

Translational Research for Substance Use Disorders 2023

Facilitating Cross Functional Collaboration for ARPA-H Solicitation

Application Deadline: October 27, 2023, at 5:00pm

With a commitment to translating bold ideas into real-world impact for patients, UNC-Chapel Hill is launching an initiative to discover innovative solutions for the challenge of substance use disorders with transformative impact on opioid use disorders and pain conditions. The [Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research \(OVCR\)](#) via [the Office of Research Development \(ORD\)](#) is partnering with the [Eshelman Institute for Innovation \(EII\)](#), headquartered at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill), to gather research and development proposals that will become the foundation for an interdisciplinary, faculty-initiated applications to the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health ([ARPA-H](#)). ARPA-H proposals are intended to be bold initiatives built around institutional excellence for therapeutic approaches with transformative potential in areas of great unmet medical need, such as substance use disorders and pain.

Participation in this on-campus opportunity is completely optional and is intended to enhance the competitiveness of teams responding to anticipated ARPA-H opportunities in the use disorder space. Teams who opt not to participate in this program are welcome to apply to any ARPA-H opportunities under regular eligibility and institutional criteria.

Opportunity Overview

- **Eligibility:** Applicants normally considered PI-eligible from any University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Department are welcome to apply.
- **Proposal Selection:** Successful applicants will partner with EII and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR) to develop application materials to [ARPA-H](#).
- **Award Prize:** A prize amount of \$10,000 will be awarded to the best proposal concept(s) to be used for proposal development support purposes, including teaming activities, project manager support, and related costs.

Important Dates

- **Application Open:** September 25, 2023
- **Application Deadline:** October 27, 2023
- **Notice of Proposal Selection Award:** November 13, 2023

Priority Areas

Agency-wide, ARPA-H seeks proposals for big ideas with an end-to-end solution to find a commercially viable product within a 5-year period. All-encompassing solutions are encouraged for tightly focused concepts. Proposal concepts should be oriented less on diffuse, capacity building activities such as new centers, but rather RM1-style teams. Examples of current high-impact unmet challenge concepts for substance use disorders may include:

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- Breakthrough innovation with novel therapeutics demonstrating sufficient efficacy in animal models
- Improving the design of studies or new models of disease with clear efficacy endpoints and suitable translation to human subjects
- Addressing the high development costs and market access obstacles for new therapies

A successful proposal will be a tightly focused concept that thoroughly describes the proposed concept with minimal jargon and explain how it will have a positive real-world impact in the substance use disorder field, opioid use disorders, and/or pain conditions.

Eligibility

Applicants

Investigators affiliated with departments located within the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are welcome to apply. Any individual with the resources (including time/availability), skills, and knowledge required to carry out the proposed activities may serve as principal investigator (PI) in accordance with their institutional policies and procedures.

Application Instructions

All applicants are required to apply by submitting proposal ideas online via our [application form](#).

ARPA-H as a sponsor encourages team-based science approaches that bring together translational expertise and university-industry resources to create an end-to-end solution.

Applications should include:

- Include a PI from departments located at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Clearly identify the innovation, impact, and new efficacy endpoints to be solved with the proposed technology concept(s).
- Address how the proposed effort represents an innovative and potentially revolutionary solution to the technical challenges in identifying and developing novel targets of substance use disorders.
- Describe the concept's potential to be disruptive compared to existing or emerging technologies.

All proposal submissions must be submitted online through our application form. Emailed submissions will not be accepted.

Review Process

All submissions will be reviewed by a panel of scientific and commercial experts who are experts in the proposal's area of focus. Feedback will be solicited from reviewers using a review rubric and all reviewers will be asked to complete a confidentiality agreement prior to receiving and reviewing your application materials.

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Contact

All applicants should read these instructions thoroughly before preparing an application. Questions regarding this Request for Proposals (RFP) are welcome and may be sent to the Eshelman Institute for Innovation at EshelmanInstitute@unc.edu.