**COMMUNITY Investigator Development Core (IDC) Program: Program Description and Instructions for Applications**

**Phase 1 Application Due Date: Monday, November 7, 2022, 5 pm**

**Phase 2 Selected Applicants Announced: Week of November 14, 2022**

**Phase 2 Application Due Date: Friday, January 13, 2023, 5 pm**

**Awardees Announced: Friday, February 10, 2023**

**UPCOMING SESSION: There will be an Investigator Development Core Program-specific Network Event during the week of October 3, 2022. The purpose of this event will be to facilitate the creation of multi-PI teams for applications. Stay tuned for the date, time, and other details of the event.**

**Program Description**

**The COMMUNITY** (**C**hronic disease **O**utcomes through **M**ulti-level and **M**ulti-generational approaches, **U**nifying **N**ovel Interventions, and **T**raining for health **E**quit**Y**) **Center** is pleased to announce its **Fall 2022** Investigator Development Core Program Awards. The COMMUNITY Center is a collaboration across Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC), Weill Cornell Medical Center (WCMC), Hunter College of the City University of New York (Hunter/CUNY), and Physicians Affiliate of Greater New York (PAGNY) with the mission to reduce health disparities in multiple chronic diseases. This new multi-institutional program will provide funding to support pilot projects, conducted by early-stage investigators (herein known as **Health Equity Scholars)**,which addresses two or more chronic diseases that commonly co-occur; health disparities and equity; and the prevention, treatment, and/or management of these chronic diseases. The duration of the program is either one or two years dependent on scope of the proposed project, career phase, and training plan.

These awards are intended to support one or more of the following:

* The collection and analysis of new preliminary data to a support a larger future study in chronic disease prevention through community-based participatory research or implementation science.
* The collection and analysis of additional data for a grant resubmission that would help an investigator respond to a previously favorable committee review that yielded a promising but not fundable score for a proposed study.

The Investigator Development Core Program will support the Health Equity Scholars by providing mentored training. Training components include the following:

* Completion and implementation of an Individual Development Plan (IDP)
* Interdisciplinary mentoring
* Manuscript and grant-writing support
* Training in study design and biostats
* Integrated research internships and externships
* Training content will also include one or more of the following:
  + Participation in team science training
  + Participation in a health equity and disparities seminars
  + Participation in community engagement with a focus on clinical research, community-based participatory research, and implementation science research training
  + Research compliance training

**Investigator Development Core Program Team Members**

* Dr. Daichi Shimbo (Director), CUIMC
* Dr. Jasmine McDonald, CUIMC
* Dr. Katherine Crew, CUIMC
* Dr. Jeanine Genkinger, CUIMC
* Dr. Ruth Masterson Creber, CUIMC
* Dr. Jill Bargonetti, Hunter/CUNY
* Dr. Monika Safford, WCMC
* Marisol Castellano, MS (Project Manager)
* Nicole A. Bayne, RN, MPH (Project Manager)

**Applicant Eligibility.** Early-stage investigators from CUIMC, WCMC, Hunter/CUNY, or PAGNY are eligible to apply. Defined according to NIH guidelines, an early-stage investigator is a new investigator who has completed their terminal research degree or medical residency—whichever date is later—within the past 10 years and has not yet competed successfully for a substantial, independent NIH research grant. A list of NIH grants that maintain early-stage investigator status can be found here: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/list-smaller-grants.htm>

Candidates must hold a MD, PhD, or equivalent doctoral degree. Early-stage investigators include post-doctoral fellows or junior faculty. Candidates who are members of populations that are under-represented in the research enterprise (<https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>) are especially encouraged to apply. In addition, there are no US citizenship requirements to apply.

Applications with more than one Principal Investigator (PI), **a multi-PI application,** are highly encouraged. If there is more than one proposed PI, all PIs must be early-stage investigators. The following are exemplars of an ideal multi-PI team:

* A clinician who does not primarily conduct research paired with a person who primarily conducts research.
* A person who has a focus on education and teaching with less institutional support for conducting research paired with a person who primarily conducts research.
* Two persons who primarily conduct research, but who are in different disciplines.

If requested, the COMMUNITY Investigator Development Core Program will help match a PI from PAGNY or Hunter/CUNY with a PI from CUIMC or WCMC for multi-PI applications.

**The following are award priorities of the COMMUNITY Investigator Development Core Program:**

* Applicants who are interested in conducting studies for increasing the health equity of chronic diseases\*.
* Applications that have a focus in community-based participatory research or implementation science, and include a partnership with a community organization.
* Applications that have a multi-PI team.

**\*At CUIMC, applications that focus on cancer as one of the chronic diseases are highly encouraged, and will be prioritized for funding.**

**Pilot Projects.** The pilot project **must** address the following three components:

1. Two or more chronic diseases that commonly co-occur,
2. Health disparities and/or health equity, and
3. Prevention, treatment, and/or management of these chronic diseases.

The pilot project **must** provide data to support a future research study in reducing **multiple** chronic diseases.

The COMMUNITY Investigator Development Core Program will award $25,000 to $50,000 for each pilot project. Part of the funds can be used by the awardees to support resources provided by the COMMUNITY Center and Investigator Development Core Program (*e.g.,* purchasing equipment, supplies, staff support) to the awardees. Applicants will be asked to submit a budget and budget justification in Phase 2 of the application process (as described below). There will be awards available for proposed PIs at CUIMC, WCMC, Hunter/CUNY, and PAGNY.

**Phase I Application Components**

1. New NIH-format biosketch (Form G, 5-page limit per investigator).

* Section A (Personal Statement) should include a description of short-term and long-term career goals, and reasons for seeking mentored research training in health disparities and equity of chronic diseases.

1. Specific aims page describing the pilot project (maximum 1 page, and includes 3 to 5 aims)
   * The aims page should include information of how the pilot project and subsequent planned research will impact health disparity and/or health equity of chronic diseases.
2. Candidates must also submit a letter of support signed by the Director or Chair of the candidate’s Department that includes a commitment to sufficient protected time and resources (i.e., office, lab space) to support the scholar.
3. If more than one PI is proposed, description of each PI’s roles and how the PIs will complement one another (maximum ½ page only). If there is more than one proposed PIs who are at different institutions, the institution that will be provided the award should be noted.
4. Name of IRB that you will use for the pilot study, and whether your proposed study is already IRB-approved.
5. Demographics form (see below)
6. Keywords (3-5 keywords for your application)

**Phase 2 Description and Application Components**

Only a subset of Phase 1 applications will progress to Phase 2. Those invited to submit a Phase 2 application will be provided support by the Investigator Development Core Program members to develop a mentorship team, the research strategy, training plan, timeline (1 or 2 years), and pilot project budget. The Investigator Development Core Program will be responsible for advising the potential scholar(s) on refining the aims of the study, selection of an interdisciplinary team including mentors (*i.e.,* two primary mentors), community partners, and content experts. The candidate will submit a Phase 2 application, which includes the following:

1. Revised specific aims page describing their pilot project (maximum 1 page only)
2. Research strategy (maximum 2 pages only)
3. Training plan (maximum 1½ pages only)\*
   * The plan should include schedule of mentors’ meeting, and how the applicants will interact with the mentors.
   * The plan should include description of current skills and knowledge gaps, and how those gaps will be addressed by the training plan.
   * Training content should be described and include those described on the first and second pages of this document. The applicants should highlight specific training content that addresses their skills gaps.
4. Budget†
5. Budget justification (maximum 1 page only)
6. Protection of human subjects (maximum 2 pages only)
7. Specific plan for data and safety monitoring (maximum 1 page only)
8. References (no limit)

\*If there is more than one proposed PI, it is expected that the multiple PIs be trained by the two mentors, and that the PIs attend the same mentors’ meetings. Furthermore, the description of current skills and knowledge gaps, and how those gaps will be addressed by the training plan should be described for each PI. The Investigator Development Core Program members will help individualize the training content for each of the PIs.

†Please note that the actual awarded amount may be less than the amount budgeted in the application, and is based on Investigator Development Core funding priorities.

**Application components should be compiled by the applicant(s) into one document for the Phase 1 and 2 submissions.**

**Resubmissions.** For those Phase I applications that are not chosen to move forward to Phase 2, or Phase 2 applications that are not awarded, a summary of feedback will be provided to the applicant(s) upon request and they will be encouraged to submit a revised application for the next application cycle with an Introduction section (maximum ½ page only) highlighting the response to reviewers’ comments.

**For questions about eligibility or other aspects of the program or application, please email** **Marisol Castellano, MS (Investigator Development Core Project Manager) at** [**mc4542@cumc.columbia.edu**](mailto:mc4542@cumc.columbia.edu)**.**

**Additional Requirements.** If asked to submit a Phase 2 application, candidates will be expected to submit their study protocol and consent to their IRB for approval. **All funded projects must be IRB approved before funding can be released.** The award is also conditional upon the applicant providing an official statement from the IRB that they agree that the proposed study is minimal risk. If the study is deemed more than minimal risk by the IRB, then the application will need additional approval from NIMHD (National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities) before the funds can be released. The full application, human subjects’ section, IRB protocol and consent forms, and IRB approval notice will then need to be sent to NIMHD for review.

In addition, **all pilot project awardees are required** to submit an Annual Progress Report. The progress report will contain updates on the project, publications directly related to findings from the project, and grants directly associated with project results. Awardees may be asked to present a description of their project, and pilot progress at our annual symposium.

**All publications resulting from pilot funding must include the following acknowledgement:**

This work was supported by **COMMUNITY** (**C**hronic disease **O**utcomes through **M**ulti-level and **M**ulti-generational approaches, **U**nifying **N**ovel Interventions, and **T**raining for health **E**quit**Y**), which is funded by The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, P50 MD017341).

**Phase 1 and 2 applications should be sent to Marisol Castellano, MS (Investigator Development Core Project Manager) at** [[**mc4542@cumc.columbia.edu**](mailto:mc4542@cumc.columbia.edu)](mailto:mc4542@cumc.columbia.edu)**.**

**DEMOGRAPHICS FORM FOR PI**

|  |
| --- |
| Name (First and Last Name) |
| Title of applicant: |
| Title of application: |
| Affiliation: |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What is your gender? | ( ) Female  ( ) Male  ( ) Nonbinary  ( ) Prefer not to answer |
| What is your race? | ( ) White  ( ) Black/African American  ( ) Asian  ( ) Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  ( ) American Indian/Native American  ( ) More than one race  ( ) Prefer not to answer |
| What is your ethnicity? | ( ) Hispanic/Latinx  ( ) Non-Hispanic/Latinx  ( ) Prefer not to answer |
| Are you an individual with a disability\*? | ( ) Yes  ( ) No  ( ) Prefer not to answer |
| Are you an individual from a disadvantaged background?† | ( ) Yes  ( ) No  ( ) Prefer not to answer |

\*Defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, as described in the [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended](http://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm).

†<https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>

***If there is more than one PI (i.e., Multi-PI), please fill out the demographics form for each PI.***

**KEYWORDS FOR THE PILOT PROJECT (list 3-5 keywords for your application):**