

University of Rochester Environmental Health Sciences Center
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: PILOT STUDIES

The University of Rochester Environmental Health Sciences Center (EHSC) has funds to support a limited number of meritorious Pilot Projects. 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". We are currently interested in receiving proposals addressing how the environment modifies stem cell functions, affects early life origins of adult diseases, and disrupts host/pathogen interactions. However, all applications relevant to the mission of the EHSC will be considered. Applicants may request a maximum of \$30,000 for the duration of one year. Applications from new investigators collaborating with existing EHSC faculty are especially encouraged.

Goals:

This pilot program is intended to provide seed funding to help established (Assistant Professor level or higher) investigators develop new research directions, promote new interactions between investigators, recruit new investigators to the EHSC, and obtain preliminary data for extramural grant submissions. In most cases funds are restricted to research expenses and cannot be used to support travel, faculty salary, equipment, or renovations. Concurrent funding of more than a single pilot award to the same investigator is not permitted. Applicants are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the Integrative Health Sciences Facility Core (IHSFC) and Community Outreach and Engagement Core (COEC) within the EHSC. The IHSFC helps our basic science and clinical investigators develop appropriate animal models and obtain human tissues needed to expand their research from the "lab bench to the bed, and back". The COEC helps our 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. More information about these cores may be found at <http://www2.envmed.rochester.edu/envmed/ehsc/index.html>

Deadlines:

Preliminary proposals are typically requested in the Spring and Fall of each year. 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 and must be expended within one year. Only in rare instances will funding be carried over for a second year and must be approved by the Center Administrator.

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.

Format for Proposal Submission: A face page application form, a budget page, and a research plan page is attached to this document. Please use them as follows.

Using the attached face page, the Preliminary Application must contain:

- (1) Title of the project
- (2) Investigators, **with clear identification of PI and full contact information.**
- (3) Abstract describing the research proposal and its relevance to the mission of the EHSC.

In addition to the face page and the budget page, the Full Proposal must contain the following information listed on the research plan page:

- (1) Specific Aims (no more than 1 page)

- (2) Research Plan (no more than 4-5 pages)
 - a. Significance/Background of the proposal
 - b. Relevance of the proposal to the mission of EHSC
 - c. Research approach of the proposed studies with potential problems and alternatives.
 - d. Use of IHFSC and/or COEC (where applicable)
- (3) Bibliography (no page limit, but please use 40 or fewer references)
- (4) IRB and UCAR status
- (5) 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 6-page proposal limit. Revised versions of previously submitted applications that have not been funded may be resubmitted. Revised proposals may only be resubmitted one time. Revised applications may include a 1 page maximum introductory statement responding to prior concerns.

Submission: Proposals must be submitted electronically 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. 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:

Michael O'Reilly, PhD

michael_oreilly@urmc.rochester.edu

X55948



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

Abstract of Proposal

Proposed Budget

Personnel: *(Faculty salaries are not allowed)*

Name	Title	% Effort	Salary	Fringe	Total
Total Personnel:					

Supplies:

Total Supplies:

Equipment *(not usually funded in Pilot Programs)*

Travel *(not usually funded in Pilot Programs)*

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. **RESEARCH STRATEGY (4-5 pages)**
 - a. **Significance/Background.** *(Summarize related work by done by others and you. Describe gaps in knowledge this pilot would fill).*
 - b. **Relevance to Mission of EHSC.** *(Provide a few sentences describing how this research relates to the Mission of the EHSC).*
 - c. **Experimental Approach.** *(Describe the experiments to be performed, data to be collected, anticipated results and alternatives).*
 - d. **Use of IHFSC and/or COEC.** *(Provide a few sentences describing how IHFSC and/or COEC could enhance your research).*
3. **BIBLIOGRAPHY** *(no more than 40 references)*
4. **IRB/UCAR status**
5. **Please remember to attach biosketches of all key personnel in NIH format.**