

CONCEPT CLEARANCE

FY 2016 RESEARCH INITIATIVE – NCATS

TITLE: Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of Biomedical and Translational Research

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this collaborative initiative with multiple NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) is to support investigator-initiated research that addresses ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) of biomedical and translational research of high importance to participating NIH ICs. The results of projects under this initiative are expected to contribute knowledge that will enhance the ethical conduct and social value of biomedical and translational research.

Applications to conduct empiric research as well as those that propose to develop new conceptual frameworks would be allowed. Interdisciplinary and collaborative projects using multiple approaches would be strongly encouraged.

DESCRIPTION: This initiative seeks research projects that address ELSI of biomedical and translational research in areas of high importance to participating NIH ICs. ELSI arise across the entire spectrum of biomedical and translational research, including basic, pre-clinical, clinical, behavioral, implementation and dissemination science as well as population health. Some of the areas of interest could include: ethical issues arising from emerging technologies; ethical challenges in research on data and information integration, sharing and mining to improve health; challenges in research with vulnerable and special populations; research within the clinical care environment; gene editing; neural sciences; transplantation; end-of-life issues; precision medicine; and global health.

IMPORTANCE: As technology and science advance, members of the research community confront evolving and recurring questions about the ELSI of their research and its translation to improve human health. ELSI research is critical in the biomedical and translational science domain to enhance the ethical conduct and social value of research in support of the NIH mission.

HISTORY: NIH has previously issued program announcements focused on bioethics research; however, the announcements have focused mainly on issues around the conduct of clinical research. Increasingly, ethical issues also arise in basic and other phases of translational research. This initiative would encourage ELSI research in the areas of interest to participating NIH ICs.

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