PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The SALSI Innovation Challenge is an initiative to fund **high risk, high reward** studies that have the potential to create ground-breaking research and novel approaches. *Proposed research should lead to extramural funding and have a translational impact to the region's healthcare and bioscience industry.* This cycle will focus on substance abuse/prevention. Proposals submitted for exploratory or novel studies that break new ground or extend previous discoveries leading in a new direction or towards innovative applications. Potential research areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Neuroscience research on substance abuse
- Genetics of addiction
- Applications of Big Data Analytics to Drug Abuse Research
- Behavioral & Social Sciences interventions for drug abuse/prevention
- Novel therapeutic development for substance abuse disorders

Preference will be given to proposals that:
- Correlate to approved concepts for potential RFAs to submit for extramural funding;
- Propose the creation of proof-of-concept or prototype technology that affords opportunities to establish a collaborative academia-industry partnership to bring a product to market
- Include another educational, research, industry partner;
- Build or strengthen cross-disciplinary research partnerships.

ELIGIBILITY

The PI(s) from The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and UT Health San Antonio (UT Health SA) must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member. The collaborative research project must include at least one principal investigator from each institution. Projects may also include scientific/educational/industry partners from the south Texas region; however, only UTSA and UT Health SA activities will be funded through this program.

FUNDING LIMITS

The total maximum amount to be requested is $100,000 per award ($50,000 per institution). It is anticipated that two projects will be funded.

GRANT PERIOD: June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

There will be a two phase submission cycle.
A Notice of Intent (NOI) deadline: **March 19, 2018**.
Please enter in the email subject line: **NOI-SALSI Innovation Challenge**
In the NOI email, please provide the name, tenure rank and/or position title for all PIs, with associated institutional affiliation, five key words, and a one-half page abstract of at least 200 words describing proposed research project. The NOI is not binding and does not enter into the

review of a subsequent application, the information that it contains allows for the estimation of the potential review workload.

Email address for NOI and Full Proposal submission: ana.laredo@utsa.edu

Full Proposal deadline: **April 16, 2018**. The PIs will submit one combined proposal.
UTSA proposals do not require Research Service Center review until an award is made. UT Health SA proposals do not require Office of Sponsored Programs review or a Certificate of Proposal (COP) until an award is made.

All required proposal elements shall be submitted in a single, text-searchable Adobe Acrobat pdf file. The proposal must include the following, in the order shown below:
1. Proposal Cover Page (Attachment A)
2. Project Description: 3 page maximum; 12 point, Times New Roman font, one-inch margin
3. Joint Execution Plan: 2 page maximum
4. UTSA Awardee Requirements (UTSA PI Must Sign Attachment B)
5. UT Health SA Awardee Requirements (UT Health SA PI Must Sign Attachment C)
6. Budget Summary (Attachment D)
7. Budget Justification: 1 page maximum per PI
8. Biographical Sketch (NIH or NSF Format): 2 page maximum for each PI/co-investigator
9. Reference Page: 2 page maximum

1.   PROPOSAL COVER PAGE- (USE ATTACHMENT A)

The Proposal Cover Page must include a clear, well-written executive summary that summarizes the essential content of the proposal – including the targeted direction in substance abuse/prevention proposed innovative research, and potential significance of the proposed research effort.

2.   PROJECT DESCRIPTION- (3 PAGE MAXIMUM)

The project description must include, in this order:
   A. General background on the targeted direction in substance abuse/prevention;
   B. Description of an unconventional, ground-breaking approach to the problem outlined in the topic and how the proposed research is of high risk - high reward;
   C. Description of how the research has the potential for major societal impact;
   D. Specific goals, objectives and anticipated results; and a description of methods including anticipated barriers or technical difficulties, and
   E. Specify the resources needed for this project (equipment, materials, etc.) and indicate their availability.

If you feel additional information is important to submit, an appendix may be included, but there is no obligation for reviewers to read it. A violation of this format will result in your proposal not being reviewed.

3.   JOINT EXECUTION PLAN- (2 PAGE MAXIMUM)

Summarize the task-level activities to be performed by UTSA and UT Health SA as they relate to the overall project's objectives. Describe areas of interdependence, the coordination and handoff of interim project materials and data, and the timeline of each organization's participation in the overall project effort. While no specific graphical format or presentation is required, this section is expected to contain a mixture of narrative and graphical information to aid the evaluators' assessment of the proposed scope, roles and responsibilities within the team, and collaboration environment.

4.   UTSA PI(s) RESPONSIBILITIES- (SIGN ATTACHMENT B)

Each PI must have this document signed by their Department Chair, indicating that they have also read all responsibilities and obligations of the PI, their Department and the respective institution.

5.   UT Health SA PI(s) RESPONSIBILITIES- (SIGN ATTACHMENT C)

Each PI must have this document signed by their Department Chair, indicating that they have also read all responsibilities and obligations of the PI, their Department and the respective institution.

6.   BUDGET SUMMARY- (USE ATTACHMENT D)

Awards will be up to $100,000 for a grant performance period of June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019. No-cost extension may not be requested. Funding that is not spent or encumbered by each institution's funding timeline requirements will automatically revert back to the originating office. Budget summaries must be submitted on the approved budget page (Use Attachment D).

7.   BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (1 PAGE MAXIMUM)

Each PI will submit a budget justification providing details for all proposed expenditures at his/her respective institution. The budget justification must address each budget line item on Attachment D that contains a proposed cost, for each institution. The budget justification must convey an integrated understanding of the types of resources (personnel, materials, other) necessary to complete the proposed effort. The proposed budget for each institution must conform to that institution's requirements for internally funded research or grant activity.

UTSA Budget Considerations
Grant funds **can** be used for the following:
- Salaries and/or wages for faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students. Fringe benefits are paid centrally- *exclude* fringe benefits on the budget template worksheet;
- Materials and supplies must be justified as needed for project success;
- Publications;

- Expenses for field work, data collection, archival research, training, educational purposes and/or presentations on research, creative or scholarly activities directly related to the proposed project;
- Consultant fees;
- Contracts and sub-awards for activities outside of UTSA but must be clearly and convincingly described as necessary for successful execution of the proposed project;
- Domestic travel to conferences or other conference support if directly related to the proposed work. Please note, GSA lodging rates CANNOT be exceeded;
- Domestic travel for data collection or other purposes when justified as essential to the project. Please note, GSA lodging rates CANNOT be exceeded.

UTSA faculty must commit a minimum of 1% salary effort on the grant and can use funds for summer salaries.

Grant funds **cannot** be used for the following:
- Office equipment, including computers or laptops (unless specifically justified with prior approval);
- Domestic travel that is not directly related to project research (e.g., conferences cannot be supported by this grant);
- International travel (no exceptions per state guidelines;
- Student travel (unless the student is paid by the grant and is directly related to project research);
- Student stipends, scholarships and/or tuition;
- Indirect costs (F&A) costs;
- Payment of salaries to non-UTSA personnel.

UT Health SA Budget Considerations
Grant funds **can** be used for the following:
- Salaries and wages of post-doctoral fellows; graduate students; research technicians; and other non-faculty project personnel;
- Research related equipment;
- Research related travel;
- Materials, supplies, and publications;
- Consultant services are allowable if necessary for the completion of the project.

UT Health SA faculty must commit a minimum of 1% effort on the grant and can use funds for salaries.

Grant funds **cannot** be used for the following:
- Domestic travel that is not directly related to project research (e.g., conferences cannot be supported by this grant);
- International travel;
- General office equipment, including computers (unless specifically justified with prior approval);

- Graduate student travel is not allowable unless the student is paid by the grant and is directly related to project research.

8.   BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Complete for each PI and co-investigator. Do not exceed two pages for each. Each PI may use their preferred format (NSF or NIH) and content for their biographical sketch for this proposal.

EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW

Proposals will be reviewed by a SALSI Innovation Challenge Review Committee established in consultation by both institutions Office of the Vice President for Research. This committee will consist of external reviewers approved by each Vice President for Research.

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel with broad expertise and a track record in identifying innovations – these reviewers may not be deep domain experts in your field. As such, *proposals should be clearly written in a way that the goals, rationale and methods of the proposed work can be understood by all reviewers.*

Proposals will be evaluated on a 100 point scale. The PI(s) are expected to include all required proposal components and fully and clearly answer each of the project description questions.

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Criteria	Description	Maximum Point Allocations
Topic Responsiveness	Does the proposed research focus on substance abuse/prevention?	10
Innovative Approach	Does the idea offer an unconventional, ground-breaking approach to the problem outlined in the topic and is the proposed research of high risk and high reward?	20
Overall Impact	Does the research have the potential for major societal impact?	20
Goals, Objectives and Anticipated Results	Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?	20
Resources	Does the project description identify resources needed for this project (equipment, materials, etc.)?	15
Joint Execution Plan	Does the Joint Execution Plan summarize the task-level activities to be performed by UTSA and UT Health SA as they relate to the overall project's objectives? Have potential barriers or technical difficulties been identified and mitigations formulated?	15
	Total Possible Points	**100**

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Each PI is responsible for the administration of grant funds within the terms of their respective institutions rules and regulations. In particular, he/she must be certain that cost overruns do not occur and that all funds are fully expended according to institutional fiscal deadlines. All work must be completed in the 12 month grant performance period.

INTERIM & FINAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A Project Update Meeting and mid-term report will be requested by the UTSA VPR and UT Health SA VPR in early December 2018. Each PI is responsible to submit a Final Grant Report no later than June 30, 2019. Awardees will be provided final reporting instructions prior to the end of their project.

Extramural Grant Submission Required
Successful applicants must produce a new proposal for extramural funding as part of the final report within 6-months of completion of the project. In exceptional cases, where seed funding may prove the project to be ultimately non-competitive, a waiver of the extramural application requirement can be requested from the UTSA VPR and UT Health SA VPR. If neither an external application nor letter of explanation is submitted, no new research funds will be made available to the PI or co-investigators until the letter or application is submitted. The PI must submit a report to the VPR describing the extramural grant submission details by June 30, 2019.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

February 2017 – Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) Announced
March 19, 2018 – Notice of Intent Due
April 16, 2018 – Grant Proposals Due (by 5:00 pm)
May 18, 2018 – Awardees Announced
June 1, 2018 – Grant Performance Period Begins (Funds Available)
December 2018 – Project Update Meeting and Mid-term Report Requested by UTSA VPR and UT Health SA VPR
May 31, 2019 – Grant Performance Period Ends
June 30, 2019 – Final Project Report Due
December 31, 2019 – Deadline for Extramural Funding Grant Submission

CONTACT INFORMATION

UTSA	**UT Health SA**
Ana Laredo	Linda Lopez-George
Program Manager	Director, Research Partnerships and Business Development
VPR- Office of Research Support	
Phone: (210) 458-8528	Phone: (210) 562-4035
Email: ana.laredo@utsa.edu	Email: lopezgeorge@uthscsa.edu

San Antonio
Life Sciences Institute

Project Information

Project Name:	

Name of UTSA Lead Principal Investigator(PI):	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
PI College and Department:	
Have you previously received a SALSI grant? _____ Yes _____ No *If yes, Type: _____ Date: _____ Amount: _____* *Project Title: _____*	

Name of UTSA Principal Investigator(PI):	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
PI College and Department:	
Have you previously received a SALSI grant? _____ Yes _____ No *If yes, Type: _____ Date: _____ Amount: _____* *Project Title: _____*	

Name of UT Health SA Lead Principal Investigator:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
PI Department:	
Have you previously received a SALSI Grant? _____Yes _____No *If yes, Type: _____ Date: _____ Amount: _____* *Project Title: _____*	

Name of UT Health SA Principal Investigator:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
PI Department:	
Have you previously received a SALSI Grant? _____Yes _____No *If yes, Type: _____ Date: _____ Amount: _____* *Project Title: _____*	

Abstract (400 word or less)

If this research proposal is funded, I agree that my acceptance obligates me to:

1. Include the following acknowledgement on all publications resulting from this grant award.

   "This project was funded (full or in-part) by the University of Texas at San Antonio, Office of the Vice President for Research."

2. If human subjects or animal research is involved, protocols to the UTSA Institutional Review Board (IRB) or UTSA Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must be approved prior to funds being released.
   To complete IRB protocols – http://research.utsa.edu/research-funding/human-subjects/
   To complete IACUC protocols – http://research.utsa.edu/research-funding/institutional-animal-care-and-use-program_new/

3. Submit at least one extramural proposal for funding to support the future progress of the project, within 6 months of the completion of the **SALSI Innovation Challenge**

4. Adhere to the assigned **SALSI Innovation** Program timeline:
   June 1, 2018 – Grant Performance Period Begins (Funds Available)
   December 2018 – Project Update Meeting and Mid-term Report Requested by UTSA VPR and UT Health SA
   May 31, 2019 – Grant Performance Period Ends
   June 30, 2019 – Final Project Report Due
   December 31, 2019 – Extramural Proposal Submission Report Due

5. Respond to all inquiries and communications from the Office of the Vice President for Research related to the **SALSI** funded project.

Principal Investigator

Signature:	
Project Name:	
Date:	

Department Chair

Please sign below to assure the review committee that you agree to the PI's obligation and responsibilities under this funding opportunity.

Approved By:	
Department Chair Signature:	
Date:	

If this research proposal is funded, I agree that my acceptance obligates me to:

1. Include the following acknowledgement on all publications resulting from this grant award.

    "This project was funded (full or in-part) by the University of Texas at San Antonio, Office of the Vice President for Research."

2. If human subjects or animal research is involved, protocols to the UT Health SA Institutional Review Board (IRB) or UT Health Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must be approved prior to funds being released.
    To complete IRB protocols – http://research.uthscsa.edu/irb/
    To complete IAUCUC protocols- http://research.uthscsa.edu/iacuc/

3. Submit at least one extramural proposal for funding to support the future progress of the project, within 6 months of the completion of the **SALSI Innovation Challenge**

4. Adhere to the assigned **SALSI Innovation** Program timeline:
    June 1, 2018 – Grant Performance Period Begins (Funds Available)
    December 2018 – Project Update Meeting and Mid-term Report Requested by UTSA VPR and UT Health SA
    May 31, 2019 – Grant Performance Period Ends
    June 30, 2019 – Final Project Report Due
    December 31, 2019 – Extramural Proposal Submission Report Due

5. Respond to all inquiries and communications from the Office of the Vice President for Research related to the **SALSI** funded project.

Principal Investigator

Signature:	
Project Name:	
Date:	

Department Chair

Please sign below to assure the review committee that you agree to the PI's obligation and responsibilities under this funding opportunity.

Approved By:	
Department Chair Signature:	
Date:	

A budget justification (not to exceed one page) must also be submitted describing each of the proposed line item expenditures for both institutions.

UTSA Budget	
1. Total Proposed Personnel (Salary and/or Wages Only) Cost:	
2. Equipment ($5,000 or less):	
3. Travel (No foreign travel):	
4. Participant Support Costs:	
5. Materials and Supplies:	
6. Publications:	
7. Consultant Services:	
8. Computer Services:	
Total UTSA Request:	

UT Health SA Budget	
1. Total Proposed Personnel (Salary and/or Wages Only) Cost:	
2. Equipment ($5,000 or less):	
3. Travel (No foreign travel):	
4. Participant Support Costs:	
5. Materials and Supplies:	
6. Publications:	
7. Consultant Services:	
8. Computer Services:	
Total UT Health SA Request:	