

PILOT FUNDING ON NOVEL TREATMENT OF CHRONIC SPINAL CORD INJURY

Release Date: 05/19/2018

Due Date: 05/25/2018

The University of Rochester Spinal Cord Injury Research Program invites applications for a pilot grant application on treatment of chronic spinal cord injury.

Funding from the New York State Department of Health enables us to fund one small pilot project on the topic of promoting recovery from chronic spinal cord injury (SCI). The funded project will be applied to approaches that promote recovery after traumatic SCI has reached a stable plateau of recovery. Multidisciplinary and multi-investigator proposals are encouraged, but are not required. What is required is a focus on proposals focused on improved treatments for chronic SCI.

Program Details

Eligibility for the SCI Pilot Program: The principal investigator (PI) on all proposals must be a full-time tenure-track faculty member of the University of Rochester. Each faculty member can participate in only one application in any capacity.

Eligible Research: Subjects will be considered for funding from all areas of research relevant to the promotion of recovery from chronic SCI.

Definitions: Chronic SCI is defined as the period of time after which further spontaneous increases in motor function are not expected to occur. This occurs at approximately 4-6 weeks in the rat, and 4-6 months in the human.

Areas of interest include:

- Promoting functional recovery in patients with chronic SCI
- Promoting functional recovery in animal models of chronic SCI

Projects will receive the **highest priority** if they:

- Use innovative approaches to promote recovery from chronic SCI, in humans or animal models.
- Have strong potential for follow up funding by national, state or private agencies.
- Hold promise to accelerate the rate of translation of science to practice in the treatment of this currently unmet medical need.

Review Criteria:

- 1) Innovation: Projects should not be “more of the same,” i.e., they should not be extensions of ongoing research that is already funded by the conventional sources, NIH, foundations, etc.
- 2) Capacity for attracting external funding: Projects in which particular data will provide the critical information needed to increase the likelihood of obtaining external grant support are of particular interest.
- 3) Use of clinically relevant animal models: In proposals utilizing experimental animals, models of chronic SCI should be accepted models in the field, which is critical in increasing the likelihood of a successful transition to external funding.
- 4) Strategic Impact: Projects should move into areas that are expected to grow in significance. Projects that consolidate or expand areas of particular local strength will be favorably considered.

Funding levels

The amount of funds available enables funding of one application for the amount of \$20,800 for one year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year if sufficient progress has been made.

Permissible expenses include supplies and salaries, except PI salaries. Due to the nature of this particular funding source, there will be no rolling over of funds into consecutive financial years.

Review Process

Submitted applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts that will not include individuals who have submitted applications.

Important Dates

- **May 25th, 2018 at 5:00 PM** - Applications will be due.
- **June 15th, 2018** – Notification of award will be made.
- **July 1st, 2018** – Anticipated start date. Note: All animal and human subject protocols must be approved prior to the start date. No funds will be released until these approvals have been documented.

Submitting a Proposal

Online submission: Proposals must be submitted electronically to Chelsea_Costanzo@URMC.Rochester.edu

Application Format:

The application should use Arial 11 pt font with 1" margins and include the following:

1. Cover page:

- a) Title of the Project
- b) Contact PI's name and contact information
- c) Name and contact information of co-investigator(s) and/or key personnel, if applicable
- d) Amount of money requested
- e) Involvement of human subjects or vertebrate animals

2. Overview/Specific Aims -one page

3. Research Plan: Not to exceed 3 pages of text and one (separate) page of figures, as needed. This should incorporate the following components:

- a. A succinct description of the proposed research, in sufficient detail to allow evaluation of the research concept.
- b. A short statement explaining the relevance of the proposed research to promoting recovery from chronic SCI.

4. Literature cited (not included in the 3 page research plan, limited to 2 pages)

5. A brief explanation of how the work will lead to extramural funding, and budget justification (limit = 1 page)

5. NIH biosketch for the PI, co-I, and key personnel containing a brief personal statement describing current research.

Notes:

- a) *Include the page number and name of the contact PI in the footer of all pages of the proposal.*
- b) *No letters of support are permitted.*