Proposal for
Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute/Practice-based Research Program
2016 Partnership Development Seed Grants
Community-Academic Research Collaboration to Improve Health

The Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS)/Practice-based Research Program (PBR) will fund Seed Grants that support the development of Chicagoland community-engaged research partnerships between Northwestern academic researchers and community based primary care clinicians. Partnership development is an important phase of research that occurs before proposal development. We anticipate granting 2-4 awards. Most awards will be around $5,000 each with $10,000 the maximum award. Project length: 12 months. Goals of these awards are to increase the number of community clinician-academician partnerships that are prepared to collaborate in the design and conduct research projects in community primary care settings. These seed grants can lay the groundwork for drafting research proposals that require or encourage community/patient/stakeholder engagement to National Institutes of Health, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Centers for Disease Control or other federal and private foundation funders and for systematically addressing issues important to clinicians.

Seed Grant Award Focus
These Partnership Development grants are intended to support expanding or newly developing partnerships in, for example, relationship building, exploration of shared areas of interest, creation of partnership structure, the examination of practice data to refine study ideas and identification of potential research collaborations in community primary care practice settings. Partnerships may explore practice-based research strategies, patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR), or other engaged research collaborations across the translational spectrum of research. Partnerships forming to plan practice change strategies that can result in research are eligible.

Possible activities include
- facilitating formal and informal meetings for partners to learn more about each other;
- exploring and seeking involvement of other potential partners;
- identifying shared research interests and priorities;
- examining electronic medical data records to refine study ideas;
- building capacity for community partners for meaningful participation in project advisory committees or research team roles (e.g. training on research design/methods, ethics training, etc.);
- building capacity for academic partners (e.g. training on community context, community engagement mechanisms, understanding practice characteristics that may affect potential study design, etc.);
- developing partnership infrastructure mechanisms such as advisory committees, memorandum of understanding, and/or communication strategies;
- identifying and exploring potential funding sources for research collaboration; and/or
- developing and implementing engaged processes of collaboratively designing steps in the research process (including recruitment & retention approaches, data collection/analysis instruments and protocols, interventions, dissemination and implementation plans) and preparing proposals for external research funding.
Eligibility: Applications must be submitted jointly by a community clinician-academician team including a community based primary care clinician and Northwestern academic faculty member. Priority for partnership development awards will be given to applications involving partners that are members of the Pediatric Practice Research Group (PPRG) or the Research Education and Academic Achievement (REACH) PBRN. PBRN network leadership can serve in supportive role in the proposed partnership efforts.

Application
Before submission, the applicant partnership is required to contact PBR or Network Leadership, Susan LeBailly, Adolfo Ariza, Helen Binns or Erik Orelind, to discuss the fit and feasibility of potential proposal ideas. This is mandatory and must be done no later than April 20, 2016. Contact information is below. The proposed aims and activities described in the application should reflect the Center for Community Health Principles of Engagement that outline key elements of the process for working collaboratively with stakeholders. (Described here: http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/cch/docs/resource-library/CCH_CE_PrinciplesFinal.pdf).

Application should not exceed 7 pages.
- Cover sheet (1 page-form will be sent to applicants)
- Proposal narrative: (4 pages maximum)
  - Abstract (1 Paragraph describing project)
  - Aims your application is seeking
  - Brief description/evidence of current relationship of the applicants
  - Succinct description of how the application will be used to achieve the aims described above. Include appropriate milestones.
  - Anticipated outcomes
  - Timeline
- Budget (1 page)
- Budget Justification (1 page)
- Letter from community clinician’s practice leadership and from NU academician department/division head indicating support for proposed research.
- Note: please allow adequate time to follow your institution’s procedures for administrative review of your application prior to submission

Review: Applications will undergo peer review by both community clinicians and academic representatives with experience in community-engaged research. Selection criteria include: quality and feasibility of proposed activities, quality and feasibility of community and academic partner engagement plans, potential for future research collaboration and funding, potential for improving health or health care, focus that is novel and can generate interest in community primary care clinicians.

Grantee Requirements: Kick-off meeting with network leaders. One in-person meeting with other grant recipients. Submission of brief mid-project progress report and final report/budget report. Response to annual survey of seed grant resultant outcomes.

Other Resources: Applicants may want to consider other possible NUCATS fiscal resources: http://bit.ly/1vB31Hh

Questions: Susan LeBailly, PBR Director, slebailly@northwestern.edu.

Proposed Timeline:
Deadline for discussing idea w/PBR leadership April 20, 2016
Application deadline May 9, 2016
Funding decisions communicated June 15, 2016
PBR is a program of the **Center for Community Health** serving Northwestern’s Institute for Public Health and Medicine (IPHAM) and the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Science (NUCATS) Institute. [http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/cch/](http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/cch/)

**PBR Leadership**

Susan LeBailly  
Director, Practice-based Research Program  
slebailly@northwestern.edu

Adolfo Ariza MD  
Director, Pediatric Practice Research Group  
aariza@luriechildrens.org

Helen Binns MD MPH  
Associate Director Pediatric Practice Research Group  
hbinns@luriechildrens.org

Erik Orelind MD MPH  
Director, REACH PBRN  
eorelind@nm.org