The Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience Pilot Program for 2020

The Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience (Del Monte) is pleased to announce the availability of up to 21 pilot project awards (maximum budget of $50,000 per award) to support novel basic, clinical and translational projects in the neurosciences. These awards will be supported under five programs for 2020 and are open to all faculty members across both the Medical School and the Undergraduate Campus. Funds available for this year's program are $810,000. Del Monte supports the following programs:

The *Schmitt Program in Integrative Neuroscience (SPIN)* supports pilot and feasibility awards (up to $50,000 per award) for basic science and translational projects that advance our understanding of both normal and abnormal brain functioning (4-5 awards available).

The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation (MF) offers pilot and feasibility awards (up to $50,000 per award) for basic, clinical and translational projects that specifically support research on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (2 awards available).

The ***Rochester Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research (RCADR)***, supports pilot and feasibility awards (up to $50,000 per award) for basic science and translational projects that advance our understanding of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Funds for one award are generously donated by the Feinberg Family Fund. An additional donation from the Sally J. States Pilot Fund in Alzheimer's Research will partially support an additional pilot (4 awards available).

Center for Health + Technology Clinical Neuroscience Pilot Program (CHeT) *offers pilot and feasibility awards (up to $50,000 per award) for clinical research projects leveraging novel digital technologies that advance our understanding of areas of unmet need in clinical neuroscience (4 awards available).*

University of Rochester Center for Advanced Brain Imaging and Neurophysiology (UR CABIN) offers pilot and feasibility funds (up to $10,000 per award) to support innovative, investigator-initiated basic and clinical neuroscience research using the PRISMA 3T magnet (up to 6 awards available).

Schmitt Program in Integrative Neuroscience (SPIN)

The awarded funds are intended to enable both new and established investigators to generate preliminary data that will lead to competitive applications for extramural funding. The SPIN program encourages interdisciplinary collaborative approaches to novel research questions that leverage skillsets and techniques across research laboratories and traditional institutional boundaries. However, individual investigator applications will also be considered. In 2020, SPIN will accomplish its goals through the support of new research projects in the neurosciences and neuromedicine broadly defined, from cognitive and systems to cellular and molecular approaches. Exciting proposals from any branch of neuroscience will be given full consideration. The SPIN program, which has consistently supported innovative brain research at the University of Rochester for 32 years, is supported by the Killian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Foundation.

The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation Autism Research Pilot and Feasibility Program (MF)

The Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience is pleased to continue the ***Autism Research Pilot and Feasibility Program*** for new and established investigators. This Request for Applications (RFA) is intended to provide funding for investigators conducting bold, creative and rigorous research into the underlying neurobiology, causes and treatment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The program supports projects that employ innovative approaches to explore untested hypotheses and develop preliminary data necessary to expand Autism research. The program supports basic, translational and clinical research for biomedical and behavioral studies. These awards are intended for investigators who are requesting support for small-scale projects or early-stage experiments that will build on preliminary data or a prior track record and lead to competitive applications for funding. This program is very generously supported by The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation.

The Rochester Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research Pilot and Feasibility Program (RCADR)

The awarded funds are intended to enable new and established investigators to generate preliminary data that will lead to competitive applications for extramural funding. Alzheimer's disease represents a uniquely challenging problem with enormous impact in our aging society. Thus, RCARD emphasizes innovative approaches to novel research questions. In many cases we expect that these approaches will be multidisciplinary, leveraging skillsets and techniques across research laboratories and traditional institutional boundaries. Funds to support this program are provided by the Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience.

Center for Health + Technology Clinical Neuroscience Pilot Program (CHeT)

Competitive proposals will focus on innovative applications of digital technologies (e.g. wearable sensors, smartphone apps, advanced analytics, human-machine interfaces, etc.) in research with human participants to yield new insights into clinical neuroscience. Special consideration will be given to proposals focused on intellectual disabilities, rare diseases, or Alzheimer's disease. Though proposals should focus on new clinical neuroscience discovery, the conditions under study may extend beyond primary neurological disorders. This program is funded by the Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience.

University of Rochester Center for Advanced Brain Imaging and Neurophysiology (UR CABIN)

The purpose of the UR CABIN funds are to support pilot studies for scanning services. The support is intended to help promising new faculty initiate their research as well as to provide seed money for established investigators to test new ideas in their preliminary stages and gather data to submit a proposal for external funding. These grants provide resources which include scanner time and staff support. Other costs can be requested, but must be well justified. Structural or functional imaging studies in animals or human subjects with relevance to medical illness will be considered. Funds to support this program are provided by the School of Medicine and Dentistry and the College of Arts, Science and Engineering.

The Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience Pilot Application Process

Application Process

The programs support research in the neurosciences. Applications may request **up to $50,000** (funds depend on the specific program). Principal investigators must be faculty members (with or without tenure) within the neuroscience community at the University of Rochester. PIs must also be members of the Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience. A short application is available on the Del Monte website or by **clicking here**.

Applications will be submitted online, with a short informational online page and a single pdf application file.
A) The online component includes:

- Title, submitting PI information, co-PI information
- List of major collaborators (past 3 years)
- Technical abstract (300 words): This will be used to assign reviewers, and should include overall goal, specific aims, and techniques used.
- Lay abstract (300 words): this will be used to convey information to the public, and should be easily understandable to the non-scientist. This will be public, and so should not contain proprietary information.

B) The written application is modeled after a short NIH research proposal (e.g. R03, R21), and should include:

- **Cover letter** with title, investigators, and description that indicates how the SPIN, MF, RCADR, CHET or UR CABIN mechanism would extend research objectives that will lead to a competitive extramural grant application [one page limit]. You may indicate more than one choice if relevant.
- **Select** which program you are applying for: SPIN, MF, RCADR, CHET or UR CABIN.
- **Research description** (limited to *6 pages*) including Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Studies, Research Design and Methods.
- **Supporting materials** (Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, and Literature Cited) can follow on additional pages.
- **Budget** (detailed, *not* modular) with justification (faculty salary support is specifically excluded)
- **Bio-sketches** of all Co-Investigators and key personnel.
- **Other Support**
- **Resources and Environment**

Review criteria will include but are not limited to:

- The ***likelihood of a subsequently successful application for extramural support*** (e.g. new NIH RO1).
- The ***significance*** and ***innovation*** of the proposed project.
- The ***relevance*** of the project to the strategic plan of the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience.
- Where relevant, the ***interdisciplinary/collaborative*** character of the project (across faculty and laboratories).

Reporting - Following receipt of an award, investigators will be contacted to update their reported data annually for five years.

Application Submission Deadlines

The application deadline is **5:00 pm** on Monday, March 16, 2020. Applications will be submitted online at www.DMINPilot.urmc.edu. Open Date (Earliest Submission Date) is March 1, 2020.

Address all questions about applications to: Ian_Dickerson@urmc.rochester.edu

An internal review committee will work with a panel of independent external reviewers to determine the most competitive projects for support. The Program is administered through the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience.

Funding is scheduled to begin July 1, 2020. Funds are available for a maximum of a one-year term.