

RMATRIX-II Collaboration Pilot Projects Program 2017 Call for Letters of Intent

PURPOSE: The RCMI Multidisciplinary and Translational Research Infrastructure Expansion - II (RMATRIX-II) supports research endeavors and collaboration for junior investigators who hold faculty appointments at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), with preference given to investigators from the College of Health Sciences and Social Welfare which includes the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), Myron P. Thompson School of Social Work (School of Social Work), School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene (SONDH), and the Office of Public Health Studies (OPHS). To assist with achieving this goal, RMATRIX sponsors a Collaboration Pilot Projects Program to provide modest, short-term pilot grants to support the development and implementation of projects that have the potential for extramural funding. The pilot project grants are intended to provide research support for competitive projects that are proposed by faculty and stimulate transdisciplinary research in one or more RMATRIX HEALTH Initiative areas. *The purpose of this announcement is to provide guidelines and criteria for letters of intent (LOI).*

RESEARCH SCOPE: The pilot grant should present a strong translational research emphasis and should focus on reducing health disparities and inequities among Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, and/or other populations experiencing disparities in Hawai'i related to at least one of three RMATRIX HEALTH Initiative areas: 1) Nutrition and Metabolic Health; 2) Growth, Development & Reproductive Health; and 3) Aging and Chronic Disease Management.

AVAILABLE SUPPORT: Applicants may request an annual budget with direct costs of up to \$50,000/year or \$100,000 for two years with no indirect costs. It is anticipated that the size of the RMATRIX collaboration pilot project awards will vary based upon the scope of the proposed research. Applicants must utilize infrastructure support from the RMATRIX Cores, e.g., biostatistics, bioinformatics, database design, RN/study coordination, lab support, IRB/regulatory support, training/education, access to clinical exam facilities, and/or other support.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The lead-PI must be a junior/emerging investigator enrolled in the RMATRIX Request For Resources <http://rmatrix.jabsom.hawaii.edu>.
2. Multiple PIs are encouraged, however at least one of the PIs must have an academic appointment in the College of Health Sciences & Social Welfare. Graduate students, Post docs and Fellows may serve as a co-investigator or collaborator, but the lead PI must have a faculty appointment with the UHM. Current or previously-funded investigators, who have met the obligations and conditions of their RMATRIX award, including progress reports and publication requirements, are eligible to apply.
3. The pilot grant must involve a transdisciplinary team of investigators or collaborators consisting of at least one clinician (physician, clinical or counseling psychologist, social worker, nurse etc.) and one basic scientist, or a clinician and a community partner, or scientists from two disparate disciplines (e.g., social work and nursing).
4. The grant must focus on health disparities and inequities experienced by Native Hawaiians, Pacific islanders, Filipino, and/or other populations on O'ahu related to one of the RMATRIX HEALTH Initiative areas:
 - a. Nutrition and Metabolic Health
 - b. Growth, Development & Reproductive Health
 - c. Aging and Chronic Disease Management

5. The pilot grant must have a translational research emphasis, clearly showing linkages between basic science and clinical medicine, or development of clinical research leading to adoption of best practices in the community.
6. The pilot grant must involve at least one RMATRIX Core for project support (e.g., Biostatistics or Clinical Research Resources or Regulatory Knowledge & Support).

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- a. Are community-based and/or involve a community-based collaboration.
- b. Involve UH and RCMI Translational Research Network (RTRN) infrastructure (www.rtrn.net).
- c. Promote interdisciplinary research.

IMPORTANT DATES

Letters of Intent Due (Cover Page, Abstract & Biographical Sketches)	Thursday, December 1, 2016 (5:00pm)
Invitation to Submit Full Proposal	Thursday, January 5, 2017
Deadline for full proposal	Wednesday, March 1, 2017 (5:00pm)
Proposal review completed and selections made	Friday, March 17, 2017
IRBs completed and proposals submitted to NIMHD for approval	Friday, April 21, 2017
Approval by NIMHD	May 2017 <i>(earliest anticipated start date: May 1, 2017)</i>

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The LOI must be received no later than **Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 5:00 pm** (Hawaii Time). The LOI submitted after the deadline and/or exceeds the page limit will not be reviewed. Go to the following link to access the application form: RMATRIX-II Letter of Intent Application.

The LOI must include the following documents:

- **Cover Page (1 page)**

There is a cover page form that needs to be completed. You will need to include project title, Principal Investigators and collaborators, disciplines, schools/college, health initiative focus.

- **Abstract (2 pages)**

Include the following information:

Specific Aims

List the goals and long-term objectives of the research indicating what the specific research proposed in this application is intended to accomplish. State the hypotheses to be tested, if any, and their relevance to health disparities and HEALTH Initiatives.

Background and Significance

Briefly describe the background/research to date which has led to the present application. Critically evaluate existing knowledge and specifically identify the need that the project is to fill. Please provide a statement of significance of the project and importance with respect to health disparities by relating the specific aims to the goals and long-term objectives.

Experimental Approach and Research Design/Project Timetable

Describe the experimental or non-experimental (e.g., correlational or qualitative methods) approach to the research question and state the procedures and methods to be used in achieving the specific aims. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. Briefly describe how the project will be completed within the allotted timeframe.

Potential for Publication and Future Research

Provide a dissemination plan for research findings, including presentations to the community (if relevant) and at scientific meetings and through peer-reviewed journals. Describe how your findings will lead to future research.

(Please note: if you plan on including references in your abstract, the references are part of the two-page limitation)

- **Biographical sketch**

Only Letters of Intent deemed most responsive to this program announcement will be invited to submit a full application. ***Investigators are encouraged to inquire about appropriateness of research focus and eligibility prior to the preparation of the Letters of Intent***

Notification of request to submit a full application will occur no later than Thursday, January 5, 2017.

Detailed directions for full application submittal will be included in the letter of invitation.

INQUIRIES

We welcome the opportunity to address questions regarding the RMATRIX-II Collaboration Pilot Projects Program. Interested applicants may contact the following individuals:

Bruce Shiramizu, MD

Executive Program Director, RMATRIX-II

John A. Burns School of Medicine

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Email: bshirami@hawaii.edu

Todd Seto, MD

Associate Program Director, RMATRIX-II

John A. Burns School of Medicine

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Email: tseto@queens.org

Please note that we will host an informational webinar in January 2017 (date to be announced) to review the submittal process and answer any questions.