University of Rochester Environmental Health Sciences Center
REQUEST FOR PILOT PROJECT PROPOSALS

The University of Rochester's Environmental Health Sciences Center (EHSC) has funds to support a limited number of meritorious Pilot Projects. Through a strong multi- and interdisciplinary framework, the EHSC has fostered advances and innovations in basic and translational research examining relationships between environmental exposures and human disease. The objective of the pilot project should be relevant to the theme of the EHSC, namely "Environmental Agents as Modulators of Human Disease and Dysfunction." All applications using animal models or human data relevant to this theme will be considered. Applicants may request a maximum of $30,000 for the duration of one year.

Goals:
   This pilot program is intended to provide seed funding to obtain preliminary data for extramural grant submissions. The program aims to help established (Assistant Professor level or higher) investigators develop new research directions, and to promote new interactions among investigators related to environmental health sciences research. It is also used to help support and recruit non-Center members who want to collaborate with a Center member. Funds may be used for research expenses and supporting trainee salaries, but not for equipment, renovations, or travel. While faculty salary is typically not supported, salary of biostatisticians or research faculty will be considered with appropriate justification. Concurrent funding of more than a single pilot award to the same investigator is not permitted.

   Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of our outstanding **Facility Cores** and interact with our **Community Engagement Core**. Our Facility Cores include a *Behavioral Sciences Facility Core* (directed by Debbie Cory-Slechta), a *Biostatistics Core (directed by Sally Thurston)* , an *Epigenetics Core (directed by Martha Susiarjo)*, an *Elemental Analysis Core (directed by Matt Rand)*, an *Inhalation Exposure Facility (directed by Alison Elder)*, and an *Integrative Health Sciences Facility Core* (*directed by Steve Georas and Edwin van Wijngaarden*). Our Community Engagement Core helps investigators educate the community on the significance and environmental relevance of their research through development of laboratory web pages, quarterly publication of the "Your Health and the Environment" newsletter, community projects, and other educational forums. Please click on following hyperlinks to learn more about how our **Facility Cores** and **Community Engagement Core** can help your research program. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to the Facility Cores and/or Community Engagement Core prior to developing their applications.

Deadlines:
   Preliminary proposals are accepted twice each year, typically on February 1 and August 1. Applicants are notified approximately 2 weeks later whether to proceed with a full proposal. Full proposals are due approximately one month later. Awards are usually made within 4 weeks with funding expected to start April 1 and October 1. **Please note that all funding must be expended within one year.** In rare cases, funding may be delayed to match the needs of the scientific proposal. A justification for changing the start date of funding must be included in the Budget Pages and will be considered by the reviewers of the application.

Format for Proposal Submission:

Preliminary Proposal: A preliminary proposal must contain the following information. *There is no required form*.

(1)   Title of the project
(2)   Investigators, **with clear identification of PI and <u>full contact information</u>**.

(3)   Abstract (one page) describing the research proposal and its relevance to the Center. Describe how this research promotes interactions with members of EHSC and how this project connects with the EHSC's mission, including existing or proposed use of Facility Cores and/or Community Engagement Core.

Full Proposal: The Full Proposal must contain the attached face page application form and budget page, as well as the following research plan containing:

(1)   Specific Aims (1 page or less)
(2)   Project Narrative (3-4 sentences) [If funded, this description will be posted on our EHSC web site.]
(3)   Research Plan (4 pages or less)
        a. Significance/Background of the proposal
        b. Experimental Approach
(4)   Relevance to EHSC (1 page or less)
        a. Interactions with Center members and relevance to the EHSC mission
        b. Use of EHSC Facility Cores and/or Community Engagement Core
(5)   Bibliography (no page limit, 40 references or less)
(6)   IRB and UCAR status (**Note: All animal and human subject protocols must be approved prior to the start date of funding**. **No funds will be released until these approvals have been documented.**
(7)   Biosketches of the PI and co-PIs in NIH format.

No appendices or letters of support will be allowed, and all figures and tables must be contained within the Research Plan section of the proposal. In addition, a detailed budget in NIH format is required. This does not count toward the page limit. Revised versions of previously submitted applications that have not been funded may be resubmitted. Revised proposals may only be resubmitted one time and they must contain a 1-page maximum introductory statement responding to prior concerns.

Submission: Proposals must be submitted electronically as **a single pdf** by email to Patricia_Noonan@urmc.rochester.edu (phone: x53265).

Condition of Award: All awardees are required to present their findings at one of the monthly EHSC faculty meetings near the end or shortly after the pilot project expires and be willing to be interviewed by the Community Engagement Core so that their research interests can be publicized in *Your Health & the Environment* Newsletter. Any publications from this pilot award need to acknowledge, "*this work was supported in part through a pilot project grant funded by the NIH Center Grant P30 ES001247.*"

Contacts: If you have questions regarding this RFP, please contact one of the following:

General inquiries:
Pat Noonan-Sullivan
Patricia_Noonan@urmc.rochester.edu
x53265

Scientific and Peer Review contacts:
Martha Susiarjo, PhD
Martha_Susiarjo@urmc.rochester.edu
x34964

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Center

PILOT PROJECT APPLICATION

Principal Investigator:

_____

Department:

_____

Project Title:

_____

Requested Support Period:

_____

Amount Requested:

_____

Does research involve human subjects: ☐ Yes   ☐No

Does research involve animals: ☐   Yes   ☐ No

Are you requesting faculty salary: ☐   Yes   ☐ No

Abstract of Proposal

Proposed Budget

Personnel:

Name	Title	% Effort	Salary	Fringe	Total
Total Personnel:					

Personnel Justification:

Supplies:

Total Supplies:

Animals or Human Tissues:

Other:

Total Other:

Total Pilot Project Costs:

RESEARCH PLAN (*use 0.5 inch margins, 11 point Arial or Helvetica font type*)

1. **SPECIFIC AIMS (1 page or less)**
    (*Describe the objectives or hypotheses to be tested*)

2. **PROJECT NARRATIVE (3-4 sentences)**
    (Describe the goal of this project, and how it relates to Environmental Health Sciences. This narrative will be posted on the EHSC web page if the application is funded.)

3. **RESEARCH STRATEGY (4 pages or less)**

    a. **Significance/Background**. (*Summarize related work done by others and you. Describe gaps in knowledge this pilot would fill*).

    b. **Experimental Approach**. (*Describe the experiments to be performed, data to be collected, anticipated results and alternatives*).

4. **RELEVANCE TO EHSC (1 page or less)**

    a. **Interactions with Center members and relevance to the Center's mission**. (*Describe how this research promotes interactions with members of EHSC and how this project connects with the EHSC's mission*).

    b. **Use of the EHSC Facility Cores and/or Community Engagement Core** (*Describe the use of EHSC Facility Cores and/or Community Engagement Core*)

5. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**
    (*40 references or less*)

6. **IRB/UCAR status**
    (*Please list the status of IRB and/or UCAR status for this application*)

7. **BIOSKETCHES**
    (*Please attach biosketches of all key personnel in NIH format*)

    ==**The final application should be assembled into a single pdf before submitting****==