Request for Applications

Harvard Catalyst SHRINE Query Prize Program:
Advancing Health Through Clinical Records Research

Applications due: April 19, 2012 at 5:00pm EST

I. Overview of Harvard Catalyst SHRINE

The Harvard Catalyst Shared Health Research Information Network (SHRINE) helps researchers overcome one of the greatest problems in population-based research: Locating sufficient numbers of well-characterized, de-identified patients. Qualified investigators may use the SHRINE web-based query tool to determine the aggregate total number of patients at five participating hospitals who meet a given set of criteria. Typical applications of SHRINE include:

- Generating new research hypotheses
- Planning research requiring large sample sizes not easily available at any single institution
- Preparing grant applications that would benefit from pre-identification and/or characterization of a potential research cohort
- Identifying potential cohorts for clinical trials
- Conducting research in the areas of population health and health services

Although SHRINE does not provide direct access to information about individual patients at each of the hospitals, it can be possible to obtain patient-level data with proper IRB approval. More information about SHRINE—including information about access—can be found at:

http://catalyst.harvard.edu/services/shrine

II. Overview of prize program

The Harvard Catalyst SHRINE Query Prize Program is designed to encourage and support the use of SHRINE, and all proposals must incorporate use of the SHRINE system. Proposals need not be restricted to any particular field of study.

We will award up to twenty $2,500 prizes for SHRINE queries that yield innovative and compelling results directed at important problems in human health. To be eligible for a prize, you need only demonstrate—and report on—your use of SHRINE. Applicants must register for access to SHRINE, complete any necessary queries, and submit an application by April 19, 2012. Winners will be chosen based on the criteria described below and will be announced in mid-May, 2012.

Please note that later in 2012, we will hold a competition for $50,000 one year research grants to support efforts to secure patient-level data based on SHRINE results. Only winners of the current query prize competition will be eligible to compete for one of these research grants.

III. Investigator eligibility

Investigators may only submit one prize application as principal investigator, but may be listed as co-
investigator on multiple applications. If you have questions about the eligibility criteria below, please email shrine_pilots@catalyst.harvard.edu or call us at 617-432-7810.

The principal investigator and eventual prize recipient must be a current Harvard Medical School faculty member appointed as an instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor; and be primarily employed by one of the SHRINE participating hospitals: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Children’s Hospital Boston, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Students, clinical trainees, post-doctoral and clinical fellows, visiting and adjunct faculty, individuals with pending faculty appointments, and faculty not primarily employed by a SHRINE participating institution cannot serve as the principal investigator of an application, but may serve as a co-investigator, provided they help conceive of the experimental idea, contribute to the intellectual development of the project, and/or design the study or part thereof.

IV. Application and submission details

Due Date: Thursday, April 19, 2012, 5:00pm, no exceptions permitted. Note that the registration and topic approval process may take some time to complete, so we encourage you to register for access at least a month in advance of that deadline. We also encourage you to complete your queries well in advance of that deadline since SHRINE network performance may be affected by many users performing queries simultaneously near the deadline.

All applications must be submitted by webform, at the following URL:

http://catalyst.harvard.edu/services/pilotfunding/shrine.html

Please be aware that forms cannot be saved. Allow time to deal with any unexpected problems submitting the application. Harvard Catalyst staff will be available until 5:00pm on April 19 to help you should you encounter problems submitting your application.

Successful submissions will result in an automated response sent to the principal investigator. This email acknowledgement will contain an Application ID number that should be used in all future correspondence with Harvard Catalyst regarding your application.

A complete application consists of the following three components:

1. A completed online application form.

2. NIH biographical sketches for the principal investigator, co-investigators, and significant collaborators, uploaded as a single PDF via the webform.

3. Your scientific application, uploaded as a PDF via the webform. The proposal is limited to two pages, not including references. All figures should be included in the body of the application; appendix material is not allowed. Please use Arial font, size 11, single-spaced, with 0.7 inch margins. Include the following sections (suggested lengths in parentheses):

   a. Introduction (½ page)
      Please describe the scientific background for your application. Critically evaluate existing knowledge; explain how your application relates to gaps in current knowledge; and specifically discuss how your project has the potential to impact human health.

   b. Query strategy (½ page)
      Outline your query strategy, and describe the sequence of queries performed. Include the approved SHRINE Query Topic and Query Topic ID under which these queries were
performed. (For information on finding your Query Topic, visit the following URL: http://catalyst.harvard.edu/services/pilotfunding/shrine/querytopicinfo.html.)

c. Query results and discussion (1 page)
   Provide and interpret the SHRINE data you’ve obtained, and describe how those data relate to the scientific question(s) you are trying to address. Outline future directions for your work.

d. References (limit to 1 additional page)

V. Review criteria

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:
• Does the application address an important health problem, and do the data described have the potential to substantially impact human health?
• Is the approach innovative, and are the results compelling?
• Are the analyses rigorous, and are the conclusions appropriate?
• Does the application make appropriate use of SHRINE?
• Does the project support junior faculty?
• Does the project bring together investigators who have not worked together in the past?

VI. Prizes

Prize decisions will be announced in mid-May, 2012. Up to twenty $2,500 prizes will be handed out to individuals. Upon awarding, some additional personal information may be requested, as each prize will be given directly to the person named as the principal investigator on the application.

VII. More Information

We encourage your inquiries concerning this application process. Inquiries falling in the scientific/research areas should be directed to the Harvard Catalyst Research Navigators at 617-432-7810, shrine_pilots@catalyst.harvard.edu. Inquiries falling in the financial or grants management areas should be directed to Lucy Kolessin, Director of Finance and Research Administration, at 617-432-7804, lucy_kolessin@hms.harvard.edu.