



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Southwest National Primate Research Center (SNPRC) Pilot Research Program
2018 Competition

Important Dates/Timeline: 2018 Competition

Submit Letter of Intent (LOI)	October 30 2017
Notification of Approval to Submit Application	November 20 2017
Submit Completed Application	January 10 2018
Scientific Review Meeting	Mid-March 2018
Earliest funding start date	May 1 2018

PURPOSE

The SNPRC Pilot Research program provides opportunities and support for investigators to use SNPRC nonhuman primate resources in highly focused, short-term studies with a high likelihood of enhancing the value, utility, feasibility, and attractiveness of nonhuman primates for biomedical research. High priority will be given to studies that propose to generate preliminary data for applications to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for support of future research projects. Those proposing to develop new nonhuman primate models of disease, or develop and/or test new research methods, instrumentation, or approaches for biomedical research using nonhuman primates, also will be considered responsive to the goals of the program.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Eligibility

Investigators at the Staff Scientist (Research Assistant Professor) through Full Scientist (Full Professor) or equivalent positions at institutions meeting the requirements to apply for, receive, and administer grants in aid of research from the NIH are eligible to apply.

Sponsors

Any applicant who is not an SNPRC Core Scientist **must** be sponsored by an SNPRC Core Scientist. Applicants will be assigned a Core Scientist Sponsor at the time of review of Letters of Intent. The Sponsor will be an aid in guiding the applicant through SNPRC administrative processes. The participation of a SNPRC Core Scientist in pilot studies funded by this program is an NIH mandate.

Supported Activities/Allowable Uses of Pilot Research Program Funds

- For the 2018 competition, the proposed research activities **must use baboons**. The studies must be designed within the following constraints:
 - Up to 20 baboons for a study period of up to 12 months with non-invasive or minimally invasive data collection that can be done while animals are group-housed in an outdoor setting (e.g. behavioral assessments, urine, fecal or blood collections)
 - Up to 12 baboons for a study period of 6 months for a non-terminal study on indoor housed baboons (e.g. studies involving surgeries or extensive sampling requiring routine access)
 - Up to 8 baboons for a study period of 6 months for a terminal study
- Pilot research funds may **not** be used to provide support for projects currently or previously funded by other sources.

- Funds awarded in support of pilot research must be used for SNPRC veterinary services, including
 - Animals and animal care costs (including per diem)
 - Animal research procedures conducted by SNPRC personnel
- Funds awarded in support of pilot research may **not** be used to cover costs of supporting laboratory personnel, supplies, or work carried out at off-site locations.
- If the project anticipates the use of the SNPRC Research Imaging Core, the applicant must consult with the Core's leader, Dr. Geoffrey Clarke (CLARKEG@uthscsa.edu) prior to submitting a Letter of Intent to ensure that the proposed activities can be conducted by the core and the applicant understands any additional imaging expenses associated with the project that would **not** be covered by the pilot grant.
- Once a project is funded, no-cost extension requests are considered but must be submitted in writing, with a scientific justification – i.e. no-cost extensions are not automatic and may be denied.

PREPARING AND SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION TO THE PILOT RESEARCH PROGRAM

The steps in submitting a SNPRC Pilot Grant Application are described below:

1. Complete and Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI)

The PI/Applicant must submit a brief (3 page maximum) letter notifying the Coordinator of the SNPRC Pilot Research Program of her/his interest in submitting an application for review at the next deadline. The LOIs will be reviewed by the SNPRC Research Advisory Committee. Following that review, applicants will be notified as to whether they are invited to submit a full application and applicants will be assigned a Core Scientist Sponsor.

Format of LOI:

3 page maximum length, Arial or Helvetica 11-pt font, single-spaced, with 0.5 inch margins all around, on the PI's/applicant's institutional letterhead.

Required information:

- Descriptive working title for the planned proposal.
- Names, degrees, ranks, and institutional affiliations of the PI/applicant and sponsor (if applicable).
- A statement of the objective and significance of the intended pilot research.
- A brief description of the tentative research plan.
- A brief statement regarding the role that results from the intended pilot research will play in the support of future applications for research funding.
- An affirmation that the intended study does not overlap (duplicate) the PI's/applicant's currently funded research.
- Signature of the PI/applicant.

Letters of Intent should be sent as PDF files attached to an e-mail addressed to the current SNRPC Pilot Research Program Coordinator, Dr. Suzette Tardif (stardif@TxBiomed.org). Investigators are requested to please cc these documents and all other correspondence related to the Pilot Research Program to Ms. Deborah E. Newman (dnewman@txbiomed.org) and Ms. Noemi Hinojosa (nhinojosa@txbiomed.org).

2. Complete and Submit a Full Application

Upon invitation, the PI/applicant must complete a full application with the following:

- A cover page that includes the investigator's full name, professional affiliation.
- Specific Aims: one page that provides a brief rationale for the project including enumerated specific aims.
- An NIH Biosketch: The Research Support Section must list all previous pilot study awards received by the applicant from any source.

- Research Plan: Limited to a maximum of six (6) pages.
- At the end of the Research Plan (and within the 6 page limit) the applicant must include at least one (1) paragraph detailing a) the applicant's plan for using the results of the proposed pilot study in a future application for funding (NIH preferred) in support of research using nonhuman primates, or b) how the results of the pilot study (data, models, technologies, etc.) will enhance the value of nonhuman primates for future research by others.
 - This information is factored into the assessment of the likelihood that the present application, if funded, will lead to successful leveraging.
- The applicant is encouraged to nominate one (1) investigator as a potential external (not affiliated with SNPRC) reviewer of the proposal. Please include the name, institutional affiliation, and contact information for an established, active researcher who has a record of publications and funded research with relevance to the proposed pilot research

Resubmissions: Notes and additional requirements

- A previously reviewed, but unfunded, pilot research application may be resubmitted only once.
- An Introduction to the Application, not to exceed 1 page in length, must precede the Specific Aims in the Research Plan (note: This is an additional page that increases the page limit for resubmissions to 7 pages).
 - In the Introduction, the applicant should outline weaknesses identified in the earlier review and indicate if and how the applicant has revised her/his proposal to address them. The applicant also should identify and succinctly justify any other substantive changes to the earlier research plan.
- Revised/New text in a resubmitted application must be distinguished from that in the original application by using a different font (we recommend Palatino 11-pt or Palatino Linotype 11-pt to set off revised/new text from the Arial or Helvetica 11-pt base font used in the original application).

Multiple submissions

Multiple submissions by the same PI/applicant for the same deadline are not allowed. Also, an application from a PI/applicant who has an active pilot study funded by the SNPRC Pilot Research Program will not be accepted for review.

3. Submit the Completed Application

Completed applications should be sent as PDF files attached to an e-mail addressed to the current Coordinator of the SNRPC Pilot Research Program, Dr. Suzette Tardif (stardif@txbiomed.org) please copy (cc) these documents to Ms. Deborah E. Newman (dnewman@txbiomed.org) and Ms. Noemi Hinojosa (nhinojosa@txbiomed.org).

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

Reviewers

Each proposal is critiqued and scored by at least three (3) reviewers. At least one of the three will be a member of the SNPRC Research Advisory Committee (RAC), selected by the Program Leader based on correspondence between their research expertise, experience, and/or interests and aims and/or research design components of the proposal. At least one reviewer will be external to the host institution and not affiliated with the SNPRC. They are subject matter experts with a record of successful research, including NIH funding and publications, directly relevant to (but not in competition with) the proposed study.

Evaluation

Pilot study proposals are evaluated according to guidelines and the nine (9) point scoring rubric used in reviews of research proposals submitted to the NIH (where 1 is the "best" score and 9 is the "worst"). Each reviewer's critique includes evaluations of a proposal's 1) Significance, 2) Innovation, 3) Approach, 4) Investigator(s), and 5) Environment. An added 6th component of the critique is the reviewer's opinion of the proposal's potential for facilitating future research. Based on her/his assessments of these six (6) factors, the review provides an assessment of the proposed study's Overall Impact, also assigning it a score

between 1 and 9. Each reviewer completes written critiques of the assigned proposals. The top 50% of applications are discussed during a meeting attended by the local reviewers. After the meeting, the Program Leader ranks the proposals based on their mean final Overall Impact scores and submits the results of the process to the SNPRC Director.

Funding Decision

The review committee is advisory to the SNPRC Director, who makes the final determination for funding.

INQUIRIES, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct all inquiries and requests for additional information by e-mail to the Coordinator of the SNPRC Pilot Research Program, Dr. Suzette Tardif at stardif@txbiomed.org. Please copy (cc) all e-mail correspondence to Ms. Deborah E. Newman at dnewman@txbiomed.org and Ms. Noemi Hinojosa at nhinojosa@txbiomed.org.