



**University of Miami's Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)
Clinical and Translational Science Research Program (CTSRP)
2025 Request for Letter of Intent (LOI)**

Background

NIH's Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program is a national consortium focused on bringing treatments to patients more quickly. The [University of Miami's Clinical and Translational Science Institute \(CTSI\)](#) advances clinical and translational science (CTS) to make clinical and translational research (CTR) faster, more efficient, more accessible, and more impactful. By transforming the way such research is conducted, we reduce the burdens of illness and disability, lengthen life, and enhance the health of our community.

The Miami CTSI includes five modules designed to achieve our CTS goals. One of our modules, **the Clinical and Translational Science Research Program (CTSRP)**, supports a discrete research project directly addressing a truly significant challenge in CTS. As we complete the first CTSRP project, we are accepting Letters of Intent (LOI) to support the next project. This will be a two-stage process. In this first round we will review LOIs and select a small number to submit full proposals and ultimately award one project. **The CTSI has committed resources to support one (1) project from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029. Applicants may request up to \$130,000 (Direct costs) annually for the 3-year project period.**

CTS Overview

[CTS](#) is the field of investigation that addresses longstanding scientific and operational challenges in conducting research related to human health. A critical component of CTS is to understand common causes of inefficiency and failure in research projects. Many of these causes are the same across targets, diseases, and therapeutic areas. Therefore, CTS is often disease agnostic, as its outcomes are generalizable across many different types of research and disease areas. Like any other science, CTS seeks to elucidate general operative principles to transform translation from an empirical, phenomenological process into a predictive science. This application of scientific and operational innovation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all research is at the heart of [developing, demonstrating, and disseminating the science of translation](#). Accordingly, the CTSI is interested in CTSRP projects that will provide generalizable CTS innovations and process improvements that can increase the overall efficiency or effectiveness of research.

Priority Areas

The Miami CTSI is especially interested in proposals addressing any of the following CTS challenges:

- **Clinical Trial Challenges** including complex study protocols; clinical trial design (patient-centric considerations, adaptive trial design); failure/inability to recruit participants into clinical trials; failure/inability to retain participants; trials not completed on time or budget.
- **Data Use Challenges** including challenges to data acquisition, integrity, and analysis; using Electronic Health Record data for research.
- **Community Engagement Challenges** including representativeness of trial participants to the local/catchment population; lack of effective strategies for ongoing patient/community engagement in the development and

implementation of new health interventions; interventions at community and/or clinical practices to promote overall health.

- **Administrative and Operational Challenges and Inefficiencies** including lack of efficient resource allocation and collaboration.
- **Regulatory Barriers and Challenges** including those related to IT.
- **Team Science Challenges** including education and training of research teams.
- **Implementation Science Challenges** including innovative methods that promote the uptake of research findings into routine healthcare in clinical or policy contexts.

LOI Submission Process

Information must be entered/uploaded into REDCap ([click here for LOI submission](#)) and include the following:

- Project Title
- Name, Affiliation and Biosketch for PI, Co-PIs
The PI must be a full-time University of Miami faculty member and eligible to serve as PI for an NIH grant.
- Project Site(s)
- Project Summary (500 words or less)
Specific Aims and Overview of the proposed approach. Describe the CTS barrier/challenge being addressed and how reducing/removing/resolving the barrier would increase the efficiency and/or effectiveness of CTR. Also describe how the project's short-term CTS goals would provide generalizable innovations or insights and support longer term CTS goals.
- Research Plan (Max 2 pages)
 - Significance: The overall focus or theme should be described in terms of CTS goals, impact and significance. Describe the critical challenge/roadblock and why this is of high priority. Also, summarize prior efforts and/or research (if any) to address this roadblock.
 - Innovation: Describe the advantages of the proposed innovation in shifting the conduct of research to overcome this translational barrier.
 - Approach: Describe the overall strategy, methodology and analyses to be used to systematically address the CTS barrier. This includes plans to develop, demonstrate/evaluate and if successful, disseminate the proposed strategy.
- Key references (if applicable)
Provide a succinct bibliography, no more than ten references.

Additional Information

- **On December 11, 2025, we will hold an Information Session on the LOI** and answer any questions you may have. [Please register in advance for the Info Session here](#). It will be recorded and available on our website if you are unable to attend the live session.
- If you have an idea you would like to discuss before submission, reach out to [Melanie Couch](#) to schedule a consultation.
- CTSI leadership will select the strongest LOIs to jointly plan for developing the project further, including submission of a full project plan, timeline, budget and budget justification.
- Similar to NIH cooperative agreements, the CTSI leadership and staff will have substantial involvement during the CTSRP's project performance period.

Important Dates

Date	Activity
December 1, 2025	Request for LOIs Released
December 11, 2025	5PM Info Session-register here
January 19, 2026	LOI submission due by 11:59PM via REDCap
January 30, 2026	Invitation to submit Full Application
March 31, 2026	Full Applications due by 11:59PM
April 6, 2026	CTSRP Award Announced
May 31, 2026	Regulatory Approval & NCATS Prior Approval must be in place
July 1, 2026-June 30, 2029	Proposed Project Period

Program Contacts

Administrative Contact: Melanie Couch, MHA	Mweiss2@med.miami.edu
Scientific Contact: Olveen Carrasquillo, MD, MPH	Ocarrasquillo@med.miami.edu
