



**The Alabama Drug Discovery Alliance (ADDA),
The Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS):
Pilot Grants in Drug Discovery and Development - Call for Pre-Proposals**

Deadline Pre-Proposals: March 23, 2015 – 8:30 AM

The ADDA and the UAB CCTS plan to fund up to 2 pilot grants for **\$50,000 per year for up to 2 years**, with funding of Year 2 depending on progress made in Year 1.

Funds can be utilized for various aspects of drug discovery and development for any human disease, including - but not limited to - assay development for high-throughput screening, molecular modeling and medicinal chemistry efforts, or proof of concept studies in animals with newly discovered lead molecules.

Only **small molecule**-directed efforts are eligible for funding at this time.

Please note that the following topics are beyond the scope of the solicitation and **will not** be considered:

- Target identification
- Target validation, without an accompanying proposal to discover new therapeutic molecules that manipulate said target
- Development of compounds for which other parties own the Intellectual Property (IP), or for which no IP can be reasonably developed

The process by which awardees will be selected consists of two tiers:

- 1) A PI (or multiple PIs) submit(s) a pre-proposal with a maximum of 2 pages (see below) that will be reviewed by a scientific panel with expertise in various aspects of target validation and drug discovery
- 2) After review, an invitation with instructions for a full proposal (maximum of 9 pages) will be sent to select PIs. Full proposals will be reviewed by a minimum of three scientific experts and the UAB Research Foundation; the ADDA Advisory Board will select the final proposals based on these reviews and the ADDA portfolio.

The ADDA is a joint effort between the UAB School of Medicine and Southern Research Institute. If needed, access to Southern Research's expertise and resources is therefore facilitated (e.g., high-throughput screening, medicinal chemistry, pharmacokinetic evaluation and toxicity studies). Following selection and award, a multi-disciplinary team, consisting of members with relevant expertise, including cell biology, pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, HTS assay development as well as clinical knowledge will be assembled for all projects. This team will help fine tune and finalize a compound progression pathway and guide the project through the drug discovery and development pipeline.

All UAB faculty and Southern Research Institute investigators are eligible to apply, irrespective of affiliation or rank.

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Submit your pre-proposal package as a PDF before the deadline (Monday March 23, 2015 - 8:30 AM) to adda@uab.edu. The package should be a single PDF and include:

1. A cover letter with the name(s) of the PI(s) and affiliation
2. Principal Investigator(s)'s NIH biosketch
3. One PDF of a review article or other publication relevant to your target (not necessarily authored by the PI)
4. Answers to the questions listed below, with a maximum of 2 pages

PIs that will be invited for a full proposal will be notified by early April, with the deadline for a full proposal on May 18, 2015; start date of the award will be August 1, 2015. For any questions, contact the ADDA Associate Director, Maaïke Everts, PhD, at 934-2973 or maaike@uab.edu.

Items to be addressed, **point by point, with a maximum of 2 pages**:

1. Title of the project
2. Identify at what stage your drug discovery/development project is:
 - HTS assay development and/or screening
 - Lead optimization/medicinal chemistry
 - Proof of concept in animal models
 - If other, please describe
3. Provide a description of the pathway or protein you propose to target and/or any compounds you have developed. For a target, make sure to describe the validation done to date (e.g. biochemical, cell-based and/or animal data; biomarkers in patient samples, etc); make sure to highlight the significance of your target or compounds. For example, how does it address an unmet medical need? How is this approach different from existing therapies, or competitors' strategies?
4. Summarize a potential research plan to achieve a lead candidate or IND-ready compound;
 - If high-throughput screening is needed, describe the (to be) developed assay;
 - Describe additional independent assays that can be used to confirm activity of identified active compounds, either *in vitro* or *in vivo*;
5. Reference List (not included in the page count).