The purpose of the SMD Strategic Plan Pilot Award Program is to promote the research goals of scientific programs of excellence in biomedical research with the potential to enhance the national and international reputation of the School of Medicine and Dentistry and the University. Funded pilot projects are envisioned as innovative research directions with the potential to give new life to the overall scientific portfolio of the UR and keep the institution abreast of, and even ahead of today’s fast-paced and competitive scientific landscape. Multidisciplinary and multi-investigator proposals are strongly encouraged.

The Prevention Pilot Program is intended to support the development of Prevention Research into a program of excellence for the institution. It is designed to fund innovative pilot projects focused on communicable or chronic disease prevention, including both physical and mental health problems. The focus of the award is on primary (to prevent disease) and secondary prevention (to decrease the impact of established disease) and, although it is anticipated that awards are likely to be for T3 and T4 projects, proposals across the spectrum of translational research are invited. Emphasis is on topics that reflect the needs of the nation to improve health (identified in Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov), other CDC identified areas of public health importance e.g., Winnable Battles (www.cdc.gov/winnablebattles), Health Action priorities (www.healthaction.org) and areas of strength for the University of Rochester. Proposals should be likely to result in the development of areas of excellence and with a high probability of attracting extramural funding. Studies that advance measurement methods and/or implementation science are also welcomed, as well as analysis of secondary data if relevant to the areas of interest noted above. This funding is not intended to support proposals that could be funded through other mechanisms, basic science, or standard randomized clinical trials. Innovative study designs are welcome.

We are interested in novel methodologies for primary prevention with a focus on obesity/smoking/other behavioral risk factors that substantially impact the risk of chronic disease. Examples of areas of interest include:

- Diet
- Tobacco Cessation
- Physical Activity
- Cardiometabolic risk markers

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

**Eligibility for the Prevention Pilot Program:** The principal investigator (PI) on all proposals must be a full-time faculty member from the SMD, since the funds for this program are provided by the Office of the Dean of SMD. However, faculty from all UR schools are eligible to participate on proposal submissions (including as Co-Principal Investigators on multi-PI submissions). Each faculty member can participate in only one application in any capacity. Multi-PI proposals should specify how the PIs will work together and areas of responsibility.

**ELIGIBLE RESEARCH:** Applications that fall into the area of prevention research will be considered.
Review Criteria:
1. Innovation: Projects should not be “more of the same,” i.e., they should not be extensions of ongoing research. This type of research should be funded by the conventional sources, NIH, foundations, etc.
2. Strategic Impact: Projects should move into areas that are expected to grow in significance. Projects that consolidate or expand areas of particular local strength will be favorably considered.
3. Multidisciplinary: Multidisciplinary projects are strongly encouraged.

IMPORTANT DATES
Release Date: November 12, 2014
Deadlines:
• February 9, 2015 (before 5:00 pm) – Initial abstracts of proposals must be received.
• February 27, 2015 - Applicants will be notified if they are invited to submit full proposals.
• March 30, 2015 (before 5:00 pm) – Full proposals will be due.
• May 1, 2015 – Notification of award(s) will be made.
• July 1, 2015 – Anticipated start date. Note: All human subject and vertebrate animal protocols must be approved prior to the start date. No funds will be released until these approvals have been documented.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL
Application Format: The initial application must include the following information.
1. Application cover page containing the following information:
   a) Title of the Project
   b) PIs name and contact information.
   c) Co-PI and co-investigators (names and contact information)
   d) Amount of money requested* (Maximum $50,000 for one year. The total budget available is $50,000 to fund one or two applications depending on the strengths of the applications.)
   e) Involvement of human subjects or vertebrate animals
   f) Name of department administrator or grants administrator

   *Faculty salaries will be permitted with justification.
   Facilities and administrative costs or “indirects” will not be supported, either internally or for subcontracts with other institutions.

2. Abstract (limited to two pages, font size no smaller than 11 point) which includes the following:
   a) Project title and lead PI name
   b) A description of how the proposal is responsive to the RFA
   c) Overall goals of the Project
   d) A brief description of the specific aims, research plan and timeline

3. A signed attestation statement from the contact PI that the project is not funded through another mechanism. A template for this attestation statement is available at http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/ctsi/news-events/Prevention-Pilot-Program.cfm

4. A signed statement on letterhead indicating that the Department Chair and/or Center Director is supportive of the application.
Notes:
- Include the page number and name of the contact PI in the footer of the abstract.
- No additional pages are permitted for a bibliography. Bibliographic information must be included within the two-page abstract.
- No letters of support are permitted.

**Submission Process:** The application cover page, abstract, signed PI attestation, and Department Chair/Center Director letter must be entered into one PDF and submitted to Donna Drews at donna_drews@urmc.rochester.edu before 5:00 pm on February 9, 2015.

Specific Aims (limited to 1 page, font size no smaller than 11 point) which includes the following:
- Project title and lead PI name
- A description of how the proposal is responsive to the Program RFA
- Overall goals of the Project
- A brief description of the specific aims

Research Plan (limited to 3 pages, font size no smaller than 11 point) which includes the following:
- Significance
- Innovation
- Approach
- Brief timeline
- Outline of plans for follow-on funding
- References

NIH Bios for all participating Faculty Members

NIH Other Support for all participating Faculty Members

NIH Budget Form (PHS 398 Form Page 4) and narrative Budget Justification

Regulatory Information (no page limit, font size no smaller than 11 point) which includes the following:
- Human Subjects
- Vertebrate Animals
- Select Agents
- Multi-PI Plan, if applicable

Proof of RSRB and/or UCAR review and approval is not required at the time of submission, but will be required before funds are released for the project.

Details regarding the full proposal application procedure will be provided at the time of invitation to submit a full proposal.