UAMS
FAY W. BOOZMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Center for the Study of Tobacco

Pilot Funding Opportunity for Tobacco Prevention and Control Research

Release date: September 16, 2020
Application deadline: November 30, 2020 5pm CST
Award notification: December 14, 2020
Earliest start date: January 4, 2021

Background. There is no doubt that tobacco use is one of the biggest public health threats to the citizens of Arkansas. In fact, Arkansas is one of 13 "Tobacco Nation" states (1). The term, "Tobacco Nation" was coined by the *Truth Initiative* in 2017 to describe geographic disparities in tobacco use and tobacco prevention and control. Tobacco Nation states have adult cigarette smoking rates that exceed the national average and rival that of many tobacco dependent countries in the world (1). In addition, Tobacco Nation states are among the poorest in the nation, have poor health care infrastructure, and lack strong tobacco control policies that would result in lower cigarette smoking prevalence. In Arkansas, both adult and youth tobacco use rates rank among the highest in the nation. In 2019, 22.7% of Arkansan adults reported cigarette smoking and 29.2% of high school students reported any tobacco use in the past 30 days (e.g. electronic cigarettes, cigarettes, cigars). The geographic and social disparities are compounded by racial/ethnic and gender disparities that result in heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease, and stroke. Ongoing coordinated efforts are needed to address this public health threat in a state where life expectancy is lower than the national average.

The **mission** of the CST is to engage multiple disciplines in conducting collaborative and innovative research designed to inform public health policies and enhance interventions to reduce tobacco use of any kind. The CST serves as a focal point for research, training, and translational research in Arkansas where there are unique opportunities to build synergy and address tobacco use. This pilot research funding opportunity represents the CST's commitment to reducing tobacco-caused cancers and other tobacco-caused diseases in Arkansas.

Purpose: The UAMS Center for the Study of Tobacco (CST) announces the availability of pilot funds that will lead to a R01 (or equivalent) application submission.

The purpose of this funding announcement is to solicit innovative research that is focused on the elimination of tobacco-caused diseases in Arkansas. The proposed research must be directly applicable to tobacco prevention and control research and address specific gaps in scientific knowledge, methodologies, techniques, models, and the application of discoveries and interventions to community, social media, or clinical settings. The proposed study must lead to a R01 (or equivalent) application. Projects with a primary focus on combustible (cigarettes or cigars) or smokeless tobacco will be of high priority. Applications that address emerging products like electronic cigarettes are welcome if they are focused on dual use with combustible or smokeless tobacco. Basic biomedical and population-based behavioral and epidemiological studies will be considered responsive. Projects that use primary or secondary data are welcome. Only applications proposing research pilots relevant to one or more of the priority areas will be considered for funding.

- We encourage studies that focus on or have implications for:
    - Racial/ethnic groups and the examination of between and/or within groups differences
    - Gender
    - Vulnerable age groups
    - High risk geographic locations in Arkansas
    - LBGT populations
    - The mentally ill
    - Pregnant women
    - Low socioeconomic status groups
    - Other vulnerable groups

Areas of Priority:

- Understanding how to effectively communicate tobacco and disease risk to vulnerable populations including the use of traditional communication channels, community health workers, and social media.
- Testing novel interventions in clinical, community, or social media settings to prevent vulnerable populations from using tobacco or help them quit using tobacco products.
- Understanding why people become susceptible to using tobacco products and transitions from experimentation, initiation to regular use and dual/poly use, or switching from one product to another including marijuana.
- Understanding how to reduce multiple risk behaviors in adolescents who smoke or are susceptible to smoking.
- Understanding how the social environment, policies, neighborhood/community deprivation, and marketing and advertising influence users and non-users of tobacco.
- Understanding the relationship between dual/poly tobacco use and nicotine dependence, quitting smoking, and short- or long-term health consequences.
- Understanding how product characteristics (e.g. flavors, other additives or constituents, nicotine content) influence the abuse liability of the product, toxicity, carcinogenicity, and short- and long-term health outcomes.
- Understanding the toxicity of novel and traditional tobacco products and approaches to the measurement of the toxicity.
- Understanding behavioral measures and biomarkers of exposure to traditional and emerging tobacco products and how these can be used to inform interventions.

General Eligibility: Collaborative research is highly encouraged and will be considered as part of the score. The Principal Investigator (PI) can be a full-time tenure track or non-tenure track faculty member at UAMS. The PI or collaborating faculty must be a member of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. In the absence of a PI or collaborating faculty member of the cancer center, then the PI must receive a brief written endorsement from a member of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute to apply. Post-doctoral research fellows may serve as a PI if they have a faculty mentor and endorsement from a member of the Cancer Institute. Multiple lead PI status is not allowed. To help facilitate mentored research opportunities, a student research assistant must be included in the budget for a portion of the time. Collaborations with community partners, other institutions or government entities are also highly encouraged. Only one application is allowed per lead PI.

Availability of Funds: Applicants may request a budget of up to $15,000 in direct costs only for up to 1 year. Funds must be used to develop a competitive R01 application (or equivalent). Salary support for faculty cannot be supported.

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Progress Reports: Due at six months and the end of the funding period.
Project Deliverables: Progress reports (which include a description of the future R01) and presentation at UAMS workshop, conference, or cancer center seminar. A presentation at a national conference is also encouraged.

Payment information: The PIs are expected to comply with University expenditure guidelines. PIs will not be able to make purchases outside of the approved general budget unless the CST is notified. Expenditures not approved as part of the Notice of Grant Award could result in termination of funding. The PI is responsible for working with his/her Fiscal Office to assure sound fiscal management.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

General Application Components
The application must be complete and accurate at the time of submission. Your application should be sent electronically to COPHTobacco@uams.edu no later than 5:00pm on November 30, 2020. The application in general follows a similar format as the NIH application. Please go to the NIH website for more details (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant_basics.htm).

The following provides information on page limitations and what should be included in your application:

- Face Page (no signature required) (1 page)
  (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp1.pdf)
- Endorsement of Cancer Center Member if Needed
- Project Summary/Relevance (300 words)
- Key Personnel

- NIH Biosketch (5 pages) (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm)
- Budget and Budget Justification
- Specific Aims (1 page)
- Research Strategy
    - Background and significance, innovation, preliminary studies (if available, but not required), research design (3 pages)
    - Student mentoring plan (1 paragraph)
    - Timeline (1/2 page)
    - Statement on how pilot study will lead to a R01 (250 words)
    - References (2 pages)
- Resources (1 page)
- Protection of Human Subjects (3 pages)
- Inclusion of Women and Minorities (1 page) (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/phs-inclusion-enrollment-report.htm)
- NIH Target Enrollment Table
- Inclusion of Children (1 page)
- Vertebrae Animals (3 pages)
- Select Agent (1 page)
- Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources
- Appendix

Formatting the Application

Identification

• Insert your name in the header for each section of the application.

Font

• Use an Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11 points or larger.

Paper Size and Page Margins

• Use standard paper size (8 1⁄2" x 11). Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.

Page Formatting

• Since a number of reviewers will be reviewing applications as an electronic document and not a paper version, applicants must use a single-column text format.

Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figure Legends, and Footnotes

• You may use a smaller type size. Color can be used in figures; however, all text must be in a black font color, clear and legible.

Grantsmanship

• Use English and avoid jargon. If terms are not universally known, spell out the term the first time it is used and note the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses. The abbreviation may be used thereafter.

Copies

• Send the original application electronically via email in single PDF file.

Page limits

• Observe the page number limits under general application components. Applicants are prohibited from using the appendix to circumvent page limits.

EXPLANATION OF REQUIRED INFORMATION

Face Page
Please complete numbers 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 on NIH face page.

Endorsement of a Cancer Center Member
Please attach an email endorsement of a cancer center member if needed.

Project Summary/Relevance
The abstract is a summary of the proposed research and should provide a clear and concise overview of the proposed work, the specific aims of the study, and study design. Please indicate the relevance of the proposed work to cancer. If this application is funded, this description will become public information. Therefore, do not include proprietary/confidential information.

Key Personnel
In addition to the Principal Investigator, Key Personnel are defined as individuals who will contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project in a substantive, measurable way whether or not salaries are requested. Typically, these individuals have doctoral or professional degrees although individuals at the masters or baccalaureate level can be included if their contribution meets the above definition of Key Personnel.

NIH Biosketches
A NIH Biographical sketch must be submitted for the applicant and each co-investigator.

Budget and Budget Justification
The budget may generally cover the cost of such items as salaries and benefits for professional and technical personnel (except faculty salaries), special equipment, supplies, and other miscellaneous items required to conduct the proposed research. Budgets submitted must be realistic estimates of the funds required for the proposed research. Pilot studies are not portable to other institutions and are intended to benefit the submission of R01 applications.

Personnel. Names and positions of all personnel must be individually listed and the percentage of time to be devoted to the project by each person should be noted, even when salary is not requested. If the individual has not been selected, please list as "vacancy." The costs to the institution of employee fringe benefits should be indicated as a percent of the employee's salary. The amount of fringe benefits requested must be prorated to the salary requested.

List all collaborators (defined as individuals who will participate actively in the design and execution of the studies) and consultants (defined as individuals who will provide any combination of advice, guidance, and reagents without "hands on" involvement in the project). Include letters of intent to collaborate or consult in the Appendix. Details of contractual arrangements with collaborators or consultants should be provided in the Justification of Budget section of the application.

Permanent Equipment. Items with a unit cost that exceed $3,000 are not allowed.

Supplies. Group into major categories (e.g. survey materials, focus group materials).

Travel. Domestic travel only for related project purposes (e.g. to collect data or meet with collaborators). Conference travel is not allowed.

Miscellaneous Expenditures. List specific amounts for each item. Examples of expenditures allowed include scientific software and incentives for human subjects.

Subcontracts. If any portion of the proposed research is to be carried out at another institution, enter the total costs and provide a categorical breakdown of costs using duplicate copies of the grant application Budget and Justification of Budget pages. Subcontracts involving a contractor residing outside the borders of the United States are not permitted unless the applicant can document that it is not feasible to fund the contract within the United States. A Letter of Agreement pertaining to the subcontract should be included in the Appendix.

Indirect Costs. Indirect costs are not allowed.

Total Amount Requested. Budget totals should reflect a maximum duration of 1 year.

Costs Not Allowed. Travel to conference, conference fees, tuition, classes, membership dues, journal subscriptions, publication costs, and books. This is not an exhaustive list and budget items will be approved as appropriate.

Budget Justification. Write a budget justification for each item proposed. In addition to these policies, all PIs are expected to comply with the expenditure policies of the University.

Specific Aims
Please include the rationale, objective, hypotheses, aims, brief description of study design, and impact.

Research Strategy
This section should provide a detailed description on the critical barriers to be addressed, the innovation, preliminary studies, and study design or approach. In addition, a brief student mentoring plan is needed for the research assistant, timeline, statement on how the pilot leads to a R01, and the references.

Resources
Describe briefly the space and equipment available for you to carry out the proposed research project.

Protection of Human Subjects and Vertebrae Animals
All activities involving human subjects or vertebrate animals must be approved by an appropriate institutional committee before the application will be funded by UAMS. Please follow NIH guidelines regarding the description of this section.

NIH Target Enrollment
Please complete the NIH tables for all human subject studies.

Inclusion of Women and Minorities
Please follow NIH guidelines for this section.
Inclusion of Children
Please follow NIH guidelines for this section.

Vertebrae Animals
Please follow NIH guidelines for this section.

Select Agent
Please follow NIH guidelines for this section.

Authentication of Key Biological Agents and/or Chemical Resources
Please follow NIH guidelines for this section.

Appendix
Do not include figures and references in the Appendix. This section is not intended for the submission of materials that should be included in the research plan.
Please include letters of support for consultants in the Appendix.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The Peer Review Process: Each application is assigned a primary and a secondary reviewer.

Scoring: Reviewers are instructed to evaluate research applications using the criteria outlined. NIH standards will be followed for review criteria.

Significance: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in cancer research? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or prevention interventions that drive this field?

Investigators: Is the team- PI, collaborators, and other researchers- well-suited to the project? Do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise? Does the PI collaborate with an expert outside of his/her discipline?

Innovation: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Approach: Are the overall strategies, methodologies, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?

Human Subjects: If the project involves clinical, social media, and community research,

are the appropriate plans included for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities, genders, and children justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?
Animal Research: If the project involves animal research, does it address the following points: 1) proposed use of the animals, and species, strains, ages, sex, and numbers to be used; 2) justifications for the use of animals and for the appropriateness of the species and numbers proposed; 3) adequacy of veterinary care; 4) procedures for limiting discomfort, distress, pain and injury to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically sound research including the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs and/or comfortable restraining devices; and 5) methods of euthanasia and reason for selection if not consistent with the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.

Environment: Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

R01 Application Potential: Is the proposed study likely to inform the development of a competitive NIH R01 application or equivalent?

INQUIRIES

If you have questions regarding the appropriateness of topics, please contact:
Pebbles Fagan, Ph.D., M.P.H., Professor and Director, Center for the Study of Tobacco, Email: pfagan@uams.edu Phone: 501-526-2294 (Please contact by email during COVID-19).

References

1) Tobacco Nation: The Deadly state of smoking disparities in the United States. https://truthinitiative.org/sites/default/files/media/files/2019/03/Tobacco-Nation-FINAL.pdf