The College of Dentistry at the University of Kentucky is offering a grant program funded by the Dean and administered through the Center for Oral Health Research to enhance the development of basic, applied and translational clinical research data to support the production of peer-reviewed publications and preparation of grant applications competitive for external research funding. Oral health challenges of the U.S. population engenders annual expenditures of over $111 billion (ca. 2012) to address individual, community, and societal impacts of infections, cancer, chronic pain, and congenital and acquired craniofacial abnormalities. Additionally, recent national and global data have documented clear associations of chronic oral infections with the sequelae of various general health conditions, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, adverse pregnancy outcomes, and most recently Alzheimer’s disease. Finally, the ability to implement known and effective preventive and interventive therapies for oral diseases could significantly benefit the overall health of the population, but requires substantive improvements in oral health literacy and application and assessment of novel behavioral models.

Thus, there are robust opportunities for collaborative research approaches to impact oral health across the lifespan. This FOA provides funding for 2 types of pilot grant programs. One Grant Pilot Award (GPA) of $25,000 and 2 Initial Manuscript Awards (IMAs) each for $12,500 that provide support for up to a 12 month research period. Requirements for the awards include:

1. Principal investigator from the UK College of Dentistry
2. GPA: Requirement for at least 1 co-investigator from another UK College or a collaborator from another university; priority will be given to UK CCTS partners and regional universities/colleges
3. IMA: Outside collaborator not required, but preference will be given to development of collaborative research projects
4. Funds can be used for any research expense except faculty salaries and fringe benefits

Applications require a 5 page proposal with 1 page providing Title, Investigators, and Detailed Budget, 1 page containing the Specific Aim(s) and 3 pages detailing the Significance, Innovation, Impact, and Approach. An additional form page will be needed describing the use of human subjects or animals in the studies with the appropriate IRB or IACUC approval. Recipients of prior GPA or IMA awards must demonstrate some type of publication/grant record as a result of their last round of funding to be considered eligible.

Metrics for award success will be the use of data from the GPA to support an ongoing grant application including generation of new data for resubmission, or the development of a new grant application (e.g., to the NIH or NSF). The IMA will be expected to develop new or additional data needed to support the preparation of a peer-reviewed publication(s) in any field related to oral health.

Deadline for submission of the completed applications will be October 1, 2017 to Dr. Craig S. Miller, Center for Oral Health Research (cmiller@uky.edu). Review of each proposal will be based on the NIH scoring guidelines obtained from 2 independent reviewers within or outside UK based upon expertise needed for the project. Notice of awards will be provided by November 17, 2017 and initiation of the projects by December 1, 2017 for up to 12 months.