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

Proposals will be accepted from:

- New faculty investigators (defined as those who have not had R01, P01, or equivalent funding) who propose innovative skin research;
- Faculty investigators proposing basic/translational collaborations and interdisciplinary projects in skin research;
- Established investigators outside the field of skin research who want to apply their expertise to this area and/or collaborate with skin researchers;
- Postdoctoral scientists (MD, PhD, or MD/PhD) who are pursuing research projects that will allow them to transition to an independent faculty position incorporating skin biology and disease-based research (minigrants)

Evaluation Criteria:

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 or the early stages of malignant transformation is acceptable, but not research solely focused on skin cancer)
3) Testability and innovation of the hypothesis
4) Strength of premise for the hypothesis
5) Appropriateness and rigor of experimental approaches
6) Use of one or more SBDRC Research Core services
7) Interdisciplinary, interdepartmental, and basic-translational collaborative aspects of project
8) Appropriate policies in accordance with NIH guidelines for vertebrate animals, human subjects, resource sharing, select agent use
9) Feasibility of supporting future external grant proposals
10) For mini-grants or non-faculty investigator applications, feasibility of supporting future transition to an independent research faculty position

Requirements

- Provide IACUC and IRB protocol approvals before funding start date
- Submit a 1-page interim progress report and final report
- Present P&F-generated data at the 2024 Penn SBDRC Scientific Symposium (to be held in March 2025)
- Provide annual updates on resulting grants and publications
- Participate in future SBDRC P&F Study Sections to evaluate applications

Funding

- $35,000-50,000 for full proposals
- $10,000 for trainee minigrant proposals

Application due date: August 26, 2024
Anticipated notification date: October 2024
Anticipated funding date: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Full instructions: https://dermatology.upenn.edu/sbdr/pilot-grant-program/grant-submission-instructions/

Online application: https://redcap.med.upenn.edu/surveys/?s=AK8DC7EE7Y33L87

Please direct inquiries to: SBDRC@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

We encourage applications from researchers from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical research, including underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, persons with disabilities, and women.