount: $40K (Mentored/ Junior/ Early Career Diversity)
$60K (CSU/CU Collaboration)

Duration: 1 year

Major goals
• Support junior faculty/ early-stage investigators in their efforts to become an independent PI
• Facilitate developing preliminary data on hypothesis-driven projects to help securing future federal funds
• Foster new collaborations among established CSU/ CU investigators
Colorado (CO-Pilot) Grant Program

CCTSI Pilot Grant Program: PI Eligibility by Academic Rank

These are typical rank eligibility listings for applicants from CCTSI Affiliated Institutions. If you have eligibility questions for atypical ranks, please contact the appropriate Pilot Program office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Associate Professor</th>
<th>Assistant Professor</th>
<th>Assistant Professor</th>
<th>Instructor/ Senior Instructor</th>
<th>Post-Doctoral Fellow/ Residents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado Pilot Program (CO-Pilot)</td>
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</table>

1. Later Career Assistant Professors (4-7 years of experience) typically have prior research funding
2. Early Career Assistant Professors (1-3 years of experience) typically have limited or no prior research funding
3. Includes Research Scientist rank at Colorado State University
4. Includes Research Associate
Applicants may submit more than one LOI, but only one Application!
Child and Maternal Health (CMH-Pilot) Grant Program

Cross-disciplinary and collaborative research focused on children of all ages as well as pregnant women and mothers of newborn and young infants that will ultimately improve child and maternal health.

Basic research at the cellular and molecular level, pre-clinical research in animal models, clinical research in humans, outcomes, and health services research.

Program Directors
Christopher Baker, MD

Award Categories
• Mentored Faculty
• Junior Faculty
Child and Maternal Health (CMH-Pilot) Grant Program

Amount: $40K
Duration: 1 year

Major goals

• Support junior faculty/ early-stage investigators in their efforts to become an independent PI
• Facilitate developing preliminary data on hypothesis–driven projects to help securing future federal funds
Child and Maternal Health (CMH-Pilot) Grant Program

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CMH-Pilot: History of Applications by Award Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Awards</th>
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<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Funding Rate:
- 2018: 22%
- 2019: 21%
- 2020: 16%
- 2021: 19%
- 2022: 38%
- 2023: 29%

2023 Cycle:
- LOI: 21
- Applications: 17
- Awarded: 5
Review Criteria

CO-Pilot and CMH-Pilot

CCTSI Review Panels will use the NIH 9-point scoring system and rate based on following criteria:

a. **Innovation** in research hypotheses, approaches, and techniques.

b. **Approach/Scientific Merit** based on rigor, transparency and one-year feasibility of the proposed study design.

c. **Principal Investigators’** research qualification and collaborative potential of the team and mentors

d. **Significance** to the CCTSI Vision to “Accelerate and catalyze the translation of innovative science into improved health and patient care.”

e. **Translational Science Roadblock:** does the Pilot proposal address a translational science roadblock that could be generalizable to other research studies?

f. **Career Development Plan** for Mentored pilot applications only

g. **Environment** and institutional support to the PI and the proposal

h. **Health Equity and Diversity (Non-Scoring Criteria)**
Tips for Success

Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute

Resources

ACCELERATING RESEARCH TO IMPROVE HEALTH

The CCTSI helps build research teams of the future, speed the development of new treatments and improve human health.

https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/resources
The CU Cancer Center supports a variety of state-of-the-art technological shared resources – their incorporation into CO/CMH/TM-Pilot proposals is encouraged!


https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/colorado-cancer-center#CUMain
Research Core Labs

One of the defining features of a top-tier research university is the availability of core facilities that provide a spectrum of contemporary analytic tools that can be shared across the campus. Ideally these cores provide both technical and consultative services at modest cost and, as a result, elevate the quality of the overall research enterprise. It is appropriate that the core landscape evolves as new technologies emerge and others become obsolete.

Below is a list to the current operational research cores supported by the School of Medicine and the research leadership on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Search our Core Labs

Keyword or Phrase

Example: biomarker, data analysis, flow cytometry, genetic screen, proteomics

https://researchcores.cuanschutz.edu/
A key tenet of translational science is to understand common causes of inefficiency and failure to complete translational research projects in a timely fashion, which may present a common barrier across various research targets, diseases, and therapeutic areas.

Whereas “translational research” focuses on crossing a particular step of the translational process for a particular target or disease, translational science is focused on the general case that applies to any/multiple targets or diseases.
**Examples of Translational Science Roadblocks**

In the application, the PI must state clearly what is your “translational science roadblock” that you will be addressing in your proposal:

- improved study design by improving rigor and transparency in major generalizable areas of translational discovery
- technical execution of complex mechanistic studies in humans or animal models
- challenges to data acquisition, integrity and analysis
- translational barrier from animal models to human trials; or between adult and pediatric patient populations
- timely participant recruitment and retention
- enhanced recruitments and engagement of underserved populations
- Discovering new therapeutic targets and molecular pathways which play crucial roles across various therapeutic areas
- Developing or testing models that better predict a person’s response to treatment
- Using novel methods to translate findings from the laboratory, clinic, or community into treatments and interventions
- Developing data acquisition methods or post-processing that will facilitate use of complex technologies and datasets in clinical research
- Novel use of informatics or big data to answer important clinical questions
- Developing or testing novel methods in early stage (Phase 1-2) clinical trials to make the trial more efficient
- Developing or testing novel methods, processes or study designs to address health disparities
- Enhancing the design and conduct of clinical trials so the results more accurately reflect the patient population generally affected by a disease (to enhance clinical relevance)
- Developing and testing new tools for engagement of underserved populations
- Developing or testing processes to improve enrollment of diverse populations in a hypothesis-driven research pilot study
- Validating natural animal models of human disease in companion animals
Some Examples of Translational Science Pilot Focus

Establishing Molecular Mechanisms of Polymorphism of Cytochrome P450: This study will be performed in vitro using Tg and KO epithelial and hepatic cells using novel immunosuppressive drug (CU AMC Drug Discovery Core). CYP450 polymorphism is a very generalized problem, and its understanding will help to establish pharmacokinetic properties of over 75% of existing therapeutic agents (CSU Drug Discovery Core). The pilot addresses the barrier of rigor and transparency in major generalizable areas of translational discovery.

Advanced Bulimia Treatment in Adolescent Girls: Efforts will be made to enroll young female participants from diverse geo-economic and racial background to address eating and behavioral disorders. fMRI at a 3 Tesla MRI (CU AMC Brain Imaging Core) will provide pharmacodynamics readouts. Addresses enhanced recruitments and engagement of underserved populations.
Some Examples of Translational Science Pilot Focus

Validating Natural Animal Translational Disease Models: Many diseases of dogs, cats, horses and other animals are more similar to diseases in people than induced diseases in traditional rodent models. For example, osteosarcoma in dogs is genetically similar to the same tumor in people and responds to similar therapies. Idiopathic epilepsy in dogs has many symptoms that mimic childhood epilepsies. Accordingly, validating the molecular, diagnostic, and therapeutic features of these diseases in veterinary clinical trials (so called “T0.5”) is a mechanism for improving translational science, addressing translational barrier from animal models to human trials.

Retrospective Analysis on Multi-Institutional CU-CSU Omics Data: These pilots could leverage the pilot to address the issue of performing team science across institutions and data harmonization and transfer between institutions, etc. Address challenges in data acquisition, integrity and analysis
Application Process

Kristen House
CCTSI Pilot Program Administrator
How to Apply

Funding Opportunities
Each year, the CCTSI awards more than $2 million in pilot grants, microgrants, and pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research scholar awards. You can find more information on each grant and how to apply below.

https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/funding
## 2024 Key Dates

**RFA Posted**
November 1, 2023

**Intent to Apply Due**
December 4, 2023 at 5:00 pm MT

**Informational Call #1**
November 13, 2023 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm MT via Zoom

**Informational Call #2**
December 20, 2023 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm MT via Zoom

**Application Deadline**
January 16, 2024, 5:00 pm MT

**Scientific Merit Review**
April 2024

**Start of Award**
August 1, 2024

**Award Expiration Date**
July 31, 2025

### CO-Pilot Award Categories

- **Early-Stage Investigator Diversity Award** - $40,000
- **Mentored** - $40,000
- **Junior** - $40,000
- **CSU/CU Collaboration** - $60,000

### Request for Applications (RFA)

The RFA describes eligibility, award categories and application requirements. Please click here for the RFA.

![2024 CCTSI CO-Pilot Grant CTS Program RFA](https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/funding/copilot)[pdf]

- Size: 305 KB

### Intent to Apply Form

Deadline: December 4, 2023 at 5:00 PM MT

### Information & Resources

- **2024 Sample Budget and Justification** (pdf)
  Download (215 KB)

- **2024 Required Budget Template** (pdf)
  Download (98 KB)
Save this email!

Thank you for submitting your Intent to Apply Form (LOI).

SAVE THIS REUSABLE LINK TO YOUR APPLICATION FORM:

**CCTSI Pilot Grant Award Application Form**

Or copy and paste this link into your browser: [https://datastore.cctsi.ucdenver.edu/surveys/?s=pXIVZThypquMaalx](https://datastore.cctsi.ucdenver.edu/surveys/?s=pXIVZThypquMaalx)

If you require assistance, please contact kristen.house@cuanschutz.edu.

You may now close this tab/browser.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY &amp; ITEM(S)</th>
<th>Indicate Budget for Each Location</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other Personnel</td>
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<td>Fee for Service (including Core Services)</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
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Applicants should customize these Categories
**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

This checklist is for informational purposes only. All applicants must comply with the requirements of the official Request for Funding Applications (RFA) posted on the CCTSI website.

### Intent to Apply Form (LOI)

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<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>All Applicants</th>
<th>Mentored</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>CU-CSU Award</th>
<th>TM-Pilot</th>
<th>CSU Faculty</th>
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<td>Does this study involve collaboration with non-CCTSI Affiliated Institution(s)?</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Are any investigators involved with this project associated with Colorado State University?</td>
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<td>Optional</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Contact Information: Primary Mentor (or two Co-Mentors)</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Contact Information: Requested Reviewer(s)</td>
<td>Optional</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Research Topics (Used to pair applications with reviewers)</td>
<td>Optional</td>
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<td>Application Form</td>
<td>All Applicants</td>
<td>Mentored</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>CU-CSU Award</td>
<td>TM-Pilot</td>
<td>CSU Faculty</td>
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<td>1. Confirm all contact information from LOI is accurate.</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>2. Project Overview (2-3 sentences)</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>3. List all investigator names, titles, institutions before the Project Overview</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>4. Abstract (strict 250 word limit)</td>
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<td>5. Background, Significance and Innovation (1 and 1/2 pages), including the description of the translational science roadblock</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>6. Approach (3 page limits), including Experimental Design, Translational Science Roadblock, Data and Statistical Analysis, Feasibility, Shared Resources, Timeline</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>7. References (no page limit)</td>
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<td>8. Multiple PI Plan (1 page limit)</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Optional</td>
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<td>9. Mentor Letter of Support (no page limit)</td>
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<td>10. Career Development Plan (1 page)</td>
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<td>11. Letters of Support (no page limit)</td>
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<td>12. Budget (1 page limit, vertical alignment only)</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>13. Budget Justification (1 page limit)</td>
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<td>14. Biobehaviors (no page limit)</td>
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<td>15. CSU OSP Proposal Transmission Letter (no page limit)</td>
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<td>16. Cost Share Budget (1 page limit)</td>
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<td>17. Other Institutional Prior Approval (no page limit)</td>
<td>Required</td>
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</table>

Application Checklist (Excel) or (PDF)
2024 CO/CMH Application Cycle

Dates

November 1, 2023
Request for Funding Announcement (RFA)

November 13, 2023
CO/CMH Informational Call #1 (Zoom)

December 4, 2023
CO/CMH-Pilot Intent-to-Apply Form due - 5 pm

December 20, 2023
CO/CMH Informational Call #2 (Zoom)

January 16, 2024
CO/CMH-Pilot Application Form due - 5 pm

April – 2024
CCTSI Review Panels

June – 2024
Notice of Selection

August 1, 2024
Active Funding Period Begins

2024 Key Dates

RFA Posted
November 1, 2023

Intent to Apply Due
December 4, 2023 at 5:00 pm MT

Informational Call #1
November 13, 2023 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm MT via Zoom

Informational Call #2
December 20, 2023 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm MT via Zoom

Application Deadline
January 16, 2024, 5:00 pm MT

Scientific Merit Review
April 2024

Start of Award
August 1, 2024

Award Expiration Date
July 31, 2025

Email Pilot Grant Program
CCTSI Pilot Grant Contacts
https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/funding

Kristen House
CCTSI Pilot Program Administrator
kristen.house@cuanschutz.edu

Jessica Hunter
CSU Pilot Program Administrator
jessica.hunter@colostate.edu

Nikki Leonardo
CU Boulder Pilot Program Administrator
leonardo@colorado.edu

Dr. Natalie Serkova
CO/TM-Pilot Program Director
natlie.serkova@cuanschutz.edu

Dr. Christopher Baker
CMH-Pilot Director
christopher.baker@childrenscolorado.org

Dr. Sue VandeWoude
CSU Pilot Program Director
sue.vandewoude@colostae.edu