



Institute for Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism



Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center

We are announcing that we are extending the deadlines for both the Collaborative and UMN-only Pilot and Feasibility Grant proposals. Details below.

Key Dates:

- Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due by Monday, June 21, 2021.
 - Decision to invite full application or not returned by June 25th
- Invited full applications due Friday July 9, 2021
- Awards will be announced in late August 2021.

Background

In 2020, as part of a NIH P30 application to create a joint Minnesota-Iowa Diabetes Research Center (MIDRC), the University of Minnesota and the University of Iowa launched a Pilot and Feasibility Grant program focused on new and established investigators pursuing diabetes projects individually or in collaboration with investigators at these partner institutions.

Collaborative Pilot and Feasibility Grant

One award will be awarded jointly to PIs at the University of Minnesota and the University of Iowa. Funding for the Collaborative P&F Grant will be \$200,000 over two years (\$50,000 per year for each institution). The program will provide time limited collaborative seed funding to a team of 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. Funded Collaborative Pilot and Feasibility Grant investigators will be asked to prepare a yearly progress report and present it at the FOEDRC *Frontiers in Obesity, Diabetes and Metabolism Seminar Series*.

UMN-specific Pilot and Feasibility Grant

One award will be provided to a University of Minnesota-specific project with funding of \$100,000 for two years (\$50k/year).

Application Process for both the Collaborative and UMN-only Pilot and Feasibility Grant

Step 1 - for all applicants

1. A letter of intent (LOI) of no more than two pages (not including references) should be submitted electronically as **a single document or PDF** to charo@umn.edu by **Monday, June 21, 2021**. LOIs are used to plan the review process and prevent conflicts of interest.
2. The letters of intent email to charo@umn.edu should include: **"Pilot and Feasibility Grant Letter of Intent"** in the subject line.
3. The letter of intent should include, i.) the title of the application and contact information for the PI(s). Clearly indicate that the application is a collaborative and provide contact information for the Minnesota and Iowa Co-PI's, 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 the study. The budget for a collaborative Minnesota-Iowa project will be \$200,000 for two years (\$50,000 per year for each institution).
4. Biosketch: Please include in the same document a current NIH biosketch for both the PIs.
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 25, 2021.**

Step 2 - For those applicants invited to submit full proposals for Collaborative Grants:

Full proposals for Collaborative and Catalyst grants should include the following submitted electronically as **a single document or PDF** to charo@umn.edu by **Wednesday, June 30, 2021**:

1. One 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 (one paragraph).
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 regarding studies at Iowa and Minnesota. This section should not exceed 6 pages

5. Timeline. This section, included in the 6-page limit should describe the goals to be completed within 2 years.
6. Current and Pending funding for the PIs
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. Faculty salary requests will not be supported. 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.

Review Criteria

- P&F applications should present a testable hypothesis, clearly delineate the question being asked, detail the procedures to be followed, and discuss how the data will be analyzed and lead to future studies. Emphasis is placed on how the research might lead to new research ideas or research funding. For junior investigators, additional considerations include how this award will impact their career and the potential of the applicant to compete for independent research funding in the future. Research track faculty MUST include a letter from their laboratory director or departmental chair describing how this award will serve in developing an independent research program and external research funding.

General Considerations

- 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
- A proposal may be resubmitted once. A description of the changes made from a prior application should be included as part of the application.
- Collaborative Grants are expected to result in a successful NIH application (e.g., R, P or U series) from each joint funded research project within two years of completion
- Note that it is NOT necessary for the application to go through the Office of Sponsored Research prior to submission.
- 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.

Eligibility Guidelines

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

- All applicants must be a member of the University of Iowa faculty or the University of Minnesota faculty in the case of Collaborative Pilot and Feasibility Grants.
- Past recipients are ineligible for five years from the completion of their P&F funding (7 years from start date of a two-year P&F grant), and only applications in directions/areas distinct from their prior award will be considered. Seed grants, however, do not preclude subsequent Pilot and Feasibility awards in the same area in any time frame, provided strong progress has been made.
- FOEDRC faculty recruits are not eligible during the period of their receipt of FOEDRC start-up support.
- P&F support is usually intended for early-stage faculty investigators, for investigators from other fields intending to bring their research expertise to a diabetes-relevant research area, for investigators currently working in the diabetes area whose proposed research would constitute a significantly new direction, and for clinical and basic researchers who propose a joint research project.

Questions should be addressed to: charo@umn.edu or jonathan-thomas@uiowa.edu