

**University of Rochester Environmental Health Sciences Center &  
Institute for Human Health and the Environment  
REQUEST FOR PILOT PROJECT PROPOSALS**

The University of Rochester's Environmental Health Sciences Center (EHSC) and the Institute for Human Health and the Environment (IHHE) have funds to support a limited number of meritorious Pilot Projects. Through a strong multi- and interdisciplinary framework, the EHSC and IHHE foster advances and innovations in basic, translational and clinical research examining relationships between the environment and human health and disease. The objective of the proposed pilot project needs to address a problem or issue that is related to understanding how environment—a single factor or exposure or group of factors—has a beneficial or deleterious impact on human health. This includes research that involves in vitro systems, mammalian and non-mammalian model organisms and model systems, human subjects, archived human tissues and cells, databases, computational and in silico studies, as well as community-based participatory research. Applicants may request a maximum of \$50,000 for the duration of one year.

**Goals:** This pilot program is intended to provide seed funding to obtain preliminary data for extramural grant submissions. Pilot projects are intended to help develop new research directions, and to promote new collaborations among investigators, particularly collaborations that span disciplines or bring together individuals who have not yet worked together previously; however, this is not a requirement. Eligible applicants include UR faculty at all levels (Assistant Professor level or higher). Faculty from all departments are eligible, and membership in the EHSC or prior affiliation with IHHE is not required. Funds may be used for research expenses, staff salary, and trainee stipend or salaries, but not for equipment, computers, renovations, or travel. While faculty salary is typically not supported, salary of biostatisticians or research faculty will be considered with appropriate justification. Pilot project applications with more than one Principal Investigator are permitted, with justification; however, concurrent funding of more than one pilot award to the same principal investigator is not permitted.

Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of our outstanding EHSC **Cores**, which include the **Community Engagement Core** (directed by Katrina Korfmacher), the **Biostatistics Core** (directed by Sally Thurston), and **Integrative Health Sciences Facility Core** (IHSFC, directed by Steve Georas and Todd Jusko). The EHSC's IHSFC operates four research facilities: Behavioral Sciences (co-directed by Marissa Sobolewski and Debbie Cory-Slechta), Epigenetics (directed by Martha Susiarjo), Elemental Analysis Core (directed by Matt Rand), and Inhalation Exposure (directed by Alison Elder). Applicants are encouraged to reach out to the Biostatistics, IHSFC, research facilities, and Community Engagement Cores prior to developing their applications. More information can be found on our website: <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/environmental-health-sciences/cores-facilities.aspx>.

**Deadlines and process:** **Preliminary** proposals are accepted twice each year (fall and spring). Applicants are notified approximately 2 weeks after submission whether to proceed with a full proposal. **Full proposals** are due approximately one month later. Awards are usually made within 4 weeks of full proposal submission. **Please note that all funding must be expended within one year.** In rare cases, funding start date 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. Applications are reviewed by a standing review committee of faculty at UR, and with ad hoc experts from within and external to UR (e.g., other universities or community organizations) added based on scope of submissions.

**Requirements:** All successful applicants supported by the EHSC must acknowledge the NIEHS grant that supports this Center (P30ES001247) in all publications and presentations of this work. All Pilot project recipients (EHSC and IHHE) will be required to provide timely reports of progress and outcomes for at least 5 years after the end of the award period.

## 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 full contact information.**
- (3) Abstract (one page) describing the research proposal and its relevance to human health and environmental exposures or how environment influence human health and disease. Please explicitly describe how this project relates to the EHSC's mission or to the focus areas of the IHHE. When relevant, describe how this research promotes interactions with members of EHSC, involves new collaborations, and indicate existing or proposed use of EHSC Facilities and Cores.

**Full Proposal:** The Full Proposal must contain the attached face page application form and budget page, as well as the following sections:

- (1) Specific Aims (1 page or less)
- (2) Project Narrative (3-4 sentences) [If funded, this description will be posted on EHSC and IHHE web sites.]
- (3) Research Plan (4 pages or less)
  - a. Significance/Background of the proposal
  - b. Experimental Approach and Outcomes
  - c. Future plans/goals (i.e., describe plans after the funding period)
- (4) Relevance to EHSC and/or IHHE mission (1 page or less)
  - a. Indicate how this project relates to environmental modifiers of or influences on human health and disease. Be as specific as possible.
  - b. Interactions with EHSC Center members
  - c. Indicate any proposed use of EHSC Cores
  - d. Indicate any proposed use of CART (UR Center for Advanced Research Technologies, formerly called the Shared Resource Labs or SRL).
- (5) Bibliography (50 references or less; no page limit, provide complete information on all references)
- (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.

All figures and tables must be contained within the Research Plan section of the proposal. 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 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 Rebecca\_Ruston@urmc.rochester.edu (phone: x67277).

**Condition of Award:** All awardees are required to present their findings at one of the monthly EHSC/IHHE faculty meetings near the end or shortly after the pilot project expires. All awardees need to be willing to be interviewed by the Community Engagement Core so that their research interests can be shared in *Your Health & the Environment* Newsletter. **Any publications from this pilot award need to acknowledge NIH Center Grant P30 ES001247.**

**Contacts:** If you have questions regarding this request for proposals, please contact one of the following:

General inquiries:

Rebecca Ruston  
Rebecca\_Ruston@urmc.rochester.edu  
585-276-7277

Scientific and Peer Review contacts:  
Martha Susiarjo, PhD  
Martha\_Susiarjo@urmc.rochester.edu  
585-273-4964



**UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER**  
***Environmental Health Sciences Center and***  
***Institute for Human Health and the Environment***  
**PILOT PROJECT APPLICATION**

Principal Investigator:

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Department:

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Project Title:

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Requested Support Period:

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Amount Requested:

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Does research involve human subjects:  Yes  No

Does research involve animals:  Yes  No

Are you requesting faculty salary:  Yes  No

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Abstract of Proposal

**Proposed Budget**

**Personnel:**

Name	Title	% Effort	Salary	Benefits	Total
<b>Total Personnel:</b>					

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Personnel Justification:

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Supplies:

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**Total Supplies:**

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Animals or Human Tissues:

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Other (including costs or fees for using EHSC or CART facilities):

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**Total Other:**

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**Total Pilot Project Costs:**

**RESEARCH PLAN** (*not less than 0.5 inch margins, 11 point Arial or Helvetica font type*)

1. **SPECIFIC AIMS (1 page or less)**  
(*Include the objectives or hypotheses to be tested*)
2. **PROJECT NARRATIVE (3-4 sentences)**  
(Describe the goal of this project, and how it relates to human health and the environment. This narrative will be posted on the EHSC and IHHE web pages 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 and outcomes.** (*Describe the experiments to be performed, data to be collected, anticipated results and alternatives*).
  - c. **Future plans** (Briefly indicate anticipated purpose or use of findings generated by the proposed pilot project)
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**  
(*50 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 PI and co-investigators in NIH format*)

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