



Institute for Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism



Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center

Pilot and Feasibility Awards Description and Considerations

A key component of a successful future NIH P30 application to create the Minnesota-Iowa Diabetes Research Center is evidence of a robust and successful Pilot and Feasibility program. The P&F program would be focused on new and established investigators pursuing diabetes projects individually, or in collaboration with investigators at the University of Iowa. To that end, the Institute for Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism (IDOM) at the University of Minnesota and the Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center (FOEDRC) at the University of Iowa will provide up to 4 awards to establish our joint Pilot and Feasibility Program that will support new projects led by a PI at each institution. To encourage partnership applications, the budget for university-specific P&F funding will be \$100,000 for two years (\$50k/year) while that for a joint Minnesota-Iowa project will be \$200,000 for two years (\$50k/yr. for each site). Funding for at least 2 of the 4 projects will be targeted to collaborative efforts led by PI's from both institutions. The program will provide time limited seed funding to investigators to generate or strengthen preliminary data that will increase their competitiveness for receiving substantial competitive extramural grant funding. These awards seek to support new and innovative research projects that will increase the understanding of fundamental mechanisms that inform the pathophysiology of diabetes and its complications or lead to translational approaches and clinical innovations.

The general considerations for all applications are as follows:

- Applications in all areas of diabetes and obesity research are eligible
- Must advance the understanding or evaluate the natural history/mechanism, prevention, diagnosis or treatment of diabetes or obesity
- Must have a high expectation for successful completion of research goals in two years
- Expected to result in a successful NIH application (e.g., R, P or U series) from each funded research project within two years of completion
- Joint applications by Minnesota-Iowa partners will be given preference for funding

Application Process:

Step 1 - for all applicants

- 1) A letter of intent representing no more than two pages should be submitted by **June 1, 2021**.
- 2) The letter of intent should include, i.) the title of the application and contact information for the PI(s) with contact information. If the proposal is a joint applications with Co-PI's from both Minnesota and Iowa, clearly indicate as such with contact information for both, ii.) a brief description of the hypothesis/specific aims and the experimental approach that will be deployed, iii.) the role of both co-PIs and their respective research teams and iv.) the total budget requested for a two-year study. The budget for university-specific P&F funding will be \$100,000 for two years (\$50k/year) while that for a joint Minnesota-Iowa project will be \$200,000 for two years (\$50k/yr for each site).
- 3) On separate pages following the letter, include the NIH biosketch for the PI(s).
- 4) **A letter of intent is due on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.** The letter must be electronically submitted to:

Pilot and Feasibility Program
c/o Chris Ebner
Institute for Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism
University of Minnesota Medical School
Email: charo@umn.edu

- 5) Letters of intent will be screened for eligibility and overall competitiveness by a joint Iowa-Minnesota review panel. **Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will be notified by Friday, June 4, 2021.**

Step 2 - for those applicants invited to submit full proposals

Full proposals should include the following submitted electronically as a **single** PDF file using the following format:

- 1) 1 page Cover Page using the template provided to all invited to submit a full proposal.
- 2) Abstract. This section should provide a summary of the project (not to exceed 1/2 page).
- 3) Response to prior review, if applicable.
- 4) Research Plan. This section should include a full description of the study, including: Background, Hypothesis/Specific Aims, Prior Work Summary (previous work on this project, both separately and as a team if applicable), Experimental Plan (including sex as a biological variable), and References. This section should also include a clearly-defined workplan if studies are carried out jointly at Iowa and Minnesota. This section should not exceed 6 pages
- 5) Timeline. This section should describe the goals to be completed within 2 years.
- 6) Current and Pending funding for the PI or PI team if a joint Iowa-MN proposal
- 7) Budget. Budgets should be framed within NIH guidelines and allowances. Indirect costs will not be allowed. Direct costs that are eligible include all allowable NIH costs, and faculty salary requests should be based on the current NIH cap if appropriate. All other calculations for equipment, patient care costs, supplies, animal costs etc., should be handled consistent with NIH policies.
- 8) Letter of support (1 page maximum per letter) if needed to signify availability of core services or resources.

General Considerations for full proposals:

A faculty member may apply for only one grant per cycle on which he/she would be a PI. There is no limitation to the number of grants on which a faculty member would participate as a collaborator.

A proposal may be resubmitted once. A description of the changes made from a prior application should be included as part of the application.

A PRF is not required unless a P&F application is approved for funding. At that time a PRF will be requested.

The deadline for receipt of complete proposals is **Wednesday, June 30, 2021 and awards will be announced in late August 2021.**

Principal investigator(s) of funded projects will be required to provide a final report and an accounting of all funds expended at the completion of the project. A progress report will be required at the end of the first fiscal year. Further information about how to submit this information will follow upon receipt of award.

Questions should be addressed to: David Bernlohr, bern1001@umn.edu