The UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) requests applications in response to this call for highly innovative projects to be conducted during the 2020-2021 funding period. These awards are intended to support highly innovative projects that have the potential for unusually high impact and will provide the necessary preliminary data for new extramural grant applications. Applicants must articulate the scope of the problem to be addressed and the potential of the project, if successful, to have a significant impact across the translational spectrum by addressing:

- Creativity and innovation, with the potential for commercialization if applicable
- New processes, methodologies, or technologies with a clear and sustainable goal
- Healthcare Delivery Science (improvement, dissemination, and/or implementation)
- Data Science and use of electronic health records
- Community engagement with clear deliverables and outcomes

Funds will be available for up to $50,000 in total costs for a 12-month period with earliest start date of June 15, 2020. No carry forward of funds is permitted. Support may be provided for supplies and other research-related expenses; funds may not be used to purchase equipment or for personnel outside of UC Davis. PI (and other faculty) salary support is not permissible.

Important criteria in the review of applications include the following:

- Inclusion of a new multidisciplinary team, with trainee(s). The proposal must include at least one trainee at the predoctoral (undergraduate or graduate student) or postdoctoral/clinical fellow level and the role of the trainee in the faculty-driven project must be clearly defined with a mentoring plan.
- Extent of use of CTSC resources (e.g., informatics, biostatistics, community engagement, regulatory, Clinical Research Center). Applicants are encouraged to contact program directors for assistance (see CTSC website; https://health.ucdavis.edu/ctsc/).

Purpose: The UC Davis CTSC provides an academic home for clinical and translational research and is focused on speeding improvements in human health by reducing barriers in health-relevant research. The goal of the CTSC Pilot Program is to enhance and augment research areas crucial to translational research by providing support for novel research projects, the development of new teams and partnerships, high risk/high impact research, projects that span the translational spectrum, and lifespan health. In addition, the Program fosters new multidisciplinary collaborations that enhance the integration of new process-directed concepts, techniques, and technologies. Highly innovative approaches, methods, and techniques from multidisciplinary teams led by a UC Davis PI or co-PIs that include trainees are of primary interest for this call. Applicants are encouraged to link basic, translational, and clinical researchers, and address areas of emphasis in NIH strategic plans.

Eligibility: All full-time members of the UC Davis faculty, including faculty in the adjunct or professional research series. Project Scientists can participate as co-investigators or trainees.

Application Procedure: Proposals must use the form that can be downloaded from the CTSC website (https://health.ucdavis.edu/ctsc/area/translationalresearch/index.html). The submission must also include an NIH biographical sketch in the current NIH format (maximum of 5 pages) for each participating investigator including predoctoral or postdoctoral (PhD or clinical fellow) trainees. Deadline date for receipt is June 5, 2020.
Submitted proposals must use the following format and adhere to the requirements of the call and application:

- Specific Aims and Hypotheses
- Background, Significance, and Innovation
- Experimental Design (how the proposed study is highly innovative and will address an important problem in a unique way; sample selection, data collection, statistical analysis, and evaluation plan with a timeline must be included; rigor and reproducibility must be addressed as well as the potential for sex-related differences)
- Rationale for Requested Funds and Specific Plans for Extramural Grant Submissions (be specific)
- Role of Trainee(s) including a Mentoring Plan
- Prior funding from the CTSC must be acknowledged and how the application represents a new and unique research direction must be clearly stated. Any submissions that fail to report prior CTSC funding will be disqualified.
- If human subjects are proposed the application must have sufficient and explicit information to guide the process and plan. NIH must approve all pilot projects prior to funding. Any studies that involve human subjects must have IRB approval already in place at the time of submission and will be subject to review and approval by the NIH before funding. The application must include the required documentation on IRB approval or the application will not be considered.

Additional Requirements: All selected projects that involve human subjects or human specimens will receive a final review by the NIH prior to approval. The names of investigators funded through the CTSC Pilot Program will be posted on the CTSC website. In addition, all investigators and trainees are required to participate in the annual CTSC retreat and/or associated workshops and symposia, acknowledge the CTSC grant in any abstracts, presentations, or publications (with a PMCID number as required by the NIH; see website) resulting from supported studies, and provide quarterly progress reports, a final report, and an annual report with updates on any new funding, publications, or related accomplishments resulting from the initial award.

Application receipt deadline: June 5, 2020
Earliest funding date: June 15, 2020 (projects must be completed by May 30, 2021; carryforward of funds is not permitted by the NIH)

Each PI may submit one proposal only. Please email a pdf of the complete application (application with the required biosketches) to: aftarantal@ucdavis.edu

For questions, please contact: Alice F. Tarantal, PhD (aftarantal@ucdavis.edu)