

Penn SBDRRC Pilot Grant Program

Call for Applications for Pilot and Feasibility (P & F) Studies

Full Proposals will be accepted from:

1. New investigators, who have not had R01 or P01 or equivalent funding, to do innovative skin research
2. Investigators proposing basic/translational collaborations and interdisciplinary research projects in skin research
3. Established investigators outside the field of skin research who want to apply their expertise to this area and/or collaborate with skin researchers

Scientist-in-Training Minigrant Proposals will be accepted from:

1. Dermatology residents in the third or fourth year of the physician-scientist residency training program
2. Dermatologists who are postdoctoral research fellows
3. Postdoctoral research fellows with over one year research experience in the laboratories of PIs in the SBDRRC who are doing skin research

Scientist-in-Training Minigrant Proposals should focus on an independent research area; a supporting letter from the mentor is required

Priority

1. Proposals that use at least one of the SBDRRC Research Cores and/or that propose interdepartmental (preferably interdisciplinary) collaborations
2. Proposals for basic to translational projects

Funding

1. Full Proposals \$20,000-\$50,000 per year; ability to competitively renew for 1 year
2. Scientist-in-Training Minigrant Proposals: up to \$15,000 each

Application due date: **August 1, 2018**

Anticipated funding start date: **October 1, 2018**

Grant Submission Instructions

All applications must have a title and should include the following elements:

1. Specific Aims (one page) **(required)**
2. Introduction: should state if applicant is applying for a Full or Minigrant and the investigator's eligibility. Please clearly state the relevance of your application to NIAMS, specifically relating to NIAMS' interest in [skin biology and diseases](#) **(required)**; **research on pre-cancerous lesions is acceptable, but research on cancer mechanisms is considered more appropriate for funding by the NCI**
3. Research Strategy (page limits below) according to NIH format with Significance, Innovation, and Approach sections **(required)**
4. Bibliography and References Cited **(required)**
5. Protection of Human Subjects, Data Safety Monitoring Plan, Inclusion of Women and Minorities, PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report, Inclusion of Children (if applicable)
6. Vertebrate Animals (if applicable)
7. Letters of Support (e.g., Consultants) (Scientist-in-training Minigrant proposals require a letter from the mentor)
8. Resource Sharing Plan(s) for:
 1. Data
 2. Model organisms
 3. Genomic Data**(required)**
9. Select Agent Research (if applicable)
10. Multiple Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) Leadership Plan (if applicable)
11. Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources **(required)**
12. Budget with personnel and budget justification (we do not fund salaries) **(required)**
13. IACUC, IRB, or other required documentation (as applicable)

14. NIH Biosketch, 5 page format including personal statement, PMCID #s for publications, and link to online full list of publications (**required**)
15. Please use NIH-acceptable fonts in black type, 0.5" page margins

Full proposals:

- Maximum of 3 pages for Research Strategy

Scientist-in-training Minigrant proposals:

- In Introduction also state how the Minigrant will lead to a unique line of research (separate from PI of the laboratory) and career independence
- Maximum of 2 pages for Research Strategy

Renewals:

- Include previous progress in preliminary data in the Research Strategy Section. (No separate progress report)

Evaluation

The following criteria will be used in assigning scores: (1) Investigator eligibility (required for consideration); (2) Biological or clinical relevance of the project to skin biology and/or skin diseases within the NIAMS mission (please note, research on pre-cancerous lesions is acceptable, but research on cancer mechanisms is considered more appropriate for funding by the NCI); (3) Interdisciplinary, interdepartmental and basic-translational collaborative aspects of project; (4) Use of SBDRC Resource Cores; (5) Testability and innovation of the hypothesis; (6) Strength of premise for the hypothesis; (7) Appropriateness and rigor of experimental approaches; (8) Significance in terms of yielding meaningful preliminary data that could lead to a full research proposal; (9) For Minigrants: the proposal should ultimately be able to lead to work that is independent of the main research direction of the mentor's laboratory; (10) For Minigrants: potential of the applicant for a career as a physician scientist or independent PhD scientist in skin research; (11) Appropriate policies in accordance with NIH guidelines for: the use of vertebrate

animals and human subjects; inclusion of women, minorities and children; resource sharing; select agent use. Investigators will be required to comply with the Resource Sharing instructions in the PHS 398 application guide.

Investigators receiving Penn SBDRRC P&F grants will be required to:

- Submit an annual Progress Report (can be incorporated into renewal application)
- Present P&F-generated data at the 2019 Penn SBDRRC Retreat (to be held in September, 2019)
- Provide annual updates on resulting grants and publications