

**TULANE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
TULANE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE &
TULANE NATIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER**



PILOT RESEARCH PROGRAM

The purpose of the Pilot Research Program is to provide funds to facilitate and develop promising collaborative research projects between investigators in the Tulane School of Medicine and Primate Center, leading to the development of successful extramural grant applications. The Program will fund up to two pilot research projects per year depending upon receipt of meritorious applications, the availability of funds and resources to support the project. The direct cost for a single research project should not exceed \$60,000 for no more than one year of support. No funds will be provided to cover facilities and administration (indirect) costs. No-cost extensions of up to one year will be permitted, with appropriate justification. Pilot research funds will not provide interim support for established projects or for any projects that have qualified for support from other sources.

A wide range of biomedical research priorities for the 2019 fiscal year SOM/TNPRC pilot funding will be invited and evaluated.

Pilot projects are typically developmental or high risk and do not require the extent of preliminary data or results that are normally needed to obtain support from other sources of funding. The proposed study must have potential for leading to a strong research grant application to outside funding agencies, such as NIH Institutes and Centers.

Investigators must be beyond the postdoctoral rank and must be based at Tulane University School of Medicine and the Tulane National Primate Center. Competitive applications will have a PI at the School of Medicine, with a Co- or MPI at Tulane National Primate Center. The overall purpose of the project must contribute to objectives of the School of Medicine and Primate Center's research programs, and the projects themselves must have the potential of leading to an extramurally funded grant application. The proposal must be substantially different from the applicant's funded projects. Of the two investigators, one, a contact PI, must assume responsibility for overall management, coordination and reports concerning the project.

PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSION AND REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Grant Application and Letter of Intent

Key Dates:

Letter for Intent: August 1, 2019

Full Applications Submission; October 1, 2019

Performance Period: January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021

A Letter of Intent, for initial screening of applications will be solicited for an August 1, 2019 deadline, with scientific review during the same month. Invitations for full applications will be invited for submission by October 1, 2019. All applications should be preceded by a one-page letter of intent containing the abstract of the application, summarily describing background, significance, specific aims, and experimental design. Responses to these letters will be issued within four weeks and are final. Applications submitted without a prior letter of intent will not be considered. After approval of a letter of intent, and invitation to submit a full application, the corresponding grant proposal must be submitted by the proposal submission deadline (October 1, 2019). Please include with your submission the biosketch(es) of the investigators involved. Incomplete letters of intent and applications will not be considered. Letters of intent with biosketch(es), and applications should be submitted as two originals and an electronic copy to:

Pyone Aye DVM, PhD
Unit of Collaborative Research
Tulane National Primate Research Center
18703 Three Rivers Rd
Covington, LA 70433
Ph: (985) 871 6486
Fax: (985) 871 6405
E-mail: paye@tulane.edu

Proposal Review

All applications will be reviewed for scientific merit by a committee composed of TNPRC and School of Medicine Investigators (Pilot Research Review Committee). This committee will include two reviewers from outside Tulane University. The recommendations of the Pilot Research Review Committee will be forwarded to the Pilot Program Selection Committee. Dr. Lee Hamm will make final selections for support. In the event that overlapping funding is received at any time after a pilot study award is made, funding for the pilot study project will terminate. An application that is not funded may be resubmitted as a revised application one time only.

Progress Report

It is expected that one or more manuscripts and a NIH-grant application or equivalent will be submitted while the pilot project is in progress or shortly after its conclusion. A report of progress on each pilot research project including manuscripts and grants submitted must be provided to the Dean, School of Medicine and Primate Center Director after the initial 6 months of support and at the end of the funding period.

Review Criteria

The following criteria will be used to review the proposal:

1. Scientific merit (Significance, Approach, Innovation)
2. Complementarity between the goals of the project and the scientific program of the TNPRC and SOM.
3. Likelihood of moving from the pilot study to a NIH-grant application or equivalent.
4. Feasibility of the project within the time allotted to the project
5. Budget
6. Availability of an approved IACUC protocol or detailed vertebrate animal section (To prevent delays an IACUC protocol may be submitted at the same time as the application. An approved IACUC protocol is required prior to starting the project.)

PILOT RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION

I. Title Page

The title page will include the title of the project, the name and title of the investigators, institutional and departmental affiliation, the period of the proposed project and the amount requested.

II. Abstract, Performance Sites, and List of Personnel (Use PHS398 application form page 2 format)

III. Budget Page (Use PHS398 application form page 4 and 5 format)

The budget period is for up to one year (\$60,000 cap). The budget must include all costs for purchase of animals, per diem, and veterinary technical support. For Principal Investigators, the budget may include 2.5 to 5% effort with salary support. Other SOM and TNPRC faculty and staff scientists may serve as consultants at no cost to the grant. The following items will not be funded through the Pilot Research Project Fund: travel to scientific meetings, publication costs, and salary for faculty-level investigators other than Tulane SOM and NPRC Principal Investigators.

IV. Biographical Sketch (PHS398 format including other support)

V. Research Plan

Page limit for the Research Plan (NIH format) is six (6) pages excluding references. Attachments that are essential to the review of application are permitted but should be kept to a minimum. The Research Plan should include the following:

- a. Specific Aims
- b. Background and Significance
- c. Preliminary Studies
- d. Research Design and Methods
- e. Literature Cited
- f. Appendix (if necessary)

VI. Abstract of Funded or Submitted Proposals

This section should contain the abstract page or a brief summary of each grant and contract that is currently funded or submitted, including those funded or submitted elsewhere for pilot research support.

VII. Statement About Relationship of Proposed Pilot Study to Funded or Submitted Proposals

This statement should explain the relationship, if any, to funded or submitted proposals. If there is no relationship, a single sentence will suffice.

VIII. List of Previously Awarded Internal Grants

This list should include all internal grants previously awarded during last five years. For each previously awarded grant, state what external grant or contract applications resulted from the internal grant, and for each application, whether it was funded.

IX. Feasibility of moving from a Pilot Study to a NIH-grant application or equivalent.

Discuss the likelihood that funding of this pilot project will result in a larger externally funded research program.