

PSOM Frontier Core Initiative 2024 Proposal Instructions

Introduction: In response to the [Penn Medicine Strategic Plan](#), The Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM) is expanding our traditional core facilities model to fund highly innovative research and outside-the-box ideas that promise to alter the trajectory of biomedical research. We are pleased to introduce the concept of “The Frontier Core” to support the most promising opportunities in basic and translational research. Unlike the [Core Resource Funding Opportunity](#) (previously called the “Strategic Funding” mechanism), the Frontier Core is not for mature technologies. We are particularly interested in funding infrastructure that cannot be funded through traditional mechanisms (e.g., NIH/NSF). Frontier cores may include (but are not limited to):

- non-commercialized equipment that can lead to biomedical discovery
- new technologies that reduce the cost of research and/or increase the efficiency of research
- teams of people who can develop new software/hardware platforms that can advance discovery
- the development and instantiation of new analysis pipelines (samples to biomarker) from unique populations

A Frontier Core can expand upon the work of an existing PSOM core or be developed as a new standalone core. A Frontier Core – new or existing – will be required to be a [PSOM registered service center](#).*

Proposals: Proposals are limited to two pages (0.5” margins) and should include:

- (1) the scientific gap that this Frontier Core will address;
- (2) how this technology is transformative and innovative and is an unmet need at PSOM;
- (3) the benefit that the Frontier Core brings to the scientific PSOM community and the scope of the potential user base (PSOM, CHOP, and Wistar);
- (4) the proposed scientific home of the Frontier Core and management/administrative structure (e.g., scientific director, hosting department, etc.);
- (5) a business model projecting the Frontier Core’s income and expenses with a focus on the timeframe to achieve budget neutrality; and
- (6) location and space plan (can this fit within the PI’s and/or Department/Institute’s footprint? Or will additional space be requested?) and any associated renovations (which must be accounted for within the proposed budget).
- (7) Sign-off by department chair or center/institute director.

Budget justification: To support your proposal, please include a one-page budget outlining both revenue and expenditure projections over a three-year period. Please also include any financial partnerships with external companies, entities (e.g., departments, institutes, and centers), and PSOM faculty for cost sharing. Funds may be used to purchase equipment. Additionally, funds can support new or existing personnel that are critical to the Frontier Core; if funding will go toward existing personnel, please describe their percent effort on the Frontier Core. Note: the one-page budget justification is in addition to (not included in) the two-page proposal limit.

Proposal Logistics:

- Funding: We anticipate funding one award not to exceed \$1M in FY25. Funds will be made available to the awardee in Fall FY25. These funds will be available for 3 years once awarded; any carryover after 3 years will need approval by the Assistant Dean of Research Facilities and Resources.
- Due dates: Proposals are due by June 28, 2024 at 5:00 PM.
- Submissions are to be made via a single PDF file emailed to Faith Brown (faith.brown@penntestmed.upenn.edu)
- Proposals will be progressively reviewed by
 - Assistant Dean of Research Facilities and Resources
 - Field-specific faculty experts
 - Members of the PSOM Biomedical Research Core Facilities Committee
 - PSOM financial and administrative leadership
- Questions:
 - Inquires of a scientific nature should be sent to Dr. Yale Cohen (ycohen@penntestmed.upenn.edu)
 - Administrative questions should be sent to April Weakley (aweakley@penntestmed.upenn.edu)

Additional program requirements: Funded Frontier Cores must document an update ~1 year after the start of funding. The Frontier Core will also present their work at an annual Cores Day. Support of this program must be acknowledged in publications through the Core's [RRID](#).

*For questions regarding registered service center status please contact Jiju Mathew (matjiju@upenn.edu).