

## Call for Concepts

Limited Competition: High Impact Specialized Innovation Programs (SIP) in Clinical and Translational Science for UM1 CTSA Hub Awards (RC2 Clinical Trials Optional)

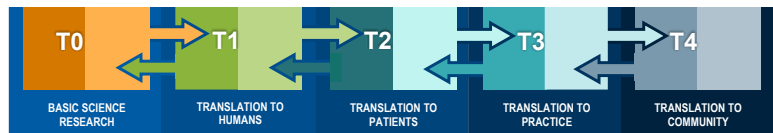
Key Dates	Release Date	February 14, 2024
	Submission Deadline	March 6, 2024
	Anticipated Notification	March 20, 2024

## Background

The Medical University of South Carolina established the South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Institute (SCTR) in 2006 in response to the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program. The CTSA Program is charged with developing and implementing innovative solutions to improve the efficiency, quality, and impact of the process for turning observations in the laboratory, clinic, and community into therapies and clinical practices that improve individual and population health. SCTR was awarded NIH/NCATS funding in 2009 and became a CTSA program hub. SCTR submitted a competing renewal application in January 2024 and as a CTSA program hub is eligible to submit proposals for a new limited competition, [High Impact Specialized Innovation Programs in Clinical and Translational Science, PAR-24-054](#).

## Call for Concepts

SCTR has changed the culture of biomedical research, removed barriers to translation, developed and shared resources and expertise, and streamlined research-related processes across the translational science spectrum from T0 to T4.



**Figure 1.** Translational science spectrum

NCATS defines Translational Science (the focus of this request) as the “field of investigation focused on understanding the [scientific and operational principles](#) underlying each step in the translational process” (Figure 1).

SCTR leadership is seeking Specialized Innovation Program (SIP) concept proposals. Eligible MUSC faculty may contribute an idea responsive to [PAR-24-054](#). Concepts will be reviewed by SCTR leadership who will then choose a project for an upcoming SIP submission deadline. Because SCTR’s renewal period is seven years and two SIP awards are permitted per hub, we anticipate future concept calls to add additional SIPs.

We encourage potential applicants to review [these principles](#) and the NIH [funding opportunity announcement](#) to guide the development of a responsive concept.

## Responsive Concepts

A responsive concept must support the development and demonstration of unique hub capabilities, research platforms and/or resources to address in a timely manner critical gap areas and/or roadblocks in clinical and translational science. Successful programs supported through this funding opportunity are expected to lay a strong foundation for future adoption and/or dissemination of capabilities to additional CTSA Program Hubs.

### *SIPs should address one or more of the following objectives:*

- Groundbreaking, innovative, high impact and cross-cutting research, resources and/or activities that address one or more of the [CTSA Program Goals](#) and have the highest potential to improve and accelerate biomedical research at UM1 hubs.
- Programs in Clinical and Translational Science that could fundamentally enhance the research enterprise and that require the participation, interaction, coordination, and integration of activities within a CTSA UM1 hub.
- Creation of unique resources and/or development of transformative technologies and/or platforms that can benefit a wide range of projects and/or activities related to CTS at CTSA UM1 hubs.
- High-impact discovery-based projects or hypothesis-generating science.

Contact Tammy Loucks at [louckst@MUSC.edu](mailto:louckst@MUSC.edu) to arrange a time to discuss an idea.

### Eligibility

The Principal Investigator (PI)/ Project Director (PD) must:

- hold a PhD, MD, DO or other equivalent degree.
- have a full-time faculty appointment at MUSC at the Assistant Professor level or above.
- have received and maintained extramural research-related funding throughout their career.
- have proven expertise and research experience to enable the proposed work.

Faculty from other academic institutions may partner as Co-Investigators and/or collaborators on applications with MUSC faculty.

Multi-PI projects led by investigators from two different disciplines are strongly encouraged.

### Instructions

Font Type and Size	Arial, 11pt, single spaced
Page Margins	No less than 0.5" on all sides (one-half inch)
File Upload Type	PDF

The application consists of the following information and documents:

- Title of proposed Specialized Innovation Project
- Concept Proposal (limited to 2 pages)
  - Description of the key barrier or roadblock
  - Specific Aims
  - How will this project integrate with SCTR's activities?
  - Describe a Dissemination and Implementation plan to other CTSA hubs
- Key Personnel- Provide a NIH style Biosketch for each investigator.
- **COMBINE ALL DOCUMENTS INTO ONE PDF FILE**

### Submission Process

Complete the investigator information fields and combine and submit all documents in one PDF file via this [REDCap link](#).

### Review Criteria

Each application will be reviewed by SCTR leadership, program directors and advisors with appropriate expertise. Reviews will focus on the following areas:

- Does the project address a critical problem or barrier in the field of translational science?
- Does the project team have a strong record of clinical and translational research with achievements in useful methods, procedures, or processes leading to improved diagnoses, treatments, and strategies to solve critical translational science problems and barriers?

- Are the specific aims of the project well-reasoned, feasible, and appropriate in terms of overall strategy, methodology and analysis?
- Does the project support the development and demonstration of unique hub capabilities?
- Does the project challenge to seek and shift current practice or paradigms by utilizing novel concepts, approaches, or methodologies?
- Does the project have the potential to provide sustainable, generalizable innovations or insights that increase the overall efficiency or effectiveness of translation?
- Can the project team develop and maintain effective collaborations with other SCTR programs and CTSA program hubs?

### Selected Concepts

If selected, submissions will follow the application deadlines outlined in [PAR-24-054](#) with a goal of a May 2024 or September 2024 submission date. SIP applications undergo NIH peer-review and prioritization, and awards are contingent on successful funding of SCTR's UM1 application.

### Additional Information

- [Austin CP. Opportunities and challenges in translational science. Clin Transl Sci 2021; 00:1-19. PMC8504824](#)
- South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research (SCTR) Institute Website <https://research.musc.edu/resources/sctr>
- NIH Biographical Sketch Template <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

### Questions

For questions related to this opportunity or to request a **consult**, contact Tammy Loucks, MPH, DrPH at [louckst@musc.edu](mailto:louckst@musc.edu).