

2025 CTCB Research Project Funding



Request for Applications

Funding Opportunity: The UK [Center of Biomedical Research Excellence \(COBRE\) in Translational Chemical Biology \(CTCB\)](#) is **currently seeking applications for new COBRE projects**. CTCB is a comprehensive multidisciplinary center focused on the development and application of translational chemical biology research tools. The overarching goals of CTCB are to support junior faculty career development, advance impactful translational chemical biology research/tools, and stimulate transdisciplinary collaboration, research innovation and early translation. Within this context, the CTCB supports up to four COBRE research projects each year with an annual maximum budget per project of \$175K (direct costs). For more general COBRE information, see the [NIGMS COBRE program](#).

Research Project Leader (RPL) Eligibility: RPLs must be tenure track or equivalent UK faculty and qualify either as NIH [Early Stage Investigators \(ESIs\)](#) or as [New Investigators \(NIs\)](#). COBRE PIs are required to commit 50% effort to their COBRE project during their appointment.

Project Eligibility: Research projects must align with the theme of translational chemical biology - the nexus of chemical biology (the application of chemical biology principles to develop validated probe/models to advance our understanding of biology) and pharmaceutical science (the application of pharmaceutical principles to advance leads/materials/devices that address unmet clinical needs). Research projects must also articulate the need/use of at least one of the two [CTCB cores](#) ([Bio Core](#) and/or [Chem Core](#)). Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact Tonya Vance (tonya.vance@uky.edu) with any questions.

Project Budget and Duration: Project leaders/projects will be supported by the COBRE for a maximum of three years, with annual renewal of funding dependent on annual progress evaluations. The annual maximum budget request per project is \$175K (direct costs). COBRE-supported investigators will be expected to acknowledge COBRE support (NIH P20 GM130456) on all publications, presentations, and/or disclosures.

COBRE Project Application Process:

Phase 1 (pre-application). The pre-application packet should include: i) a research project specific aims page and ii) a current [NIH-style biosketch](#). The title of the project and the RPL name should be clearly articulated in the header of the specific aims page. In addition, the aims page should briefly convey the alignment of the project with the COBRE thematic area (translational chemical biology) and how CTCB cores will enable the project. Application materials should be combined and submitted as a single pdf file to Tonya Vance (tonya.vance@uky.edu) by **December 3, 2025**. The CTCB Executive Committee (EC) will review applications and select a subset of applicants to advance to Phase 2 (below).

Phase 2 (full application, by invitation only). Applicants selected to advance will be invited to submit a full NIH-format 3-YR grant application (additional details will be provided to selected applicants) to be evaluated by the CTCB Advisory Committee (AC). Applications selected by the AC for COBRE support will be advanced to NIGMS for final review.

Key Dates:

- Phase 1 Pre-application deadline: **December 3, 2025**
- Phase 2 Full application deadline: **February 2, 2026** (by invitation only)
- Anticipated award start date: May 2026

Contacts:

- CTCB Program Coordinator, Tonya Vance (tonya.vance@uky.edu)
- CTCB Associate Director, Tom Prisinzano (prisinzano@uky.edu)
- CTCB Program Director, Jon Thorson (jsthorson@uky.edu)