

Funding Opportunity for Pilot & Feasibility Projects through the
University of Chicago's NIDDK/NIH-Sponsored
Digestive Diseases Research Core Center (DDRCC)

****Interested applicants should contact Dr. Eugene B. Chang (DDRCC
Director) or Kailee Zingler (P&F Program Admin) prior to submitting a full
application by **August 2, 2019******

FULL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 3rd, 2019

Goals: The overarching theme of the DDRCC is research in Digestive Health and Disease, including inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) and related areas of intestinal inflammation, immunology, the gut microbiome, metabolism, and epithelial biology/cancer of the GI tract. Pilot and Feasibility applications focused on these “mission” areas will receive higher priority. **Pilot and Feasibility awards are offered in order of priority for the purposes of:**

1. **Attracting new investigators (Track I)**, including promising senior research fellows and post-doctoral candidates having the endorsement of their Departments, into the mission areas of the DDRCC. This is the principal target group and is intended ideally for candidates without current NIH or other significant extramural support to initiate research into digestive diseases.
2. **Allowing more established faculty members (Track II)**, who are not currently engaged in gastrointestinal research, to extend their investigations into the mission areas of the DDRCC.
3. Permitting **faculty members already engaged in research of Digestive Diseases (Track III)** to test a novel hypothesis that is significantly different from the investigator’s mainstream research. Applications which emphasize DDRCC core use and which will strengthen collaborative interactions among scientists within the digestive disease research community are particularly encouraged. It is strongly anticipated that these pilot projects will enhance the ability of investigators to compete successfully for extramural research in IBD and related areas of gastrointestinal research.

Suggested Research Topics: Broad aspects of basic and translational/clinical research related to enteric microbiology, inflammation, and immunology of the digestive tract and pathogenesis, genetics, pathophysiology, and bench-to-bedside aspects of inflammatory bowel diseases will be given higher priority. In addition, proposals focused on the examination of growth and

differentiation, cancer biology, intestinal epithelial biology and pathobiology of the gastrointestinal tract (including the luminal GI tract, liver, pancreas, biliary system, etc.), as well as basic or clinical research in the areas of nutrition, metabolism, and digestive diseases are appropriate topics for Pilot & Feasibility studies. Please feel free to ask for guidance if you are unsure about the suitability of your topic or project.

Core Facilities/services:

- **Integrative Translational and Histopathology Core** (Sonia Kupfer, M.D., Joel Pekow, M.D., Christopher Weber, M.D., Ph.D.): Offering the IBD patient registry, tissue biobanking facilities, and support in designing clinical studies.
- **Host-Microbe Core** (Alexander Chervovsky, M.D., Ph.D., Dionysios Antonopoulos, Ph.D., A. Murat Eren, Ph.D.): Provides unique approaches to the study of host-microbe interactions, including cell/tissue models, gnotobiotic mouse technologies, metagenomics, and approaches for structural and functional profiling of complex microbial communities.
- **Tissue Engineering and Cell Models Core** (Eugene B. Chang, M.D., John Alverdy, M.D.): Offering unique cell and tissue models, enteroids/organoids, and mouse models along with molecular and genetic engineering approaches to develop new model systems.
- **Immunology and Discovery-Based Genomics Core** (Luis Barreiro, Ph.D., Bana Jabri, M.D., Ph.D.): The IDG core aims to provide expert consultation, training, experimental and computational support in the use of the growing array of highly specialized cutting-edge technologies that are available for flow cytometry and genomic analysis, specifically related to the study of gastrointestinal disease.

Please see our website www.uchicagodrcc.org for further details of our Research Cores and examples of recently funded P&F projects.

Period and Amount of Funding: Funds for Pilot & Feasibility projects are available for an initial period of one year beginning December 1, 2019 and range between \$25,000-37,500 in direct costs depending upon number of awardees. Successful candidates will be required to report their progress 6 months into the fiscal year for continuation of funding. Outcome of progress during the first year will determine if applicants will be invited to reapply for a second year of funding. Funds may be requested for personnel (with the

exception of PI salary), supplies, services and other costs (not equipment or travel). A detailed budget with justification is essential for the application.

Applications: Interested applicants must contact Dr. Eugene B. Chang or Kailee Zingler, prior to submitting a full application, by **August 2, 2019**. Pilot & Feasibility applications should conform to a standardized format, which can be found below.

Science portion of grant (Section 4-6) should be no longer than 5 pages in length, minimum 0.5 inch margins, 11 pt. Arial.

Funding for Pilot and Feasibility Projects Application Format:

(* 5 page limit for sections 4-6. Minimum 0.5 inch margins, 11 pt. Arial)

1. Title of proposal:
2. Investigator(s) and Co-Investigators: (Name and academic title, e-mail address, and phone number and eligibility category (Track I, II or III)
3. Scientific Summary
4. Specific Aims*:
5. Significance/Project narrative*:
6. Methods of Procedure*:
7. References
8. Justification and Need for Center Use of Funding:

(Pilot & Feasibility projects may contain request for Center core laboratory use in addition to other costs)

a. Narrative (5-10 lines): describe why the Center is needed and which Center core laboratories will be used (if any)

9. Budget (please use enclosed budget template) and provide budget justification

10. Other support with dollar amounts listed.

11. IRB/Animal care review status and approval notification (if applicable)

12. Inclusion-enrollment report for human studies (if applicable)

13. Biographical sketch (NIH formatted) (candidate)

*****Additional materials required from senior post-docs and fellows
Track I candidates only*****

14. Senior post-docs and fellows (TRACK I) applicants should also provide a 1-2 paragraph statement of their career plans and goals and how their research proposal is a departure from the work of their mentors and how it will position them better for a career in academic medicine

15. Biographical sketch (NIH formatted) (mentor)

16. Mentor/sponsor letter of recommendation regarding candidates promise and potential for academics and independence

17. Mentors/sponsor grant support information to gauge how much of a departure the project might be from the mentor's work.

PLEASE SEND TOTAL APPLICATION IN PDF OR WORD FORMAT (one document) TO DDRCC PROGRAM MANAGER KAILEE ZINGLER NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM on **Tuesday, September 3, 2019**

Email: kzinger@bsd.uchicago.edu

For questions regarding the application please contact:

Kailee Zingler kzinger@bsd.uchicago.edu (2-5639) (DDRCC Program Manager)

Eugene Chang, M.D. echang@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu (2-6458)

Review and Processing: 1. Applications will be initially screened by the Digestive Diseases Research Core Center Executive Committee for their appropriateness for Pilot & Feasibility funding. [Application receipt deadline 9/3/19]. 2. Following this initial screen and if necessary, applications may be returned to applicants for modification prior to submission to the External Advisory Board. 3. The completed applications will be reviewed by members of the External Advisory Board of the Center who ultimately will determine funding priorities at their meeting in October or November of 2019. 4. Notifications of funding decision will be made in November 2019. 5. Funding starts December 1, 2019.