Objective
The purpose of this new program is to provide an additional opportunity for junior and senior LBRN PUI faculty to engage in clinical and translational research. It is specifically linked to LA CaTS through collaboration of faculty, training opportunities, infrastructural resources and partial funding. It is targeted at faculty with an interest to extend their research findings into translational and clinical studies. This should be an especially intriguing opportunity to bioinformatics problems related to diagnosis and treatment. While LBRN faculty are eligible and are encouraged to participate in the LA CaTS Pilot Project Program, providing a specific funding opportunity for LBRN PIs will ensure activity in this arena. The expected start date for this project is May 1, 2015 for the first year of funding through April 30, 2016. The LBRN Steering Committee together with selected members of the LA CaTS Pilot Grants Program will make the selection and distribution of these projects. The projects will be based on the quality of the proposal and the needs of the INBRE and LA CaTS programs. Proposed projects should be consistent where possible with the program’s focal research areas (listed below) and the interest of LA CaTS. [https://lacats.pbrc.edu/](https://lacats.pbrc.edu/). All interested researchers are encouraged to contact program coordinator Dr. Bill Wischusen ([ewischu@lsu.edu](mailto:ewischu@lsu.edu)) prior to submitting a proposal to ensure that the proposed research is eligible for inclusion in this program and help with identifying collaborators.

Computational & Structural Biology
This area includes, for example, bioinformatics, development of new computational approaches to solving significant bio-medical questions, biological modeling or investigations of molecular structure.

Molecular Mechanism of Disease
This area includes investigations focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms of significant human diseases, including, but not restricted to cancer, metabolic disorders, and infectious diseases.

Preventive Medicine
This area includes basic or applied research important in the prevention, treatment or diagnosis of major human diseases. Research topics might include work such as the development of vaccines, tissue engineering, drugs or new diagnostic tests or data mining for diagnostic or epidemiologic purposes.

Regardless of the thematic area, all projects must involve the development and testing of novel technologies and hypotheses at both the basic and clinical levels that have potential to significantly enhance translational research and commercialization of inventions and discoveries.

Eligibility
The project is open to all investigators at existing LBRN PUI campuses (LA Tech, LSUS, SUBR, ULM, GSU, SLU and Xavier) who have not held a translational science award from NIH. The project must involve collaborations with investigators who have significant translational science experience at LA CaTS institutions (LSU Baton Rouge, LSU Health Science Center New Orleans, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe) or any of the other LBRN campuses.
Orleans, LSU Health Science Center Shreveport, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Xavier University, Tulane University Health Sciences Center, Research Institute for Children at Children’s Hospital).

Examples of pilot projects funded by LA CaTS can be found on their web site https://lacats.pbrc.edu/research-funding/pilot-projects/

**Total Funds Available**
The funding is for 1 year. Starting May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016 the amount is $60,000. Up to $40,000 is to be used by LBRN investigators and up to $20,000 is to be used by the LA CaTS collaborator(s).

**Letter of Intent**
Prospective applicants are required to submit a letter of intent that includes the following information:
- Name, address, email and telephone number of the Principal Investigator
- Names of partners/mentors and other key personnel
- Descriptive title of proposed research
- State the translational research area focus in which your project fits

The letter of intent should be submitted via email to Dr. Bill Wischusen (ewischu@lsu.edu) no later than 4:30 pm on Jan 30, 2015.

**Deadlines**
- December 18, 2014  Announcement of RFA
- January 30, 2015  Letter of Intent
- March 16, 2015  Full proposal due
- March 31, 2015  Announcement of Award

**Proposal Guidelines (Overview)**
The proposal should contain the following items:
- PHS 398 Forms
- Research Plans/Project Description
- NIH Biographical Sketches

The proposal should be submitted via e-mail as a single PDF formatted file to Dr. Bill Wischusen (ewischu@lsu.edu) no later than 4:30 pm, March 16, 2015. LATE submissions will NOT be accepted.

1. **Proposal Guidelines (Detailed)**
For general formatting instructions follow the current PHS 398 forms and guidelines, which can be found on the NIH Grant application website http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html. The proposal should contain the following items:

   I. PHS 398 Forms
1. Face Page (form page 1)
2. Detailed Budget (form page 4 and 5) and Budget Justification (Continuation Page)
   **Do not include mentor support in the PI’s budget**
   a. PI’s budget (form page 4) **Budget $60,000 Total Cost for the period May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016 at least 3 months commitment the following year, for summer salary only up to 2 summer months can be requested on the grant**
      Budget $60,000 Total Cost/year (form page 5 and Continuation Page for budget justification). The budget should include the collaborator’s budget, within a total direct cost for the project of $60,000. Of this up to $40,000 will be for funding of LBRN investigators and up to $20,000 for funding of LA CaTS investigators.

II. **Research Plans/Project Description** (12 page limit, use NIH Continuation Format Page):
   1. **Cover page (Limit to 1 page)**
      o Project title
      o Performance site(s)
      o Lead project investigator or investigators if more than one person
      o Key personnel (personnel who are in the budget); include LA CaTS Collaborator
      o Identify if the project includes human subjects and if any exemptions are claimed
      o Identify if vertebrate animals are included

   2. **Abstract and Specific Aims (Limit to 1 page or less)**

   3. **Background and Preliminary Results (Limit to 2 pages or less)**: Describe rationale, significance, and potential impact. Include preliminary results only as needed to address these topics. Preliminary results are not a required element.

   4. **Research Plan and Timeline (Limit to 5 pages)**: Describe research approach(es) and innovation
      a. Describe the specific aims of the research project in an area that is a focus of the INBRE. Delineate the hypotheses to be tested. Preliminary studies are NOT required for INBRE applications, but applicants with preliminary results should describe them. In the absence of preliminary results, applicants should describe the rationale and scientific basis for the proposed research and provide a strong research plan. Concisely state the importance and health relevance of the proposed research to the specific aims.
      b. Describe the nature and scope of any scientific research collaborations
      c. Project Timeline (May 1, 2015-April 30, 2016)

   5. **Investigators (limit to 1 page; use tables to present information where possible)**: For project leaders, mentors, key personnel, and collaborators: Identify the institution, education level(s), and role in project.
      a. **The candidate (Mentee)**
         i. A single investigator at the awardee or network institutions should supervise each research project. Each investigator is responsible for ensuring that the project's specific aims are met. The research excellence of these projects will be enhanced by effectively using the scientific and technical strengths of collaborating investigators/mentors. It is envisaged that collaborators at the LA CaTS institutions will serve
a duel role of collaborator and mentor.

ii. Individual development plan, including plans for developing a sustainable research program. See NIGMS website for more information.


Note while the website describes these IDPs for post-doctoral researchers NIGMS has asked that we develop these for the INBRE researchers.

b. Collaborator/mentor

i. Collaborator should have translational research expertise relevant to the scientific area(s) to be developed within the INBRE. The collaborator will be from a LA CaTS institution. The collaborator will help oversee the proposed training and career development of promising investigators. Each project investigator should be assigned at least one collaborator.

The collaborator is an established faculty member who has demonstrated the ability to advise others through the acquisition of external support and the maintenance of an independent research laboratory. Collaborator may request up to 1.0 person month and should be listed in the individual projects' budget sections. The faculty investigators should clearly designate in the text the identity of their collaborator(s) and describe the qualifications, both scientific and advisory, that make them appropriate to assist in the oversight of the project. Letters of commitment from collaborator(s) should be included in the application.

2. Environment and Resources (use Resources format page) (Limit to 2 pages or less):

Provide details; use table format where possible.

a. Research environment
b. Research and Institutional Commitment
c. Technical support
d. Details of LBRN/COBRE/LaCATS infrastructure that will be utilized during the project
e. Other

Additional Information. As appropriate to the project, include the following sections; There are no page limits on these sections.

a. Human Subjects*
b. Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children
c. Vertebrate Animal Care and Welfare*
d. Biohazards*
e. Literature Cited/Reference List

*(if applicable, approval letter/s must be attached)
II. **NIH Biographical Sketch**
   - Research project investigators and collaborators/mentors must provide a biographical sketch as indicated in the PHS 398 instructions. This section must not exceed four pages per person.

IV. **All Personnel Report Format Page**

**Allowable Costs:**
Sharing resources between INBRE, COBRE, and LA CaTS investigators is strongly encouraged. If a core facility already exists for equipment and instrumentation supported by another program, these should not be proposed de novo in the INBRE application. However, if duplicate equipment is to be requested under this FOA, it should be appropriately justified. Under this FOA, COBRE and LaCATS investigators are not eligible for research funding from INBRE as project investigators but rather as collaborators. Similarly, INBRE investigators may not receive simultaneous research project support from a COBRE program. COBRE and LaCATS investigators may serve and be supported as collaborators/mentors in INBRE programs as appropriate.

Salary costs are allowable to the extent that they are reasonable; conform to the established policy of the organization consistently applied regardless of the source of funds; and reflect no more than the percentage of time actually devoted to the NIH-funded project. If full-time 12-month salaries are not currently paid to comparable staff members, the salary proposed must be appropriately related to the existing salary.

It is expected that the LBRN research project investigators at the awardee institutions will devote at least 25 percent of their professional effort (equivalent to 3.0 person months) to career development and research activities. LBRN institutions must provide release time for project investigators, thus permitting a significant time commitment to the research enterprise. To allow flexibility to investigators who cannot devote 3 consecutive months throughout the year, the effort can be distributed over the year to achieve a total of 3 person months; (for example, 2 person months during academic year and 1 person months in summer to account for a yearly 3 person months effort). Institutional cost sharing (in terms of release time) is required.

**Other Allowable Costs Include:**
   - Research equipment and instrumentation for laboratories
   - Supplies for research
   - Salary support for undergraduate and graduate students and technical staff
Translational Science Research Project Selection Criteria

1) What is the clinical and translational science relevance of the project?
2) How well does this project fit into the current LBRN research themes (Computational & Structural Biology, Molecular Mechanism of Disease and Preventive Medicine)?
3) What is the potential for this researcher and this research project to move to the next level during the duration of the project (1.5 years)? Include investigator training and qualifications, and the appropriateness of the research to the experience level of the Project Investigator and collaborators.
4) Does the project address a significant and relevant clinical biomedical question? Does the proposed research problem have the potential to advance the concepts or methods that drive the scientific field and advance the translational research.
5) Are the approaches appropriate to the question/s being investigated? Are the research plan, specific aims, experimental design, methodology, consideration of alternatives, data analysis, scope, and timetable appropriate.
6) Is there a collaborator/mentoring team and mentoring plan in place. This should include mentor suitability, plans for recruitment, research training, and individual development plans for the investigator/s, postdoctoral fellows and students of the institutions involved in the project. Project PIs must have at least one collaborator/mentor. The collaborators/mentor/s are recommended to have the following qualifications: record of expertise in a field related to the project, sustained record of independent federal funding (ideally at the level of an NIH RO1), a record of engagement in translational research, and record of mentoring graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and/or junior faculty.
7) What is the extent to which the research takes advantage of any unique features of the scientific environment or employs productive collaborative arrangements and/or is there evidence of an existing collaboration between the junior faculty member and one or more of the project collaborators?
8) Is there evidence of departmental or institutional support for the LBRN researcher and the research project? Include adequacy of resources and availability of any specialized facilities needed.