



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Southwest National Primate Research Center (SNPRC) Pilot Research Program
2019 Competition

Important Dates/Timeline: 2019 Competition

Submit Letter of Intent (LOI)	April 1, 2019
Notification of Approval to Submit Application	April 22, 2019
Submit Completed Application	June 17, 2019
Earliest funding start date	August 15, 2019

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 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 administrate 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. The participation of the Core Scientist in pilot studies funded by this program is an NIH mandate. The Sponsor will be an aid in guiding the applicant through SNPRC administrative processes. Applicants will be assigned a Core Scientist Sponsor at the time of review of Letters of Intent.

Supported Activities/Allowable Uses of Pilot Research Program Funds

- For the 2019 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 interim or extended support for extant projects 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 will use 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. The LOIs will be reviewed by the SNPRC leadership. 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, 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 SNPRCpilot@txbiomed.org.

2. If the applicant is invited to submit a full application, the applicant will Complete the Application

Format of application: Arial or Helvetica 11-pt font, single-spaced

A complete application must include the following:

- A cover page that includes the investigator's full name, professional affiliation,
- The Other Support sub-section of the Biographical Sketch must also include a list of all previous pilot study awards received by the applicant from any source.
- The text of the Research Plan is 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.

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 be included 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.

Multiple submissions not allowed

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 SNPRCpilot@txbiomed.org.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

Reviewers

Each proposal is critiqued and scored by at least three reviewers from the SNPRC Research Advisory Committee. These reviews are then provided to the SNPRC Director to aid in the selection for funding.

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 and the written critiques are provided to the applicants once funding decisions are made.

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 SNPRCpilot@txbiomed.org.