

Request for Applications Neurodevelopmental Core of the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcome Collaborative

I. Introduction: Overview and Background:

The purpose of this request for applications (RFA) is to invite applications to develop and implement a Neurodevelopmental Core Lab (ND Core) for the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcome Collaborative (CNOC). The CNOC is a multicenter, multinational, multidisciplinary group of healthcare professionals committed to working together and partnering with families to optimize neurodevelopmental outcomes for individuals with pediatric and congenital heart disease through clinical, quality, and research initiatives, intending to maximize quality of life across the lifespan. In collaboration with the Data Coordinating Center (DCC), Research Committee, Quality Improvement Committee, and Database Committee, the ND core will begin working on a focused set of goals, including characterizing the development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who have undergone neonatal cardiac surgery using a limited list of demographic, neurodevelopmental, medical history, and surgical variables. As initial aims are achieved, additional ages of follow-up, neurodevelopmental testing outcomes, quality of life outcomes and medical history data are expected to be added to these efforts.

The CNOC ND Core will be responsible for supporting this goal by ensuring the fidelity and quality of neurodevelopmental data collection, facilitating access to key measures and appropriate training in the administration and scoring of measures, and supporting the integrity of scientific applications of these data in research.

II. Objectives, Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Objectives: The goal of the ND Core will be to support the vision and mission of the CNOC by facilitating interdisciplinary research goals of the collaborative. The ND Core's key goals include:
 - i. To ensure the quality, fidelity, and completeness of neurodevelopmental data used in research projects in the collaborative.
 - ii. To facilitate member institution's access to key measures and confirm appropriate training and expertise in their administration.
 - iii. To support the development of applications for funding using neurodevelopmental data.
 - iv. To support the scientific integrity of research using neurodevelopmental data, and support dissemination of research results.

2. Specific Roles and Responsibilities

i. Monitor and improve test administration

1. The ND Core will collaborate closely with the Education and Training Committee to set standards for professionals administering testing and providing diagnoses.
2. The ND Core will collaborate closely with the Education and Training Committee to provide appropriate training in the administration and scoring of neurocognitive measures, as needed.

ii. Monitor and improve quality of test data

1. The ND Core will work with the DCC and Database Committee to create safeguards in the data entry system and set standards for data entry, while taking into account psychometric properties of tests.
2. The ND Core will review data pulls at regular intervals to screen for irregularities.
3. The ND Core will problem solve data inconsistencies and help remediate them.

iii. Support the scientific integrity of research using neurodevelopmental data, and support dissemination of research results.

1. In collaboration with the Research and Publications Committees, the ND Core will ensure appropriate use and interpretation of neuropsychological/neurodevelopmental data. They will also provide support as applications for funding are developed.

III. Award Information

Total funds available are \$40,000 each year for a period of five years, beginning October 2, 2017. Indirect costs should not exceed 10%. Applications are due July 31, 2017.

IV. Eligibility Information

Eligibility is limited to CNOC institutional members.

V. Application and Submission Information

Each application should include the following components; however, it should be stated that the ND Core could be structured in a number of ways. As such, applicants should detail how they would build the infrastructure and operations of the ND Core to support the goals above.

1. Procedural Plan

Describe procedures that will support the objectives, roles, and responsibilities described above. This section of the application should be 10 pages or less.

2. Key Personnel

List the qualifications and role for key ND Core personnel, as available, or plans for recruiting personnel. Highlight previous experiences in lead roles for similar collaborative projects and include an NIH biosketch for key personnel.

3. Institutional Support/Environment

Describe the environment and available institutional supports for the ND Core.

4. Budget

The budget should include baseline costs to setup and organize the ND Core and ongoing costs to maintain the core lab. Salary support for personnel should be included. Funding may be used to cover the cost of materials, software, and salary support for faculty/providers and research personnel. The budget may not exceed \$40,000 per year, including indirect costs. Please include a justification for the budget.

Completed applications should be submitted to Jennifer Butcher, Ph.D. (CNOG Secretary) at jennbutc@med.umich.edu by July 31, 2017.

VI. Application Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by the CNOG Steering Committee. Selection will be completed by August 31, 2017. The new ND Core will be announced on September 1, 2017.