

San Antonio Life Sciences Institute (SALSI) Innovation Challenge

Program Overview

The SALSI Innovation Challenge is an initiative to fund high risk, high reward studies that have the potential to create ground-breaking research directions in health informatics and bioinformatics. Proposed research should lead to enabling technologies and innovations targeting patient care and health promotion. Funding will support early and conceptual stages of project development. Proposals should be submitted for exploratory or novel studies that break new ground or extend previous discoveries leading in a new direction or towards new and innovative applications. Potential research areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Novel methods for handling, storing, or using massive genetic, genomic and high-throughput data;
- Machine learning algorithms for high-dimensional, sparsely-populated biomedical datasets;
- Privacy assurance approaches;
- Novel approaches to leveraging big data ecosystems;
- Mining of medical records or biological text including social media, and
- Information extraction from medical images and diagnosis decision-making.

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- Have a high potential for extramural funding;
- Propose the creation of proof-of-concept or prototype technology;
- Incorporate novel datasets, and
- Build or strengthen cross-disciplinary research partnerships.

ELIGIBILITY

The PI(s) from The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member and the PI(s) from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member. The collaborative research project must include at least one principal investigator from each institution. Projects may also include scientific/educational/industry partners from the south Texas region; however, only UTSA and UTHSCSA activities will be funded through this program.

FUNDING LIMITS

The total maximum amount to be requested is \$100,000 per award (\$50,000 per institution). It is anticipated that two projects will be funded.

GRANT PERIOD: May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

There will be a two phase submission cycle.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) deadline: **February 15, 2016.**

Please enter in the email subject line: NOI-SALSI Innovation Challenge

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In the NOI email, please provide the name, tenure rank and/or position title for all PI's, with associated institutional affiliation, and five key words that describe the direction of the proposed research project.

Email address for NOI and Full Proposal submission: Jaclyn.shaw@utsa.edu

Full Proposal deadline: **March 1, 2016**. The PI's will submit one combined proposal. UTSA proposals do not require Research Service Center review until an award is made. UTHSCSA proposals do not require Office of Sponsored Programs review or a Certificate of Proposal (COP) until an award is made.

All required proposal elements shall be submitted in a single, text-searchable Adobe Acrobat pdf file. The proposal must include the following, in the order shown below:

1. Proposal Cover Page (Attachment A)
2. Project Description: 3 page maximum; 12 point, Times New Roman font, one-inch margin
3. Joint Execution Plan: 2 page maximum
4. UTSA Awardee Requirements (UTSA PI Must Sign Attachment B)
5. UTHSCSA Awardee Requirements (UTHSCSA PI Must Sign Attachment C)
6. Budget Summary (Attachment D)
7. Budget Justification: 1 page maximum per PI
8. Biographical Sketch (NIH or NSF Format): 2 page maximum for each PI/co-investigator
9. Reference Page: 2 page maximum

1. PROPOSAL COVER PAGE (USE ATTACHMENT A)

The Proposal Cover Page must include a clear, well-written executive summary that summarizes the essential content of the proposal – including the targeted direction in health informatics and bioinformatics, proposed innovative research, and potential significance of the proposed research effort.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project description must include, in this order:

- A. General background on the targeted direction in health informatics and bioinformatics;
- B. Description of an unconventional, ground-breaking approach to the problem outlined in the topic and how the proposed research is of high risk - high reward;
- C. Description of how the research has the potential for major societal impact;
- D. Specific goals, objectives and anticipated results; and a description of methods including anticipated barriers or technical difficulties, and
- E. Specify the resources needed for this project (equipment, materials, etc.) and indicate their availability.

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If you feel additional information is important to submit, an appendix may be included, but there is no obligation for reviewers to read it. A violation of this format will result in your proposal not being reviewed.

3. JOINT EXECUTION PLAN

Summarize the task-level activities to be performed by UTSA and UTHSCSA as they relate to the overall project's objectives. Describe areas of interdependence, the coordination and handoff of interim project materials and data, and the timeline of each organization's participation in the overall project effort. While no specific graphical format or presentation is required, this section is expected to contain a mixture of narrative and graphical information to aid the evaluators' assessment of the proposed scope, roles and responsibilities within the team, and collaboration environment.

4. UTSA PI(s) RESPONSIBILITIES (SIGN ATTACHMENT B)

Each PI must have this document signed by their Department Chair, indicating that they have also read all responsibilities and obligations of the PI, their Department and the respective institution.

5. UTHSCSA PI(s) RESPONSIBILITIES (SIGN ATTACHMENT C)

Each PI must have this document signed by their Department Chair, indicating that they have also read all responsibilities and obligations of the PI, their Department and the respective institution.

6. BUDGET SUMMARY (USE ATTACHMENT D) AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Awards will be up to \$100,000 for a grant performance period of May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017. No-cost extension may not be requested. Funding that is not spent or encumbered by each institution's funding timeline requirements will automatically revert back to the originating office.

Budget summaries must be submitted on the approved budget page (Use Attachment D). In addition, each PI will submit a budget justification (no more than 1 page providing details for all proposed expenditures at his/her respective institution).

The budget justification must address each budget line item on Attachment D that contains a proposed cost, for each institution. The budget justification must convey an integrated understanding of the types of resources (personnel, materials, other) necessary to complete the proposed effort. The proposed budget for each institution must conform to that institution's requirements for internally funded research or grant activity.

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UTSA Budget Considerations

Grant funds can be used for salaries and wages of post-doctoral fellows; graduate students; research technicians; and other non-faculty project personnel; research related equipment; research related travel; materials and supplies, and for publications. Consultant services are allowable if necessary for the completion of the project.

UTSA faculty must commit a minimum of 1% salary effort on the grant and can use funds for summer salaries. Grant funds cannot be used for travel that is not directly related to project research (e.g., conferences cannot be supported by this grant) (international travel is not allowable); or office equipment, including computers (unless specifically justified with prior approval). Graduate student stipends and tuition are not allowable. Graduate student travel is not allowable unless the student is paid by the grant and is directly related to project research.

UTHSCSA Budget Considerations

Grant funds can be used for salaries and wages of post-doctoral fellows; graduate students; research technicians; and other non-faculty project personnel; research related equipment; research related travel; materials and supplies, and for publications. Consultant services are allowable if necessary for the completion of the project.

UTHSCSA faculty must commit a minimum of 1% effort on the grant and can use funds for salaries. Grant funds cannot be used for travel that is not directly related to project research (e.g., conferences cannot be supported by this grant) (international travel is not allowable); or general office equipment, including computers (unless specifically justified with prior approval). Graduate student travel is not allowable unless the student is paid by the grant and is directly related to project research.

7. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Complete for each PI and co-investigator. Do not exceed two pages for each. Each PI may use its preferred format (NSF or NIH) and content for their biographical sketch for this proposal.

EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW

Proposals will be reviewed by a SALSI Innovation Challenge Review Committee established in consultation by both institutions Office of the Vice President for Research. This committee will consist of external reviewers approved by each Vice President for Research.

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel with broad expertise and a track record in identifying innovations – these reviewers may not be deep domain experts in your field. You must describe your idea in clear language without the use of jargon unique to your field. All applicants will be provided with reviewers comments.

Proposals will be evaluated on a 100 point scale. The PI(s) are expected to include all required proposal components and fully and clearly answer each of the project description questions.

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Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Criteria	Description	Maximum Point Allocations
Topic Responsiveness	Does the proposed research focus on technologies and innovations targeting patient care and health promotion?	10
Innovative Approach	Does the idea offer an unconventional, ground-breaking approach to the problem outlined in the topic and is the proposed research of high risk and high reward?	20
Overall Impact	Does the research have the potential for major societal impact?	20
Goals, Objectives and Anticipated Results	Does the project description provide specific goals, objectives and anticipated results; and a description of methods including anticipated barriers or technical difficulties? Does the proposal describe a proof-of-concept or prototype technology that can be demonstrated at the conclusion of the effort?	20
Resources	Does the project description identify resources needed for this project (equipment, materials, etc.)?	15
Joint Execution Plan	Does the Joint Execution Plan summarize the task-level activities to be performed by UTSA and UTHSCSA as they relate to the overall project's objectives? Have potential barriers or technical difficulties been identified and mitigations formulated?	15
		100 Total Possible Points

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Each PI is responsible for the administration of grant funds within the terms of their respective institutions rules and regulations. In particular, he/she must be certain that cost overruns do not occur and that all funds are fully expended according to institutional fiscal deadlines. All work must be completed in the 12 month grant performance period.

INTERIM & FINAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A Project Update Meeting and mid-term report will be requested by the UTSA VPR and UTHSCSA VPR in early October 2016. Each PI is responsible to submit a Final Grant Report no later than May 30, 2017. Awardees will be provided final reporting instructions prior to the start of their project.

Awardees final grant report must describe the extramural proposal submission which will be prepared within six months of completion of the project. In exceptional cases, where seed

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funding may prove the project to be ultimately non-competitive, a waiver of the extramural proposal requirement can be requested from the UTSA VPR and UTHSCSA VPR. If neither an extramural proposal nor letter of explanation is submitted and approved, no new SALSI research funds will be made available to the PI or co-investigators from either institution until the letter or extramural proposal is submitted.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

December 22, 2015 – Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) Announced

February 15, 2016 – Notice of Intent Due

March 1, 2016 – Grant Proposals Due (by 5:00 pm)

April 15, 2016 – Awardees Announced

May 1, 2016 – Grant Performance Period Begins (Funds Available)

October 2016 – Project Update Meeting and Mid-term Report Requested by UTSA VPR and UTHSCSA VPR

April 30, 2017 – Grant Performance Period Ends

May 31, 2017 – Final Project Report Due

October 31, 2017 – Deadline for Extramural Funding Grant Submission

UTSA CONTACT INFORMATION

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UTHSCSA CONTACT INFORMATION

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Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations

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ATTACHMENT B: UTSA AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES

If this research proposal is funded, I agree that my acceptance obligates me to:

- 1) Include the following acknowledgement on all publications resulting from this grant award.
“This project was funded (fully or in-part) by the State of Texas Legislation, appropriated funds under the San Antonio Life Sciences Institute.”
- 2) If human subjects or animal research is involved, protocols to the UTSA Institutional Review Board (IRB) or UTSA Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must be approved prior to funds being released.
*To complete IRB protocols - <http://reserachutsa.edu/oric/irb>
To complete IACUC protocols - <http://oric.utsa.edu>*
- 3) Submit at least one extramural proposal for funding to support the future progress of the project, to be submitted within six months of the completion of the SALSI Innovation Challenge Grant.
- 4) **Adhere to the below timeline below:**
December 22, 2015 – Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) Announced
March 1, 2016 – Grant Proposals Due (by 5:00 pm)
April 15, 2016 – Award Winners Announced
May 1, 2016 – Grant Performance Period Begins (Funds Available)
October 2016 – Project Update Meeting and Mid-term Report Requested by UTSA VPR and HSC
April 30, 2017 – Grant End
May 31, 2017 – Final Project Report Due
October 31, 2017 – Deadline for Extramural Funding Grant Submission
- 5) Respond to all inquiries and communications from the Office of the Vice President for Research related to the SALSI funded project.

Signature of Principal Investigator:

Project Name:

Date:

Department Chair -Please sign below to assure the review committee that you agree to the PI's obligations and responsibilities under this funding opportunity.

Department:

Approved by:

Department Chair Signature of Approval:

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ATTACHMENT C: UTHSCSA AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES

If this research proposal is funded, I agree that my acceptance obligates me to:

- 1) Include the following acknowledgement on all publications resulting from this grant award.

“This project was funded (fully or in-part) by the State of Texas Legislation, appropriated funds under the San Antonio Life Sciences Institute.”
- 2) If human subjects or animal research is involved, protocols to the UTHSCSA Institutional Review Board (IRB) or UTHSCSA Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must be approved prior to funds being released.

To complete IRB protocols - <http://research.uthscsa.edu/irb/>
- 3) Submit at least one extramural proposal for funding to support the future progress of the project, to be submitted within six months of the completion of the SALSI Innovation Challenge Grant.
- 4) **Adhere to the below timeline below:**
December 22, 2015 – Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) Announced
March 1, 2016 – Grant Proposals Due (by 5:00 pm)
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April 30, 2017 – Grant End
May 31, 2017 – Final Project Report Due
October 31, 2017 – Deadline for Extramural Funding Grant Submission
- 5) Respond to all inquiries and communications from the Office of the Vice President for Research related to the SALSI funded project.

Signature of Principal Investigator:

Project Name:

Date:

Department Chair -Please sign to assure the review committee that you agree to the PI's obligations and responsibilities under this funding opportunity.

Department:

Approved by:

Department Chair Signature of Approval:

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ATTACHMENT D: APPROVED BUDGET FORM

A budget justification (not to exceed one page each) must also be submitted describing each of the proposed line item expenditures for both institutions.

UTSA BUDGET

1. Total Proposed Personnel (Salary and/or Wages Only) Cost:
2. Equipment (\$5,000 or less):
3. Travel (No Foreign Travel):
4. Participant Support Costs:
5. Materials and Supplies:
6. Publications:
7. Consultant Services:
8. Computer Services:

Total UTSA Request:

UTHSCSA BUDGET

1. Total Proposed Personnel (Salary and/or Wages Only) Cost:
2. Equipment (\$5,000 or less):
3. Travel (No Foreign Travel):
4. Participant Support Costs:
5. Materials and Supplies:
6. Publications:
7. Consultant Services:
8. Computer Services:

Total UTHSCSA Request: