

Schubert Research Clinic Clinical Research Feasibility Fund (CReFF) Award

Deadline: January 12, 2024

Description: Funding Available for Junior Investigators Utilizing Schubert Research Clinic (SRC) Resources

The CReFF award is designed to provide funding for junior investigators who are on a well-planned clinical research career path with committed and supportive mentors. The CReFF was not designed for studies that require minimal resources, e.g., sample processing and storage, a few blood draws, etc.

The SRC is the clinical research facility core of the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA)-funded CCTST, with space for outpatient visits available, as well as nursing services. Make sure that you are planning to use the SRC.

The available resources are listed on the [SRC webpage](#).

Qualifications/Eligibility:

YOUR STUDY MUST UTILIZE SCHUBERT RESEARCH CLINIC RESOURCES *and*

- An appointed junior faculty (based at UC, CCHMC or Cincinnati VAMC) with a rank of instructor or assistant professor.
 - Fellows, who are not faculty, may be candidates when it is anticipated they will have a faculty appointment during the course of the CReFF award. The faculty appointment cannot be contingent on receiving this award.
- **Candidates must have an active SRC-approved protocol** or submit one for review with their application. (If submitting simultaneously with application, funding may not be awarded if study is not approved at time of review). The project should utilize substantive SRC resources, particularly nursing services, outpatient visits, etc. Applicants are strongly advised to contact Dr. [Mark Mitsnefes](#) (Medical Director, SRC) prior to submitting their application, and should submit their study protocol documents to the SRC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at least one month in advance of the CReFF review meeting to facilitate resolving scientific or other issues.
- The SAC approval process for the study protocol must be completed before an investigator is considered for a CReFF award. Protocol submission processes are

outlined here: <https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/research/cincinnati/support/schubert-clinic/protocol>.

- Applicants must be CCTST members. Membership is free and can be completed here: <http://cctst.uc.edu/user/register>.
- Prior Approval:

Applications that are funded will be required to submit prior approval paperwork in conjunction with their study (Human Subjects or Vertebrate Animal Studies) and be approved PRIOR to funding starting. We strongly recommend that you get all relevant regulatory processes of your study initiated such as approval by the IRB, IBC, IACUC, NCATS Human Subjects Protection, and Radiation Safety PRIOR to any award notice to ensure funding be accessible immediately at the time we release funds. If these approvals are not in place prior to the award notice, it could result in a delay in funding. There will be no funding extensions.

If you are not utilizing SRC resources, there may be other pilot funding opportunities available for your study. For more info, go to: <https://www.cctst.org/funding>.

Not Eligible for Funding:

- Faculty with independent funding (R01, P01, etc.).
- Faculty with training grant funding (K12, K23, KL2, PS2, etc.). CReFF was designed to support transition to Ks or another initial extramural grants (R or foundation funding). If you are thinking of applying for K funding in the future and have questions about the timing of CReFF funding vs. K funding or how the CReFF could help you strengthen your NIH application, please contact Dr. Mark Mitsnefes (Medical Director, SRC).
- Faculty who are recipients of major CCTST grants (\geq \$7,500), Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation (CCRF) Trustee grants, Procter Scholar program funding, or Place Outcomes Research Awards.

How To Apply:

Please send the following *required application documents* via email to [Christy Keller](#).

- A Face Page - [CReFF Face Page Template.pdf](#)
- A cover letter from the investigator for any projects seeking support. The letter should include a description of the applicant's career plan. Specifically, the letter should include a description of how support from the CReFF award will allow the candidate to seek external support based upon the pilot data collected from it and how the data will lead to a K, R01, or foundation grant application. The letter should also indicate which funding agencies are appropriate for funding the project after the pilot study is completed and a timetable for potential submission of grants for extramural support.
- Budget - [Budget Template](#)

Provide a detailed description of the CReFF support budget (up to \$20,000). Funds can be expended on costs not usually covered by resources available through the SRC, such as coordinator salary, laboratory costs, patient incentives, etc. Investigators' salaries are not an allowable budget item. This detailed budget must be accompanied by a second budget with detail about the entire cost of the project. If the project cannot be carried out for \$20,000, an explanation of the source of additional funds must be included. The person who has authority over the source of additional funds must write a letter indicating they will be forthcoming if the candidate is successful in getting a CReFF award.

- A copy of the applicant's biosketch in the NIH 5-page format, which should include any current or pending intramural (including CCTST, Procter Scholar, Place Outcomes, or Trustee Grant applications) or extramural support.
- Letters of recommendation from the applicant's research mentor and Division or Department Head. Specifically detailed in the letter should be a description of how the applicant will be supported by the mentor and Division or Department Head, including a description of the applicant's protected time (% effort) available for completion of the project. Support is defined as protection of time, funding, or allocation of resources to facilitate the project.

If Your Application is Funded:

The CReFF funds must be spent within one year of the funding start date of receiving the award (award period is 4/1/24-3/31/25). The date of the award will be in the CReFF award letter.

A final report (limited to no more than three pages) will be required at the end of the award period (i.e., after one year). The report should include a description of the hypothesis, aims, brief description of methods, and results with interpretation and discussion of how they will be used to submit or obtain extramural funding.

NIH Acknowledgment: Publications resulting from use of CCTST resources must credit the appropriate CCTST grant by including an [NIH funding acknowledgment](#).

Application Submission/Questions:

For application submission, protocol submission, or general inquiries, email or call [Christy Keller](#), SRC Program Manager, 513-636-9263.