



Pilot and Feasibility Grant Program

Center for Research on Coronaviruses and Other Emerging Pathogens

With support from the Center for RNA Innovation

Purpose and Research Focus:

The mission of the Center for Research on Coronaviruses and Other Emerging Pathogens is to accelerate research across campus, focused on understanding the biology of emerging pathogens, disease mechanisms, and novel approaches to prevention and treatment.

This call for Pilot and Feasibility Grants is designed to bring together investigators studying emerging pathogens and to stimulate new researchers to enter the field; an additional goal is to advance RNA innovation in studies of emerging pathogens and related research areas.

The Pilot/Feasibility Projects can focus on diseases in humans or animals. Work on any emerging pathogen is suitable. Projects focusing on SARS-CoV-2, monkeypox and novel applications of advanced RNA technology are particularly encouraged. Early stage studies are encouraged and early stage method development is also appropriate. Projects on HIV are funded by the Center for AIDS Research and excluded from funding here.

There will be up to four pilot grants funded. Applicants may request up to \$50,000 for one year. Awards are eligible for a one year no-cost extension if warranted.

Eligibility:

All faculty members (including Instructors and Research Associates) of the University of Pennsylvania scientific community who meet the eligibility requirements below are invited to submit proposals. Applicants must be a US. Citizen or have a permanent resident visa. Particularly encouraged are:

1. New investigators who have never held extramural support (R01 and/or P01).
2. Established investigators in other areas of biomedical research who wish to apply their expertise to a problem involving emerging infectious diseases and/or RNA innovation.
3. Established investigators in the emerging pathogens and/or RNA innovation fields who wish to study an area that represents a significant departure from currently funded work.

Proposal Preparation:

1. Submit a pdf via email to James Burns (james.burns@penmedicine.upenn.edu). Complete proposals are due by December 15th, 2022.

2. Format

- Cover page: includes title, an abstract of up to 250 words, and a list of relevant approved or pending IACUC/IRB protocols
- NIH biographical sketch

- NIH other support
- Budget and justification: one year, \$50,000, one page only. Salary support of \$10,000 or less allowed but not for the PI.
- Sections for the main proposal include background, preliminary results (not required), and research plan. A future directions paragraph should be provided at the end of the proposal articulating how this pilot award will provide necessary data to obtain extramural funding. Senior Investigators should indicate how this project represents a new direction in their research
- Page limit for the main proposal: 3 pages total, excluding references.

Award Terms:

- Awardees are required to inform the Center for Research on Coronaviruses in the event the Pilot/Feasibility Project receives external funding during the project period.
- A final progress report is due one month after the close of the project period. The report will contain a one-page synopsis of scientific progress and a list of resulting collaborations, publications, and grants.

For additional information, please contact: James Burns (james.burns@penncmedicine.upenn.edu)