1. Introduction/Overview
   The Senior Vice Chancellor and Deans of the University of Pittsburgh Schools of Health Sciences (SHS) seek applications for the Health Sciences Team Science and Leadership Program. These awards will support creation of teams of scholars comprising faculty from at least three of the SHS (Dental, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health).

   The overall goal of this program is to create, mentor, and support mid-career scholars from the schools of the health sciences to lead high impact inter-professional teams that address society's most pressing health-related challenges. The program will specifically seek collaborations that may lead to submissions of team science R01s, U01s, program project grants, center grants, or other large-scale proposals.

   Proposed projects are expected to involve collaborations among at least three investigators from at least three different SHS. Proposals should follow a multiple principal investigator model. Lead investigators are expected to be mid-career with a track record of independent funding and promise for leading a large team of health scientists.

   Projects should propose a compelling approach for addressing scientific or health challenges requiring broad expertise from across the health sciences. We encourage projects addressing specific NIH priorities, NOSIs, or RFAs, and investigators should cite those sources when possible.

   Examples of projects might include but are not limited to the following:
   • Development of a research center examining social determinants of health for aging adults with a specified chronic condition, with a focus on underserved populations
   • Development of a multi-site pragmatic trial examining effectiveness and implementation of an intervention designed to optimize primary care delivery of evidence-based care for pain management
   • Development of a research center examining genetic and behavioral determinants of adherence to oral cancer therapy in underserved populations
   • Creation of a research center to develop, characterize, and validate an animal model of disease to enable investigation of the underlying pathogenesis and progression of disease, as well as identification of novel targets that enable examination of potential therapeutic agents.

   Awardees will receive:
   • Pilot funding to support data collection to be used for a future team science research grant submission
   • Interdisciplinary mentoring from across the SHS
   • Career and leadership mentoring training

2. **CTSI Assistance (Optional)**

Research facilitators at the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) are available to assist teams at any stage of a project https://ctsi.pitt.edu/research-services/research-facilitator-services/.
For example, facilitators can advise on finding collaborators, regulatory issues, human research protections, other required approvals, and research design or conduct.

Limited statistical consulting on projects is available from CTSI https://ctsi.pitt.edu/research-services/core-services/biostatistics-epidemiology-research-design/

Identifying Team Members from Schools of the Health Sciences: Applicants can seek recommendations for collaborators in other health sciences schools by contacting:

Catherine Bender, PhD, RN	cbe100@pitt	School of Nursing
Jeremy Berg, PhD j	berg@pitt.edu	School of Medicine
Christina Mair, PhD, MPH	cmair@pitt.edu	School of Public Health
Thomas Nolin, Pharm D, PhD	nolin@pitt.edu	School of Pharmacy
Steven Reis, MD	sreis@pitt.edu	School of Medicine
Charles Sfier, DDS, PhD	csfeir@pitt.edu	School of Dental Medicine
Elizabeth Skidmore, PhD, OTR/L	skidmore@pitt.edu	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

This group will hold office hours for brief consultations to enable teams to identify collaborators on March 3, 2023 from 1-2PM. Interested applicants can sign up by contacting Lisa Pilewski (lap52@pitt.edu).

3. **Key Dates**
   For this funding opportunity, the following dates apply:
   Round 1 LOI Submission Deadline: **April 3, 2023 by 11:59:59 pm**
   Round 1 Notification: **April 21, 2023**
   Round 2 Full Proposal Submission Deadline: **June 1, 2023 by 11:59:59pm (by invitation**)
   Round 2 Notification: **June 23, 2023**
   Earliest Anticipated Start Date (award must start within 3 months of Notification): **July 1, 2023**

4. **Funding Information**
   Applicants can request up to $150,000 in direct costs, for a funding period of two years ($75,000 per year). The funding cycle will run from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025; no extensions of this award period will be made. Funding cannot start until all necessary regulatory approvals have been received (IRB, hSCRO, IBC, CORID, IACUC). **Projects must start within 3 months of Notification of Award. Projects that do not start within 3 months will be forfeited.**

   There is no mechanism for no-cost extensions; any funds that are not used during the award period will be forfeited.

5. **Career and Leadership Training** Team members are expected to actively participate in the Health Sciences Team Science Faculty Leadership Academy, which is a program supported by the Clinical Translational Science Institute and the Office of Academic Career Development and specifically tailored to awardees of this program.

6. **Eligibility**

Projects must involve collaborations between at least three lead investigators from three different SHS. Lead investigators are expected to be mid-career with a track record of independent funding and promise for leading a large team of health scientists.

• The Multiple Principal Investigators (MPIs) must have a primary faculty appointment in one of the SHS.
• Other Co-Investigators (Co-Is) may be included Submissions should clearly describe the role of each investigator, with sufficient detail for reviewers to identify how they will have an active role in the research.

7. **Submission and Review Information**
Applications will be evaluated in two rounds: (1) a brief letter of intent, and (2) a full application.

Round 1: Letter of Intent (LOI) Submit a letter of intent that summarizes the proposed research. Each submission must include the following sections:

1. <u>Study Title</u>: Include the title of the proposal at the top of the page, along with the two co-PIs' names and contact emails.
2. <u>Abstract/Scope of Work</u> (500-word limit): Provide a high-level overview of the project and the proposed work.
3. <u>Study Team</u>: Provide the names and affiliations of all members of the study team and a brief description of their roles (25-50 words per person)
4. <u>Suggested Reviewers</u>: To facilitate the second round of review, please suggest two Pitt/UPMC faculty members to potentially serve as non-conflicted scientific reviewers. For each suggested reviewer, list their name, title, department, and contact email.

Letters of Intent should be in the form of a single PDF document. The font should not be smaller than Arial 11; margins must be no smaller than 0.5 inches. All materials must be uploaded to the Infoready web site by 11:59:59 PM on the due dates. Additional or supplemental materials cannot be accepted after the deadline and will not be reviewed.

Round 1: Review Criteria
The review of letters of intent will be conducted by faculty from the Deans' Offices of the SHS. Proposals will primarily be evaluated based on responsiveness to the funding opportunity announcement, as well as the potential scientific impact of the proposed work. The results of

this evaluation will determine which investigators will be invited to submit a full proposal for the second round.

Round 2: Full Application
Applications should be in the form of a single PDF document; please use Arial size 11 font, with margins of 0.5 inches. All materials must be submitted before 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Additional or supplemental materials cannot be accepted after the deadline and will not be reviewed.

Applications must include the following sections. Please start each new section on a new page.

Cover Sheet (one page): Include the following details: Project Title Names, titles, affiliations and preferred contact email for the: Co-Principal Investigators (faculty members) Scientific Abstract (maximum 250 words): Summarize your proposal

Research Plan (maximum five pages including tables/figures): Please follow the traditional NIH proposal format addressing the following: Specific Aims Significance Innovation Approach Future Impact: A well-defined path from the pilot to future larger research efforts (maximum 250 words)

References (no page limit): Literature cited does not count toward the five-page limit for the Research Plan.

Budget with Justification (no page limit): Use PHS 398 Forms Pages 4 and 5. The budget justification should include sufficient detail for reviewers to assess whether appropriate resources have been requested.

An additional page should be included for the budget justification. All pieces of equipment, including any type of computer or related device, must be explicitly justified as critical to the performance of the proposed research. Any salary requested should include non-federal fringe benefit rates.

Grant funds may not be budgeted for:
Salary support for the PI or faculty collaborators*
Routine office supplies or communication costs, including printing Meals or travel, including to conferences, except as required to collect data
Professional education or training
Computers or audiovisual equipment (exceptions require clear justification)
Manuscript preparation and submission

Indirect costs *Effort is required of the Principal Investigators and must be reflected on the budget page, costshared by the respective departments. Reviewers understand that this may be a very small proportion of effort given the size of this award but will be cautious if investigators do not appear to have sufficient time to complete a project. Please note, an applicant who is

currently the recipient of a mentored career development award (e.g., K12, K23, K24 etc.) or a foundation-supported career development award may subsume the effort devoted to the project under the career development award if the project proposed is consistent with the career development award.

Any salary support requested in a submitted budget should reflect University of Pittsburgh's fringe benefit rates for non-federally-funded projects (https://www.osp.pitt.edu/about/data-proposalpreparation-general). If an award is made, a budget meeting will be held between principal investigators, their respective research administrators, and financial administrators from the CTSI. If necessary, minor adjustments to the requested budget will be made at that meeting.

Proposal Timeline (one page): Describe milestones and timeline for completion of the project. These milestones are critical for the pilot program because all awards must be expended during the one-year award. The CTSI Pilot program does not have mechanisms to allow no-cost extensions. In the event an award is made, investigators should immediately confer with CTSI staff if any delay in initiation or completion of the project is anticipated.

Human and/or Animal Subjects (no page limit): pilot awards must address Protection of Human Subjects, Adequacy of Protection Against Risks, Data and Safety Monitoring Plans, Inclusion of Women and Minorities, and Inclusion of Children.

Human Research Protection Office (HRPO) approval is not required prior to submission. However, HRPO approval is required for all projects involving human subjects before project funding may begin. Although animal research is expected to be rare in this program, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must approve any projects involving animal subjects prior to final funding approval.

In this section, applicants must describe any human and/or animal subject issues, as well as the sources of materials that will be obtained from human subjects. If human subjects are involved, provide a description of their involvement and characteristics, specific risks to subjects who participate, and protection against those risks. Reviewers may consider whether significant delays in approval are an anticipated barrier for project completion when selecting projects. Evidence of prior or ongoing HRPO / IACUC review is encouraged. Similarly, this section should discuss if other special regulatory approval is required prior to funding: Human Stem Cell Research Oversight (hSCRO), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), Committee for Oversight of Research Involving the Dead (CORID), Radiation Safety Office (RSO), etc.

NIH Biosketches (no page limit): Include biosketches of no more than 5 pages each for the Principal Investigators and for any other investigator whose expertise will be critical for successful completion of the project. The personal statement in any biographical sketch should be appropriate for the project proposed in the application.

Round 2: Review Criteria

Review of the pilot proposals will use the NIH review criteria and Program-specific criteria to evaluate the scientific merit and transdisciplinary nature of the project. Reviewers will score final applications on an NIH scale (1-9) in the domains of Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach, and Environment. Special emphasis will be given to a rating of the overall impact of the proposed project. Note that the review (based on the criteria below) will be adjusted to the pilot nature of the award.

NIH Review Criteria: **Scientific Merit**

1. Overall Impact: The likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field

2. Significance: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field?

3. Investigators: Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited, sufficient, and able to conduct the project?

4. Innovation: Does the project shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by using novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?

5. Approach: Are the strategies, methods, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?

6. Environment: Are the personnel, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators to perform the proposed research within the time frame allotted?

Program-Specific Criteria: Transdisciplinary Nature Reviewers will evaluate the following item while determining scientific and technical merit, and in providing an overall impact score, but will not give a separate score for it.

7. Is the project developing team science?

8. Will the project lead to a large-scale proposal?

9. Are contributions from each of the different schools meaningful and significant?