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## ANNOUNCING COLLABORATIVE EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

### DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: August 2, 2019

**BACKGROUND:** The Ohio Solid Organ Transplantation Consortium (OSOTC) (“the Grantor”) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization organized for charitable, scientific and educational purposes. The Ohio Solid Organ Transplantation Consortium is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with solid organ failure who could benefit from an organ transplant. The following goals have been identified to assist the OSOTC in achieving its mission:

- a) Optimize utilization of the scarce resources currently available for transplant by carefully selecting patients listed for transplant.
- b) Improve and ensure the quality of care provided by all of the transplant programs and services from member institutions.
- c) Represent the needs of the patients and issues of importance to the transplant community to the Ohio policy makers.
- d) Advance the medical technology of organ transplantation.
- e) Expand patient access, address disparities and promote early referrals to end stage organ disease management programs in the state of Ohio.

**PURPOSE:** This research initiative is intended to identify and establish new or novel projects that focus on supporting collaborative research projects focusing on heart, lung, heart-lung, liver, pancreas, pancreas/kidney or small bowel transplantation in Ohio with the ultimate goal of improving public health. Kidney-only focused projects will not be considered.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** Applications will only be accepted from OSOTC member hospital organizations. The Principal Investigator (PI) shall be a current transplant professional at an OSOTC member hospital. OSOTC organ-specific committees are also encouraged to apply.

**MECHANISMS OF SUPPORT:** The OSOTC Cushion Fund may provide a range of funding from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year to fund one or multiple research grants as determined by the Board of Directors. The amount of grant dollars eligible for distribution will be based upon the December 31<sup>st</sup> balance in the OSOTC investment fund in a given year. The number of grants and level of funding will be determined annually after grant applications are reviewed. The use of OSOTC funding for personnel costs, indirect costs, travel expenses or meeting registration fees are not acceptable; these costs will not be funded and should not be included in the proposed budget. Funds to support statistical analysis may be included in the application, not to exceed \$5000.00. In the event that the Cushion Fund balance falls to \$250,000, this policy will be reviewed by the Board of Directors.

**RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:** The OSOTC is interested in receiving applications to conduct multi-disciplinary collaborative research in clinical, translational, psychosocial or other areas closely related to

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transplantation. While multi-institutional collaborative research (as defined as the joint application of at least two OSOTC centers with a strong preference for three or more centers involved; working closely in the areas of concept, design, data collection, interpretation and writing of results) will be prioritized, the OSOTC will also accept single center collaborative applications.

- a) Translational projects: the application of discoveries from basic biomedical, behavioral research towards the treatment or prevention of transplant related disease with a goal of improving the health of transplant patients
- b) Clinical research: patient oriented research conducted with human subjects or human materials for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects or epidemiologic and behavioral studies, outcomes research and health services research
- c) Psychosocial projects: patient oriented research focusing on psychological, social and ethical issues in transplant to create an improved quality of life for transplant patients

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES:** Applications will not be formally reviewed until the OSOTC receives a complete application, consisting of the following documents:

1. A research plan that addresses each of the elements listed under “Review Criteria” (limited to 5 pages maximum);
2. The curriculum vitae of the primary investigator (PI) designated on the research plan;
3. Letters from all participating OSOTC member programs or single institutional departments demonstrating collaboration for this project including the following:
  - a. consensus regarding the proposed fund appropriation based on the proposed budget;
  - b. details of what each center, program or department is contributing to the research grant in the areas of concept, design, data collection, interpretation and writing of results; and
4. IRB letter of approval, if applicable. If IRB approval is not in place, please send IRB letter after grant approval, if applicable. IRB status has no bearing on grant review.

The application materials, as noted above, may be emailed to [researchgrants@osotc.org](mailto:researchgrants@osotc.org) by the application deadline or postmarked by the application deadline and mailed to:

Ohio Solid Organ Transplantation Consortium

Attn: Research Grants

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Springfield, OH 45503

**REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS:** Applications will be reviewed by the organ-specific committee deemed appropriate by the OSOTC Executive Committee or an external review may be more appropriate. In the event that external review is necessary the PI will be asked to name two external reviewers with expertise in the field with contact information. The review criteria are the traditional considerations underlying scientific merit. Applications will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Applications compete on the basis of scientific merit. Applications will be approved as is, preliminarily approved pending requested changes, held for further information, or denied by majority vote of the OSOTC Executive Committee. The OSOTC Board of Trustees will provide final determination.

**AWARD CRITERIA:** Applications will compete for available funds with all other approved applications to the OSOTC. The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- a) Quality of the proposed project as determined by peer review
  - b) Availability of funds
  - c) Program balance among research areas of the announcement
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**REVIEW CRITERIA:** Applications will be reviewed using the following categories and point assignment for a total of 100 points possible:

Significance/Problem and Needs Assessment: 15 points

- Does the study address an important problem broadly related to transplantation?
- If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced?
- What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods, and technologies that drive this field?

Well Defined Target Population: 5 points

- Is the target population well justified?
- Does the project target potential transplant candidates, potential recipients, or patients with end stage organ specific diseases?
- Does the project target heart, lung, heart-lung, liver, pancreas or pancreas/kidney transplant related issues?

Project Goals/Objectives: 15 points

- Are the goals and objectives clearly defined and measurable?
- Does the project have statewide or national potential impact – is project replicable?
- Is the project consistent with the OSOTC mission (clarify specific purpose(s))?

Approach/Methodology: 20 points

- Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well reasoned, feasible (as determined by preliminary data) and appropriate to the aims of the project?
- Is the timeline is realistic and appropriate?
- Are the projected budget and other resources appropriate and adequate and tie closely to the project objectives?
- Does the budget specify how the funds will be allocated to each institution, if applicable?

Innovation and Creativity: 20 points

- Is the project original and innovative?
- Does the project challenge existing paradigms and address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field?
- Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

Multi-Institutional Collaboration: 15 points

- Is the multi-institutional collaboration clearly stated and explained?
- Is the multi-institutional collaboration thoughtful and developed with a genuine goal of multi-institutional collaborative research?
- Are centers contributing fairly equally to the research grant in the areas of concept, design, data collection, interpretation and writing of results?

Evaluation: 10 points

- Is the potential impact of the project well defined?
  - Does the evaluation plan appropriately correspond with project objectives and methodologies?
  - Does the project include an evaluation timeline?
  - Is the project replicable for broader study and application?
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**CONTRACT ACCEPTANCE AND FUND DISTRIBUTION:** Upon Board approval, the primary institution will be sent a contract that must be signed and returned within 90 days. If the signed contract is not received after 90 days, the contract will be terminated by the OSOTC and we will offer the funds to the next approved grant. Educational grants selected for funding will be distributed in two equal installments. The first payment shall be made to Grantee upon receipt by Grantor of the Grant Contract fully executed, and the second payment shall be made to Grantee after Grantor's receipt of timely progress reports that contain the required or satisfactory information, as determined by Grantor in its sole discretion. The PI shall submit an annual report (due one year from the funding date) detailing use of funds, update on research initiative or project outcomes, or any anticipated problems with completing the research as planned. Future funding decisions will be based on compliance with submitting the project annual report and adherence to deliverables below.

**DELIVERABLES:** The PI must agree to provide the OSOTC with a copy of each substantive presentation or article based on the data set prior to its public release. PI must also agree to present research outcomes at the OSOTC Education Meeting or alternately, an OSOTC Board meeting.

**INQUIRIES:**

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**COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION RESEARCH GRANT AWARD HISTORY:**

- For the 2011 grant period The Ohio State University Medical Center and University Hospitals Case Medical Center were awarded \$13,000.00 for the project "The role of social support in liver transplant outcomes."
  - For the 2012 grant period Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals Case Medical Center were awarded \$24,919.50 for the project "Ex Vivo Normothermic Oxygenated Liver Perfusion."
  - For the 2013 grant period Cleveland Clinic and Cincinnati Children's Medical Center were awarded \$22,000.00 for the project "The Role of Memory T-cells in Graft Rejection in Intestinal Transplantation."
  - For the 2014 grant period Cleveland Clinic and University of Cincinnati Medical Center were awarded \$24,880.00 for the project "Decreasing steatosis of fatty livers utilizing normothermic machine perfusion preservation and a pharmacologic defatting cocktail."
  - For the 2015 grant period two grants were awarded: 1) Ohio State University Medical Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital were awarded \$25,000.00 for the project "Development of a perfusate to support extended duration normothermic ex-vivo organ perfusion"; and 2) Cleveland Clinic, University of Cincinnati Medical Center and University Hospitals Case Medical Center were awarded \$10,100.00 for the project "Monitoring Physical Activity in Liver Transplantation."
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- For the 2016 grant period, no grants were awarded.
  - For the 2017 grant period Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Cleveland Clinic, Ohio State University Medical Center, Cincinnati Children’s Medical Center and University Hospitals of Cleveland were awarded \$25,000 for the project “Ohio Solid Organ Transplantation (OhioSOT) Research Network.”
  - For the 2018 grant period University Hospitals of Cleveland and Cleveland Clinic were awarded \$15,000 for the project “Utility of Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing and strain Echocardiography in Heart Transplant Recipients.”
  - For the 2019 grant period, no grants were awarded.
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