

UT Health San Antonio School of Medicine Research Affinity Team (RAffTs)

Due Date: Rolling submissions. Applications must be submitted via the InfoReady platform at uthscsa.infoready4.com

Please refer questions to Courtney Peebles, MPH, Senior Research Coordinator in the SOM Dean's Office, at 210-562-6869 or peeblesc@uthscsa.edu.

Mission: As part of the strategic plan for research and in pursuit of creating a nurturing and supportive environment for faculty and institutional research capacity development, the SOM Dean's Office has allocated funds to establish Research Affinity Teams (RAffTs). These teams will provide a socialization and infrastructure framework for faculty across the research spectrum and from varied backgrounds to coalesce around a common disease, condition, or population of interest.

Description: RAffTs are chartered workgroups supported and approved by the SOM Dean's Office. Ultimately these working groups should serve as the foundation of a Program Project Grant, multidisciplinary (U01) grant, or other similar large award, though outcomes including increased cross-departmental collaborations for publications, enhanced sharing of data/equipment/best practices, etc. are also encouraged.

Examples of areas suitable for establishment of a RAffT include, but are not limited to:

- Clinical trials workgroup
- Basic-Clinical science collaborations
- Patient-centered outcomes
- Translational research topics
- PCORI grant submissions

Eligibility: Applications must be submitted by investigators whose primary faculty appointment is the Long School of Medicine. Faculty are encouraged to collaborate with individuals from IIMS partner organizations which include UT Health San Antonio (UTHSA), San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, San Antonio Military Health System, South Texas Veterans Health Care System, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, University Health System, University of Texas San Antonio, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, University of Texas School of Public Health—San Antonio and Brownsville Regional Campuses, and University of Texas College of Pharmacy.

Amount and Term: Funds up to \$2,000 will be awarded for a project period of up to 1 year. Funds are available to fund up to 3 RAffTs for FY17.

Application Submission: Applications must be submitted via the InfoReady platform. Documents should be uploaded as Portable Document Format (PDF), use Arial 11 point font, single spacing, and .75-inch margins in all directions. Failure to follow these or the following guidelines may result in the application being administratively withdrawn.

The application should include the following:

- Proposed RAffT name, mission statement, and goals. Applicants should use the SMART acronym to guide development of their goals. (2 page maximum)
- List of at least five faculty/staff interested in participating in the RAffT and their proposed roles, as appropriate. (2 page maximum)
- NIH Biosketch for all proposed RAffT leadership. (new NIH format, limit 5 pages/investigator)
- Target population for additional members. (1 page maximum)

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- Introductory message that will be sent by SOM Research to recruit additional members from target population. (1 page maximum)

Budget and Financial Policies: A formal budget is not necessary to establish a RAffT. Funds of up to \$2,000 will be awarded upon receipt of a well-justified request and may be used to support RAffT activities including meetings, grant writing or editorial assistance, publication fees, etc. Logistic support, including meeting coordination and other associated functions, is available to RAffTs as needed through SOM Research.

Institutional seed grant funding is available exclusively to RAffTs through the competitive SOM Visionaries Pilot Program mechanism. The Visionaries Pilot Program may award projects with budgets of up to \$100,000 and a maximum project period of two years. Additional information on the Visionaries Pilot Program is available from SOM Research.

Continued SOM support of a RAffT is contingent upon progress toward or attainment of the goals established in the RAffT proposal. An annual report to SOM Research is required to document activities, events, outcomes, and progress made in the previous year as well as updated goals for the coming year.

Review process and criteria: Applications will be reviewed by the SOM Associate Dean for Research and submitted to the Dean for final approval. Considerations for award of a RAffT include the following criteria:

- Likelihood of submission for/securing extramural funding within 12 months of establishment
- Extent of meaningful interdisciplinary collaboration and/or community engagement
- Contribution to career development of clinical/translational scientists

Other criteria for review include:

- Fit with SOM Research priorities including aging, cancer, diabetes, infectious disease, neuroscience, and population health.

Please note: These teams are not to take the place of existing department/center/institute activities, and must focus on topics that are not addressed by an existing SOM or UTHSA entity. Proposals that seek to establish a RAffT that is potentially duplicative of existing entities will not be awarded.

Administrative management: An annual report to SOM Research is required to document activities, events, outcomes, and progress toward achieving the goals outlined in the initial RAffT application. Updated goals for the coming year should also be included.

Continuation of SOM Dean's Office support of the RAffT is contingent upon evaluation of return on investment (i.e., extramural funding).