PILOT FUNDING IN STEM CELL AND REGENERATIVE MEDICINE RESEARCH

University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry (SMD)
Strategic Plan Pilot Award Program

Release Date: 05/19/2018
Due Date: 05/25/2018

The University of Rochester Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Institute invites applications for Strategic Plan Pilot Grants in Stem Cell Research

The purpose of the SMD Strategic Plan Pilot Award Program is to promote the research goals of scientific programs of excellence in biomedical research with the potential to enhance the national and international reputation of the School of Medicine and Dentistry and the University. Funded pilot projects are envisioned as innovative research directions with the potential to give new life to the overall scientific portfolio of the UR and keep the institution abreast of, and even ahead of today's fast-paced and competitive scientific landscape. Multidisciplinary and multi-investigator proposals are strongly encouraged.

Program Details

Eligibility for the Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Research 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 basic stem cell and regenerative medicine research across the translational research spectrum to the study of clinical interventions for disorders in which stem cell-based therapies or other approaches to regenerative medicine are applicable.

Definitions: For this RFA, the term stem cell" is meant to include tissue-specific stem cells, lineage-restricted progenitor cells, embryonic stem cells, induced pluripotent stem cells or cancer stem cells.

- Basic mechanisms of stem cell function and/or of promoting tissue regeneration.

  Areas of interest include but are not limited to:
  - Developmental aspects of stem cell biology
  - Pharmacological regulation of stem cell function and/or promotion of regeneration.
  - Stem cells in disease processes during development, adulthood or aging
  - Recruitment of endogenous stem cells to promote repair.
  - Targeting of cancer stem cells
  - Systems biology approaches to understanding stem cell function and/or promotion of regeneration

- Translation to practice.

  Areas of interest include but are not limited to:
  - Syndromes caused by abnormalities in stem cell function.
  - Syndromes treatable by transplantation of stem cells or their derivatives or treatable by recruitment of endogenous stem cells.
  - Use of stem cells for drug discovery

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

- Use innovative approaches to study mechanisms of stem cell function and/or dysfunction, and/or that study novel approaches to promoting tissue repair.
- Build on existing strengths of the University that may, or may not, currently be related to stem cell or regenerative medicine research.
- Foster multidisciplinary collaboration.
- 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 currently unmet medical needs.

Review Criteria:

1) Innovation: Projects should not be "more of the same," i.e., they should not be extensions of ongoing research. This type of research should be funded by the conventional sources, NIH, foundations, etc.
2) 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

Up to two proposals will be funded with up to $50,000 for 12 months.

Permissible expenses include supplies and salaries, except PI salaries. Rolling over of funds beyond 12 months requires permission by the funding committee.

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 stem cell biology, stem cell medicine and/or regenerative medicine.

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.