**University of Rochester Core Center for Musculoskeletal Biology and Medicine**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: PILOT STUDIES**

As part of the Pilot & Feasibility Studies Program in NIAMS, P30 AR069655, the University of Rochester Resource-Based Center for Musculoskeletal Biology and Medicine is now requesting applications from **New Investigators** for funding of pilot projects. Investigator-initiated pilot studies for fulltime faculty who are either **Physician-Scientists, Research Assistant Professors** **or Assistant Professors** who have not received NIH R01 or equivalent grant funding as a Principal Investigator are eligible to apply for research funding relevant to **Musculoskeletal Diseases** ($25,000 maximum for one year).

All principal investigators of proposals must be faculty at the University of Rochester. Co-investigators may be from other institutions. ***Funding cannot be used to support faculty salary***. Trainee salary support is permitted, but must be justified in the proposal. Renewal of funding of investigator-initiated pilots for a second year may be possible under special circumstances where considered justified, and revised applications from prior proposals submitted for P30 or CTSI pilot funding may be submitted. Concurrent funding of more than a single pilot award to an investigator from the URRBCMBM is not permitted.

The pilot grant program is intended to provide seed funding to facilitate new research and future funding. Multidisciplinary research is strongly encouraged, as well as translational and clinical research that moves new discoveries along the translational continuum to humans and the community. Clinical and community based research, education and training, practice-based research, and health services research proposals are also encouraged.

**Priority in Innovative Articular Cartilage Research:** The Center for Musculoskeletal Research has had a longstanding tradition of outstanding NIH-funded research on articular cartilage (growth & development, degeneration & osteoarthritis, repair & regeneration), which will be on hiatus following the completion of NIAMS, P50 AR54041 “Translating Molecular Signal Pathways to Orthopaedic Trauma Care,” June 30, 2017. The Internal Advisory Committee of the URRBCMBM has determined that major innovation is needed to recover our prominence in this important field of musculoskeletal research. Thus, while all areas of musculoskeletal research will be considered for funding based on scientific merit, priority for 2017-2018 P30 pilot funding will be given to applications that focus on highly innovative aspects of articular cartilage research, including hypothesis generation research and technology development (i.e. novel animal models, biomarkers, outcome measures).

**Deadlines:** Proposals must be received by **Friday,** **February 24, 2017**.

Applicants will be notified of awards by May 1, 2017, which will be initiated immediately. The funding must be expended by June 30, 2018.

**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.**

**Background:** The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) recently awarded a P30 grant to the University of Rochester Resource-Based Center for Musculoskeletal Biology and Medicine. This URRBCMBM provides shared facilities and services to groups of established, currently funded investigators addressing scientific problems in musculoskeletal biology and medicine, in order to improve efficiency, accelerate the pace of research, and ensure greater productivity. It also awards pilot project grants to **Physician-Scientists, Research Assistant Professors** **or Assistant Professors** who have not received NIH R01 or equivalent grant funding as Principal Investigator, for research aimed at improving the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases and injuries of the musculoskeletal system and its component tissues. Key public health problems addressed by this research include, but are not limited to osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, and muscular dystrophies. The URRBCMBM intends to combine and provide additional resources for research into these areas of human health.

The pilot funding will be targeted at research proposals, which demonstrate ability to be catalytic in terms of generating new programs, directions, and funding for clinically applied research and methodologies. Priority will be given to eligible PIs who have received a favorable evaluation on a grant application that was not funded. These applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Summary Statement/Critique together with their one-page abstract of their proposal.

**Format**

* Modified NIH Format
* 11-point font minimum, ½ inch margins top, bottom, left, right
* Maximum of 6 pages
* One additional page or less is allowed for bibliographies
* All figures and tables must be contained within the 6-page body of the proposal
* No appendices are permitted
* No letters of support are permitted
* The final Proposal should be submitted in the following order in one PDF Document:
* Application Face Page
* Introductory Statement (for resubmission applications only)
* The Proposal
* Detailed Budget
* Budget Justification
* Biosketches for all key personnel

**Submission:** Proposals must be submitted electronically by email to Tiffany\_Totman@URMC.Rochester.edu (phone: 585-273-5635).

**Required Components**

* A face page application form is attached and should provide the following information:
* Title of the project
* Investigators, **with clear identification of PI and full contact information**.
* Total amount of money requested and budget justification. Please note that if effort is expended, but salary is not taken, cost sharing is involved. If awarded, completed cost sharing forms must be on file with the Center.
* Indication as to whether the application is new or a revision of an unfunded grant proposal from any granting agency.
* A signed attestation statement that the project is not funded through another mechanism
* IRB and UCAR status
* Introduction of 1 page is permissible for revised applications only
* The following sections are limited to a total of 2 pages:
	+ Specific Aims
	+ Background
	+ Significance, opportunities for catalyzing new funding and how the proposal is responsive to URRBCMBM priorities.
* The remaining 4 pages will contain:
	+ Research Plan and Methods
	+ Potential Problems and Alternatives
* Biosketches for all key personnel (limit 5 pages for each biosketch)

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.

The program will support costs normally allowable for NIH-funded research projects for a maximum funding amount of $25,000. Funding cannot be used to support faculty salary.

**Condition of Award:** All awardees are required to attend an annual program meeting to provide input to improve the program, network with other awardees, and share project outcomes. All peer reviewed publications that result from this pilot funding must cite the NIAMS, P30 AR069655 in the Acknowledgements of the manuscript, and comply with NIH requirements for open access (obtain NIHMS#).

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

General inquiries:

Tiffany Totman

Tiffany\_Totman@URMC.Rochester.edu

(585) 273-5635

Scientific and Peer Review contacts:

Edward Schwarz, PhD

Edward\_Schwarz@URMC.Rochester.edu

*-or-*

Laura Calvi, MD

Laura\_Calvi@URMC.Rochester.edu

**URCCMBM Pilot Program Application Face Page**

**Submission deadline: February 24, 2017**

New Proposal:\_\_\_\_\_ Resubmission Proposal:\_\_\_\_\_

Proposal Title

Principle Investigator

 Department       Area of Research

 e-mail address

 phone

 Department

 Area of Research

Co-Investigator (if applicable)

 Department       Area of Research

 e-mail address

 phone

 Institution (if not URMC)

Amount Requested $

 [ ]  human subjects involved – IRB status:

 [ ]  vertebrate animals involved – UCAR status:

I attest there is no current funding of this proposal through any other funding source.

PI       Date

Please include page number and name of PI in a footer on the application

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| DETAILED BUDGET FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIODDIRECT COSTS ONLY | FROM | THROUGH |
| 7/1/17 | 6/30/18 |

 List PERSONNEL *(Applicant organization only)*

Use Cal, Acad, or Summer to Enter Months Devoted to Project

 Enter Dollar Amounts Requested *(omit cents)* for Salary Requested and Fringe Benefits

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NAME | ROLE ONPROJECT | Cal.Mnths | Acad.Mnths | SummerMnths | INST.BASESALARY | SALARYREQUESTED | FRINGEBENEFITS | TOTAL |
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| SUBTOTALS |       |       |       |
| CONSULTANT COSTS      |       |
| EQUIPMENT *(Itemize)*      |       |
| SUPPLIES *(Itemize by category)*      |       |
| TRAVEL      |       |
| INPATIENT CARE COSTS       |       |
| OUTPATIENT CARE COSTS       |       |
| ALTERATIONS AND RENOVATIONS *(Itemize by category)*      |       |
| OTHER EXPENSES *(Itemize by category)*      |       |
| CONSORTIUM/CONTRACTUAL COSTS | DIRECT COSTS |       |
| SUBTOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIOD *(Item 7a, Face Page)* | $ |       |
| CONSORTIUM/CONTRACTUAL COSTS | FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS |       |
| TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIOD  | $ |       |

**BUDGET JUSTIFICATION**