

## **MUSC Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center in Precision Medicine and Minority Men's Health Pilot Research Program**

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, men from racial minority groups continue to experience poor health outcomes compared to non-minority men. For instance, the life expectancy for African American men is significantly lower compared to the expectancy for white men. An emerging hypothesis about racial disparities in health outcomes is that psychological and social stressors impact biological processes that play a role in the initiation and progression of disease. Precision medicine can play an important role in reducing racial disparities in morbidity and mortality among minority men because these efforts are designed to individualize health care based on biological, behavioral, and social factors that contribute to disease risks and enhance health outcomes. The goal for precision medicine is to provide the right medical care in the right dose to the right patient at the right time. However, the development and implementation of approaches for precision medicine will be limited among minority men because empirical data are lacking on the ways in which risk factors and protective variables (e.g., resources for adaptation and coping) work independently and interact synergistically to produce health outcomes among men from racial and ethnic minority groups.

The MUSC Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center in Precision Medicine and Minority Men's Health (MUSC TCC) is conducting research to facilitate the development of precision medicine strategies that address disparities in health outcomes among minority men. To foster research on precision medicine and minority men's health, the MUSC TCC will fund two pilot projects up to \$35,000 each (total costs). Priority will be given to applications where the indirect costs are waived. Priority will also be given for research that is designed to understand biological, social, psychological, or clinical factors involved in health disparities among minority men. Applications that address stress and stress reactivity and its impact on health outcomes among minority men will be prioritized. Examples of projects include studies that compare allostatic load among men based on their racial and ethnic background, physiological reactions to laboratory stressors among men with chronic conditions, cellular stress responses, and interventions that target stress and stress reactivity. Research that is conducted in community settings or uses a participatory research framework and actively involves community stakeholders in the conceptualization, design, implementation, and evaluation of the study will also be considered for funding. Priority will be given to applications that support research that informs future clinical or community-based interventions for precision medicine among minority men or studies that evaluate the effects of newly developed approaches for precision medicine. Funds can be used to support salary for academic investigators, support for community collaborators, data management, supplies, and small equipment. Funds may be used to support travel to present results from the pilot research.

### **Eligibility**

- Faculty, fellows, and residents from the MUSC TCC Consortium are eligible to submit applications. Applications submitted by fellows or residents must be mentored by a faculty member with significant research experience in minority health, health disparities, or minority men's health.
- For projects that use a participatory framework, a community collaborator (individual or organization) must be included as key personnel and provide a commensurate level of support. At a minimum, community stakeholders must have been actively involved in developing the specific aims for the study and should play an active role in collecting data, interpreting results, and disseminating findings.
- Existing or newly developed academic-community partnerships may be supported with pilot funds. For projects submitted by existing partnerships, funds can only be used to support new projects that have not been previously funded. For projects that involve a

newly developed partnership, there should be evidence that activities have been completed to establish the partnership.

- Applications should also include a description of the relevant community or communities.
- Manuscripts and presentations from pilot research supported through this award should acknowledge the MUSC TCC.

### **Selection Criteria**

- Applications will be reviewed and scored using the NIH criteria and process.
- Applications from investigators with a background in any scientific or clinical discipline may be submitted.
- Preference for funding will be given to applications that are likely to lead to federally-funded peer-reviewed research and those that have are likely to ultimately have a significant public health, scientific, or clinical impact on precision medicine and minority men's health.

### **Application Procedures**

- Applications are due on July 31, 2018.
- Funding notifications will be given by September 15, 2018
- The funding period for each award will be from December 1, 2018 through November 31, 2019.
- Applications should be completed using the PHS398 guidelines and include a cover letter, abstract, budget and budget justification, and a 5-page description of the project in the following format: Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, Approach, Relevance and Impact on Precision Medicine and Minority Men's Health.
- Application should include letters of support from community and academic collaborators, as appropriate.
- The application should describe the potential for future funding in minority health, health disparities, or precision medicine.
- All text should be single-spaced, 11-point Arial font, and .5 inch margins throughout.
- Progress reports for each funded project will be due on May 15, 2019.
- Applications should be submitted electronically to Chanita Hughes-Halbert, Ph.D. at [hughesha@musc.edu](mailto:hughesha@musc.edu) or (843) 876-2421.
- Questions about the MUSC TCC in Precision Medicine and Minority Men's Health Pilot Research Program should also be directed to Dr. Hughes-Halbert by electronic mail at [hughesha@musc.edu](mailto:hughesha@musc.edu) or by telephone at 843-876-2421.