**Compassionate Care Research (CCR) Pilot Funding Announcement 2024**

**Funding Announcement:** Funds are available to UVA School of Nursing **post-doctoral fellows and PhD candidates** to support pilot research projects related to Compassionate Care.

**Summary of Opportunity:**

Since 2009, the UVA School of Nursing (SON) has been a pioneer in advancing the ideals and delivery of compassion within healthcare. Now, we are seeking to move from prominence to preeminence by enhancing the visibility and dissemination of high-quality, high-impact research related to compassionate care. This funding opportunity will provide intramural funds to support pilot research projects designed to generate new knowledge related to compassionate care. Successful applications will clearly and specifically describe how this pilot work aligns with the vision of Compassionate Care Research (CCR) summarized below and how results will be leveraged to support the individual’s research trajectory (all applicants) and applications for larger external funding (post-docs). Applications will be reviewed and final selections made by an external faculty committee not affiliated with CCR or with connections to any applicants.

**What is Compassionate Care Research?**

Compassion is defined as the ability to recognize and take action to alleviate the suffering of others[[1]](#footnote-1). We conceptualize Compassionate Care Research (CCR) broadly as research which aims to alleviate this suffering, by taking meaningful steps to improve the well-being of patients, families, organizations, and communities. Importantly, we consider a key component of CCR as actively working to reduce disparities, address social determinants of health, and enhance health equity, both locally and globally.

**Details:**

* DUE DATE: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted
* Projects should be designed to be completed within 12 months with a maximum budget up to $15,000 (final budgets may require adjustment based on number of funded applications and scope)
* Eligible applicants: SON post-doctoral fellows and PhD candidates to support their dissertation research.
* Midyear and final report of accomplishments and deliverables will be required.

**Applications:**

* Applications should be submitted using the attached template (minimum 11pt font Arial or Times New Roman; single-spaced, 0.5” margins) and submitted *as a single PDF file via the* [*Grant Submission Portal*](https://virginia.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1QSMbeAlGbtm9ee). Please only include the required components listed below and in the template:
* **Research Plan** with the following subheadings: (5-page limit, does not include references; research plans that exceed 5-pages or do not adhere to formatting requirements will not be considered)
  + Background/significance *[Why does this matter? What is the impact of the work?]*
  + Purpose/specific aims statement *[What will you do, briefly?]*
  + Innovation *[How is this study novel? How does the work fill a gap?]*
  + Approach *[How will you accomplish the aims?]*
    - Sample/recruitment; data collection; data analysis for each aim
  + Anticipated challenges and how they will be addressed
  + Describe how this project advances the science of Compassionate Care Research *(please reference vision statement below)*
  + Describe how this project advances your research trajectory
  + Human Participant Considerations
    - *Briefly* (1/2 page max) discuss if you have submitted a protocol and other IRB considerations, such as consent, participant incentives, and anticipated risks and benefits.
  + References *(not counted in page limit)*
* **Plans for follow-on funding** *(1/2 page max;* *required for post-doctoral candidates only)* Specify specific funding call(s) and how this proposal supports that funding opportunity.
* **Study timeline** with indicated milestones *(flexible start date – please indicate start and end dates)*
* **Budget** *[use the dedicated form within the template]*
  + Allowable expenses:
    - Research assistant/graduate student support
    - Dissemination related to this proposal (publications; conferences)
    - Participant incentives
    - Materials and supplies needed to successfully complete study aims
  + Budget Justification
* **NIH biosketch** [[use NIH approved template – non-fellowship biosketch](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm)]
* **Letter of Support** from your primary faculty mentor

**Successful applications** will demonstrate excellence related to the following criteria (see details about each section above):

1. Significance/Impact
2. Innovation
3. Approach
4. Appropriateness of timeline/scope
5. How the proposed research advances Compassionate Care Research as conceptualized in this funding announcement
6. Potential to support applicant’s research trajectory (all applicants) and successful follow-on external funding (for post-docs)
7. Investigator qualifications

All applications will be reviewed and final selections made by an external faculty committee not affiliated with CCR. Applicants will receive feedback with the opportunity to resubmit pending available funds.   
 **Questions?** Please contact Amber Steen, al9sx@virginia.edu

**Compassionate Care Research (CCR) Mission and Vision Statement**

**Mission:** To conduct innovative, high-impact research related to compassion in healthcare that results in measurable improvements in the lives of clinicians, patients, families, and communities.

**Vision:** ‘Compassionate Care’ is a foundational approach to caring for ourselves and others that is embedded within teaching, clinical practice, service, and research at the University of Virginia School of Nursing. At its core, compassionate care embodies activities and scholarship that strive to reduce suffering and promote well-being. Since 2009, The UVA School of Nursing has been a pioneer in advancing the ideals and delivery of compassionate care within healthcare through the [Compassionate Care Initiative](https://cci.nursing.virginia.edu/). Building upon this foundation, we are now well-poised to enhance the visibility and dissemination of high-quality, high-impact research related to compassionate care. With the expansion of the scale and scope of Compassionate Care Research (CCR), we aim to move UVA SON from prominence to preeminence in advancing the science of compassion in healthcare.

Compassion is defined as the ability to recognize and take action to alleviate the suffering of others and is considered a basic patient right and a foundational component of quality healthcare[[2]](#footnote-2). Using this framework, we conceptualize Compassionate Care Research (CCR) broadly to encompass research that aims to alleviate suffering by taking meaningful action to advance the well-being of patients, families, organizations, and communities, as well as the larger societal structures within which they operate.

**Specifically, we envision CCR at the UVA SON as that which:**

* Uses innovative methods to advance the science of compassionate care, particularly for populations that have been historically underrepresented/marginalized and suffered from systemic racism.
* Extends throughout the lifespan (prenatal through end-of-life), across diverse populations (students/clinicians; patients; family caregivers; community members) and settings (clinic; hospital; community; rural/urban).
* Leverages and works synergistically with pre-existing strengths within the SON (e.g., symptom science and violence research Areas of Excellence) and across the University and Health System.
* Advances the [2022 – 2026 NINR Strategic Plan](https://www.ninr.nih.gov/aboutninr/ninr-mission-and-strategic-plan) and seeks to reduce disparities, address social determinants of health, and enhance health equity, both locally and globally.
* Addresses needs across multiple levels of the Social Ecological Model: *individual* (e.g. patient symptom management; clinician well-being); *interpersonal* (e.g. interprofessional communication; dyadic interventions); *community/institution* (e.g. workplace burnout interventions; home-based care); and *societal* (e.g. policy changes; access to quality healthcare).

1. Sinclair, S. et al. ([2016](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26786417/); [2022](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35585622/)) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Sinclair, S. et al. ([2016](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26786417/); [2022](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35585622/)). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)