

**Rochester Resource-based Center for Bone, Muscle and Orthopaedic Research  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: PILOT STUDIES**

As part of the Pilot & Feasibility Studies Program in NIAMS, P30 AR069655, the Rochester Resource-based Center for Bone, Muscle and Orthopaedic Research (ROCSTARR) is now requesting applications from **Early Career Investigators** for funding of pilot projects. Investigator-initiated pilot studies for **Non-Tenured** full-time faculty Principal Investigators 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 ROCSTARR 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.

**Deadlines:** Proposals must be received by **Monday, October 2, 2023.**

Applicants will be notified of awards by December 18, 2023, which will be initiated on January 1, 2024. The funding must be expended by December 31, 2024.

**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) awarded a P30 grant to the Rochester Resource-based Center for Bone, Muscle and Orthopaedic Research. This ROCSTARR 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 or Associate Professors, or Assistant or Associated Professors** who have not received full-tenure, 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 ROCSTARR 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 [Martha.Young@URMC.Rochester.edu](mailto:Martha.Young@URMC.Rochester.edu) (phone: 585-275-1397).

### **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:

Martha Young

[Martha\\_Young@URMC.Rochester.edu](mailto:Martha_Young@URMC.Rochester.edu)

585-275-1397

Scientific and Peer Review contacts:

Edward Schwarz, PhD

[Edward\\_Schwarz@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Edward_Schwarz@urmc.rochester.edu)

-or-

Laura Calvi, MD

[Laura\\_Calvi@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Laura_Calvi@urmc.rochester.edu)

## ROCSTARR Pilot Program Application Face Page

**Submission deadline: October 2, 2023**

\_\_\_\_ New Proposal

\_\_\_\_ Resubmission Proposal

Proposal Title \_\_\_\_\_

Principle Investigator \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Research \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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.



# BUDGET JUSTIFICATION