

## Internal CHOP/Penn Request for Applications for Support for Research Project Related to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

**Applications Due: Monday, April 8, 2024**

The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC) at CHOP/Penn invites applications for an independent research project that has not previously been funded that will advance the diagnosis, prevention, and/or treatment of one or more intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

This project would become part of the competitive renewal of the IDDRC in 2025. There is \$100,000 in pilot funding to get the project off the ground starting July 1, 2024. Once the IDDRC is successfully refunded, this “signature” research project would be supported as an essential component of the grant – approx. \$200,000 in direct cost per year for 5 years (exact amount won’t be clear until the IDDRC RFA is released by the NICHD).

For this funding cycle, we are seeking a **collaborative project** incorporating most of the IDDRC Cores (please see our website: <https://www.research.chop.edu/iddrc>). Our goal is to reshape the IDDRC to be more of an active collaboration between the cores and each of the many research projects who access core services, particularly the signature project.

This solicitation is for **project proposals that can span across species, from model systems to humans**. Competitive applications will apply shared approaches across species and foster translation from model systems to the human condition. The end goal is to support research that will be ready for pre-clinical and trial development.

As this is a new idea, we are requesting proposals for projects that are not necessarily fully formed but can be further defined with input from the cores. Proposals will be discussed in a group meeting with the IDDRC and Cores’ leadership and the applicant to determine how these project(s) can be integrated across the Center. There may be some flexibility such that more than one pilot project is funded this year, with the project showing the most promise a year from now being selected to move forward as part of the IDDRC renewal application. Hopefully, the other will also make good progress and become viable for an investigator-initiated NIH or foundation grant.

This project can address a broad array of IDD related topics, including new, recently characterized, or under-researched areas such as co-morbid mental health conditions in IDD. The focus areas are as follows, in no order of priority:

- *Comprehensive –omics Approaches*
- *Development of Biomarkers or Assessment Measures in More than one IDD Condition*
- *Outcome Measures or Biomarkers for Interventions or Treatments*
- *Multi-modal Treatment Approaches*
- *Preventing and Mitigating the Impact of Exposures that Can Cause IDD*
- *Interventions and Management of Co-morbid Mental Health Conditions*
- *Innovative Technologies to Improve Assessments, Interventions, and Outcomes for Those with IDD*

Approaches that incorporate machine learning and other innovative computational approaches are encouraged.

### **Application Information (in the following order; 2-3 pages Max):**

1. **Title page:** Project title, name and academic title of the principal investigator(s) and contact information.
  - a. **Please confirm that the proposed research project has not been previously funded or submitted for funding.**
2. **Brief description of the proposed project and a draft of Specific Aims:** Outline at least 2 aims to start with and a brief description of how this project will utilize the IDDRC Cores.

Questions are welcome and encouraged ahead of your application. Please contact Kristen Pidgeon ([pidgeonk@chop.edu](mailto:pidgeonk@chop.edu)).