MUSC's College of Nursing is pleased to announce the Symptom Self Management Center (SSMC), supported by the National Institute of Nursing Research of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number P20NR016575. Partnering with the College of Nursing’s Technology Applications Center for Healthful Lifestyles (TACHL), the SCTR Community Engagement Core, and the MUSC Biomedical Informatics Center, CON researchers will (1) leverage technology to enhance fatigue and/or pain self-management interventions that will be (2) targeted to high need groups identified through biomedical informatics, and (3) evaluated in community settings.

The SSMC will provide infrastructure to: expand the number and quality of research projects aimed at improving self-management of fatigue and pain symptoms in persons of all ages with chronic disorders; enhance the self-management skills of families/caregivers for function-impairing symptoms (pain and fatigue) of their family members; and, expand the number and quality of research projects aimed at improving health and quality of life in chronically ill persons.

Two pilot research projects will be funded each year, which will provide a framework for nurse scientists to identify and intervene with groups who are at risk for worsening chronic disease symptoms, particularly symptoms of fatigue and pain. Collaboration with investigators in other disciplines is required, as these must be multidisciplinary grants. Additionally, applicants will be encouraged to include doctoral students or post-docs in their team.

ELIGIBILITY

The PI of a pilot project proposal in any category must be a full-time nurse scientist and faculty member in good standing at MUSC and must have a research or health professional doctoral degree. Per NINR guidelines, eligible investigators must be faculty of MUSC’s College of Nursing and must be:

1. A nurse scientist who has not previously been a PI of a self-management of symptoms study in the past or who is not currently funded by a DHHS-funded research grant (i.e., R01, R03, R15 or R21);
2. A nurse scientist who has not previously been a PI of a self-management study in the past but who is funded through other mechanisms (e.g., R34, R41, R42, R43, R44, or K awards);
3. An established nurse scientist who wishes to develop skills and expertise in conducting self-management research for persons with chronic illnesses and for whom this area is a clear and distinct departure from her/his previous research work.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used for reviews of pilot proposals: 1) fit with the SSMC’s mission, reflected by proposed use of at least 2 of the 3 SSMC cores (TACHL, BMIC, CER); 2) scientific significance and innovation; 3) soundness of proposed methods; 4) feasibility of accomplishing stated goals; 5) interdisciplinary
team; 6) potential for future extramural funding; 7) evidence of the investigators’ ability to carry out the project; and 8) expected benefit to the investigator’s program of research.

**BUDGET**

Selected projects will be awarded a **maximum of $50,000 (direct cost) for one year**, non-renewable.

**Expenditures Allowed** (other items not discussed here may be permissible)

- Research supplies and animal maintenance (including animal per diem charges)
- Research staff/study coordinator salary support
- Per diem charges for patients, for clinical study components not reimbursable by standard payment terms
- Technical assistance
- Publication costs, including reprints, study instruments, surveys, etc.
- Other expenses such as lab and core fees (e.g., pathology, imaging, etc.)
- Regional travel required for the conduct of the study (e.g., between collaborating institutions)
- Participant remuneration
- Technology development fees

**Expenditures Generally NOT Allowed** (there may be some, limited, exceptions)

- Secretarial/administrative personnel salary support
- PI salary support
- Office equipment and supplies
- Computer/equipment maintenance fees
- Tuition
- Indirect institutional costs
- Nonessential travel (e.g., travel to conferences)

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

Completed applications must be submitted online by **5:00 PM on December 7, 2016**, adhering to the instructions provided. Please submit your application at [https://redcap.musc.edu/surveys/?s=7RNTTXD8Y7](https://redcap.musc.edu/surveys/?s=7RNTTXD8Y7).
2017 P20 Pilot Project Submission
Application Instructions:
Technology Enhanced, Informatics Focused, and Community Evaluated Self-Management Interventions for Fatigue and Pain

1) NIH BIOSKETCH FOR ALL KEY PERSONNEL (5-page current NIH format)
   Refer to phs398 instructions located at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

2) ABSTRACT (not to exceed one HALF page)
   Include Project Title, Key Words, and Research Abstract.

3) RESEARCH PLAN
   Propose a line of investigation consistent with program objectives, specifically a focus on technology-enhanced interventions for fatigue and/or pain. There should be some relationship between the choice of topic and past or current research activity, although a case can be made for using the program as a transition into a new area. Organize the Research Plan according to the section headings provided below. Note page limits for each section.

   1. Specific Aims (1 page limit)
      State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.

   2. Research Strategy (5 page limit: note, there is no penalty for shorter, succinct applications)
      Organize the Research Strategy using the instructions provided below. Start each section with the appropriate section heading – Significance, Innovation, or Approach. Include any tables, graphs, figures, diagrams, or charts in this section. If the applicant has multiple Specific Aims, then the applicant may address Significance, Innovation and Approach for each Specific Aim individually, or may address Significance, Innovation and Approach for all of the Specific Aims collectively.

      a. Significance
         • Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
         • Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice.
         • Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive the field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

      b. Innovation
         • Explain how the application uses the SSMC cores (TACHL, BMIC, CER) to enhance self management of pain and or fatigue.
         • Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
         • Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

      c. Approach
         • Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
         • Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
• If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.
• Address whether minorities and both men and women will be included.

3. Bibliography and References Cited (no page limit)

4. Protection of Human Subjects (no page limit)
   If applicable, provide justification for involvement of human subjects for research that involves human subjects. Address the following: 1) risk to subjects, 2) adequacy of protection against risks, 3) potential benefits to the subjects and others, 4) importance of the knowledge to be gained, and 5) data and safety monitoring for clinical trials. For additional information, please refer to http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/guidelines_general/Review_Human_Subjects_20130508.pdf.
   If appropriate, a planned enrollment table must also be included http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/enrollment.pdf.

5. Vertebrate Animals (no page limit)
   If applicable, provide justification for the involvement of live vertebrate animals as part of the scientific assessment according to the following five 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. For additional information, please refer to http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/VASchecklist.pdf.

4) BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION (no page limit)
   Refer to PHS398 instructions located at http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html.
   Complete a budget and budget justification for research-related expenses (maximum $50,000).

5) CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) (2 page limit)
   If the primary applicant is a less experienced, new investigator, or early stage investigator per NIH guidelines, or if they are transitioning into pain or fatigue research from a different area, a career development plan is required, and at least one mentor must be identified. The CDP must include a career develop plan, anticipated learning and scholarly activities, and specification of how the investigator will engage or collaborate with the mentor. Training in responsible conduct of research must be addressed. CDPs are an important part of the application and are taken into account by the reviewers.

Format: Arial 11pt font, 0.5” margins

Note: Please DO NOT submit any supplementary materials (e.g., appendices) as these will not be reviewed.

Please submit your application here: https://redcap.musc.edu/surveys/?s=7RNTTXD8Y7