2014 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA): FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS RESEARCH
ADMINISTERED BY THE CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE (CTSI) WITH FUNDING
FROM HUNT FOR A CURE

1. NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THIS RFA
The Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute announces a request for applications (RFA) for pilot funds to support basic research on cystic fibrosis. This limited support is intended to allow generation of preliminary data necessary for success in obtaining significant extramural funding (e.g. NIH). Hunt for a Cure, a 501(c) (3) organization, provided the funds for this program. The mission of Hunt for a Cure (http://www.huntforacure.com/) is to assist efforts to cure or control cystic fibrosis and to improve the quality of life of those with the disease.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA FOR FUNDING
Principal Investigators (PI) must be employed by Michigan State University. There are no restrictions on employment status of other team members. Investigators who previously have been awarded funds under this mechanism are eligible to apply again. However, past awardees must submit a progress report with their application in order to be eligible for additional support.

Proposals will be selected primarily based on responsiveness of the proposal to each of the following:
• research has a high probability of leading to extramural funding
• research may lead to a cure for, or control of, cystic fibrosis
• research will have a rapid impact on the future of children afflicted by cystic fibrosis

3. KEY DATES FOR GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION
• email your intent to submit an application by 5:00 p.m. on June 23, 2014 to ctsi@msu.edu. To facilitate the assignments for the external review, please provide a brief summary of your project with your intent notification.
• full application is due by 5:00 p.m. on July 21, 2014.
• anticipated start/end date September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015

4. AWARD BUDGET AND FUNDING CRITERIA
The total funds available for the awards are $115,000. It is anticipated that up to 3 or 4 awards will be funded depending on the merit of the applications received. Up to $35,000 may be requested for a period not to exceed one year. At this level of funding, the applications should be focused on near-term deliverable experiments that fit into an overall research strategy that can ultimately be supported by extramural funding. Funds may be used for any legitimate research purpose, such as research assistants, equipment, supplies, laboratory testing, or data management and analysis. Use of MSU core facilities for laboratory work is encouraged. The Principal Investigator’s salary support, travel costs to scientific meetings, and indirect costs will not be supported.

5. FORMAT AND ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION
This will be an online submission. The application should be uploaded as one file in an Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format and emailed to ctsi@msu.edu.

Required elements of the full application are listed below. The body of the application (sections a-e) is limited to 7 pages in length. Biosketches, figures, tables, references, and if applicable, the progress report are not included in this page limit.

a) Summary (limited to 250 words);
b) Background
c) Specific aims
d) Research plan
e) Specific plans and timeline for seeking extramural funding support
f) Budget and Justification -
   Budgets should be broken down into three categories:
   1) Salary and fringe benefits for key personnel: segregate regular employees, student & temp labor
   2) Supplies and services
   3) Equipment (individual items costing over $5000)
   4) Append biosketches for principal investigator(s) and all key personnel using the NIH-format
g) Past awardees only
   Progress Report – no more than two pages
6. REVIEW
The CTSI and appointed external reviewers will perform a review of all submitted grant applications to ensure their close alignment with the overall strategic goals of the funding sponsor. Reviewers will score the proposal on a 1–9 scale employing the same criteria used in NIH peer review. The written critiques serve as feedback for the applicants, with reviewers’ names removed. The CTSI Hunt for a Cure Committee will make a final decision on funding according to the criteria and principles discussed above.