2016 Spectrum Pilot Grants for SPARK
Request for Proposals

Spectrum, the Stanford Center for Clinical and Translational Research and Education, is a Stanford independent center supported by a National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), under the direction of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). In keeping with its core mission, Spectrum offers grants for accelerating clinical and translational research (CTR) in a number of biomedical and health-related areas.

The Stanford CTSA/Spectrum Pilot Grant Program has two major goals:

- to stimulate innovative clinical and translational research and
- to encourage collaborative, transdisciplinary work.

The primary expectation is that these early-stage translational projects will lead to additional research, external support, information dissemination and most important, will develop into longer-term, comprehensive projects. While we encourage transdisciplinary collaborations, it is not a requirement for funding.

Spectrum Pilot Grants for SPARK support development of novel therapeutics (small molecules, peptides, biologics, nucleic acid therapies, vaccines, gene therapies, stem cells, etc.) and diagnostics for unmet medical needs. Selected projects receive funding ($15,000-$50,000 per year), mentorship, and access to expert advisors from all stages of drug and diagnostic development. Proposals will be considered for any clinical indication and evaluated on the following criteria:

- scope and/or severity of unmet medical need,
- novelty of approach, and
- feasibility of the path to clinic

Projects may address an unmet need in any clinical area and we give special consideration to projects for global health, pediatrics, rare orphan diseases and other therapeutic areas that have been traditionally neglected by the for-profit sector. For a list of funded projects from previous cycles, please visit http://spectrum.stanford.edu/accordions/innovations-pilots.

Deadline:
All proposals must be submitted by 6:00 PM PDT on Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

Amount and Period of Funding:
Typical grants range between $15,000 and $50,000 per year and depend on the specific program and the individual proposal. If funded through Spectrum, awards will be granted for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 and must be completed in that timeframe. All unexpended funds will be forfeited if not spent within the 12-month award period.

Eligibility (for all categories):
Open to all Stanford faculty and instructors. Graduate students, clinical and non-clinical postdoctoral scholars are encouraged to apply and are required to include a Stanford-affiliated, faculty mentor who must be listed as co-PI on the application. Stanford faculty include anyone with Professor, Instructor or Lecturer in his or her official title.
Award Process:
Proposals will be evaluated by a committee composed of independent faculty and external reviewers, and awards will be based on individual selection criteria and scoring systems. In general, reviewers will select applications for consideration as finalists that have made convincing arguments that the investigator(s) is proposing a bold idea or approach that can have a major translational impact in translational research. Finalists may be invited for oral presentations and awardees will be notified by the end of December 2015.

Proposal Submission:
Projects must choose a primary program area for the application and may apply to another area if the project meets criteria for both programs. Please communicate with program staff if it is unclear which program area is the best fit. In all cases, projects will be awarded only one Spectrum Pilot Grant per annual grant cycle.

Please submit your proposal online at: https://stanfordmedicine.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6tEzZQqAT9d7vHT

Applications must include the following information:

- A cover sheet that includes the following information:
  - Title of proposal
  - PI name, title, email and department
  - Mentor name (if applicable) and co-investigator names, departments and emails
  - Office of Technology Licensing (OTL) disclosure (yes/no) and docket number, if relevant
  - Amount of funding requested

- Body of proposal (2-page limit, at least 10 point font):
  - Description of proposed product
  - Underlying technology
  - Clinical indication and brief scope of market
  - Current standard of care and unmet need
  - Translational objectives that will be achieved with the funding
  - Development plan

- Budget (not part of page limit). Allowable expenditures include investigator’s salary, research personnel salaries, travel (if project-related) and project supplies. Do not include indirect cost expenses. Capital equipment costing more than $5,000, intellectual property services, and food are unallowable expenses.

- Bios (1 paragraph maximum) of everyone involved in the project (not part of page limit)

NOTE: Figures and tables must be included within the body of the proposal. References may be included and are not considered part of the page limit. Do not include appendices to the proposal. Applications that do not comply with the requirements will not be considered for review.

For questions regarding the application process and requirements, contact the Spectrum Pilot Grant Program Manager: April Watson, aprilw@stanford.edu, or 650-497-7032. For questions regarding scope of the proposal, criteria for awards or the review process, contact the program manager: Kanad Das, kanaddas@stanford.edu or 650-721-3649.

To review the Spectrum Pilot Grant policies, please visit: http://spctrm.stanford.edu/Web3Files-Open/2016_Spectrum_Pilot_Grants_Policies.pdf