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Request for Applications* for CCTS Partner Network Mini-Sabbaticals

The CCTS Training Academy promotes the continuous development of skills and knowledge for learners at all career stages in support of a vibrant innovative, multidisciplinary research workforce to improve human health and health care. Our virtual training hub includes faculty focused on research education, training and workforce development from all Partner sites.

A new element in our collaboration is the sharing of training and research resources and experiences via mini-sabbaticals, exchanges and short-term “immersion” opportunities. Such opportunities are available at each institution within the CCTS Partner Network**. Each mini-sabbatical is designed to fulfill objectives based on the applicant’s previous knowledge, experience, specific interests, and research and/or training goals. The nature and timing of opportunities varies but most can be completed in less than a week. For applicants away from the UAB Hub, example mini-sabbatical opportunities at UAB are highlighted in Attachment A. For applicants at the UAB Hub, proposal ideas for experiences at Partner sites (and beyond as appropriate) should follow similar structure as those in the example list. *Applicants should contact the CCTS (ccts@uab.edu) to discuss site availability.*

To apply, applicants will:

- 1) describe (no more than one page) their research as well as the contribution the mini-sabbatical is expected to make,
- 2) provide a budget with justification, and
- 3) provide a biosketch or CV.

Awards are capped at \$2000 per year, with up to \$1000 coming from the CCTS and matching funds coming from the Partner institution or, for those at the UAB Hub, a local source. Funds may be used to cover costs associated with travel and participation in the experiences.

Send a complete application package (1 page research and contribution statement, 1 page budget with justification, updated NIH biosketch – compiled as a PDF) to the CCTS via ccts@uab.edu. Applications undergo a standardized review process by an ad hoc group of faculty. Final funding recommendations are approved by the CCTS Executive Council. Please plan to submit the application at least 8 weeks in advance of the desired visit timeframe.

Questions? Contact the CCTS (ccts@uab.edu).

*Current RFA active through August 31, 2015. Funded mini-sabbaticals must be implemented within six months. A new RFA will be released after September 1, 2015.

**The CCTS Partner Network includes the Universities of Alabama, Auburn, South Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana State, Tulane, Tuskegee and the research institutions of HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, Pennington Biomedical Research Center and Southern Research Institute.

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Appendix A. Sample Mini-Sabbaticals Ideas at the CCTS Hub

(Please do not contact faculty directly – contact ccts@uab.edu.)

Example / Faculty	Description	Learning Objectives
Alliance for Innovative Medical Technology (AIMTech)/medical device development (R. Hergenrother, PhD)	A collaboration between UAB and Southern Research Institute, AIMTech connects biomedical engineers and clinicians with developers of medical devices to learn how to bring a device to market.	1) Managing clinical trial and FDA approval processes; 2) Market and user assessments; 3) Steps towards establishing small companies, and how to raise venture capital for medical device development.
Undiagnosed Diseases Program, Advanced human genetics, Personalized Medicine (B. Korf, MD, PhD)	With the Heflin Center and HudsonAlpha, engages trainees in the use of genetic and genomic insights to inform disease diagnosis and management. These include medical genetics, clinical phenotype, statistical genetics and bioinformatics approaches.	1) Obtain core competencies in genetics and genomics; 2) Understanding of genetic and next-generation sequencing techniques; 3) Identify opportunities for incorporating genomic sciences into research and patient care.
Center for AIDs Research Network of Integrated Clinical Systems (CNICS) (M. Mugavero, MD, MHSc)	As a clinic-based research network, CNICS provides trainees the opportunity to see the outcomes of clinical decisions and management options made daily in the care of HIV infected individuals. CNICS provides a single, fully integrated database that links each patient record to a diverse collection of clinical, behavioral, and biological data.	1) Learn how the CNICS' integrated system of clinical, behavioral and biological data is used to answer research questions; 2) Learn benefits of CNICS data versus other cohorts and other medical records; 3) Understand how to successfully retrieve and critically evaluate CNICS data; 4) Design a study to be completed within CNICS
Community Based Participatory Research with Community Health Advisors/Workers (M. Safford, MD and A. Cherrington, MD)	Community Health Workers (CHW) are a proven resource that can assist with community-driven health promotion programs. CHWs are identified and trained to be natural helpers to improve the health of individuals and their local communities.	1) Learn about the potential roles CHWs can play within chronic disease management; 2) Help incorporate, engage, train and certify community members as part of study design and implementation; 3) Analyze the short- and long-term impact of CHWs on improving health outcomes.
Clinical Informatics / medical systems (J. Willig, MD)	From genomics data mining to custom software development targeted at clinical, educational or research initiatives, CCTS Hub informatics offers broad spectrum of informatics solutions and training to investigators.	1) Learn how to collect structured data at the point of care; 2) Learn how to export data to warehouse containing genomic and other biological information; 3) Use data for CTR