

# HDDC Harvard Digestive Diseases Center

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## **PILOT & FEASIBILITY AWARDS PROGRAM REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS and PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

### **Harvard Digestive Diseases Center**

**LETTER OF INTENT DUE: November 30, 2020 at 5:00 pm**  
**INVITATIONS TO SUBMIT FULL APPLICATIONS: December 15, 2020.**  
**FULL APPLICATION DUE: January 22, 2021**

The Harvard Digestive Diseases Center (HDDC) will be accepting applications for new pilot and feasibility projects for the upcoming funding period (7/1/21 - 6/30/23). Requests can be made for up to \$40,000 direct costs.

**A Letter of Intent is required.** This allows the HDDC to verify eligibility of the applicant for this program and the relevance of the project to the mission of the HDDC. Please use the **LOI form** and submit, *along with your updated NIH biosketch*, to Kiki Densamo at: [Kebrewosen.Densamo@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Kebrewosen.Densamo@childrens.harvard.edu). LOIs will be reviewed and applicants whose projects are considered eligible will be invited to submit a full application, as described below.

### **SCIENTIFIC SCOPE of the Pilot and Feasibility (P/F) Awards Program**

The Harvard Digestive Disease Center is focused on the study of epithelial cell function and mucosal biology including inflammation and host defense of the gastrointestinal tract. The Center's major emphasis on the inflammatory bowel diseases, gut microbiology, and stem cell and developmental biology of the intestine, liver, and pancreas. Pilot and Feasibility projects will be considered for support if they relate directly or indirectly to this mission. Clinical and translational research proposals are encouraged.

Eligible projects may be in areas such as:

- cell and molecular biology that relate to epithelial structure and function in the alimentary tract, liver, and pancreas
- epithelial-microbe interactions and pathogenesis of enteric infectious diseases
- host defense in the GI tract, mucosal immunity and vaccine development
- epithelial cell growth and differentiation, and stem cell biology
- carcinogenesis in the GI tract
- smooth muscle motility and biology of the enteric nervous system

**UTILIZATION of HDDC CORE FACILITIES is strongly encouraged.** Cores include:

- Core B: Microscopy and Histopathology
- Core C: Epithelial Cell Biology and Mucosal Tissue Assessment
- Core D: Gnotobiotic, Microbiology, and Metagenomics

## **PURPOSE of P/F PROGRAM**

- Support young investigators who have not held independent awards (such as an R01 and/or P01) to perform independent promising research that tests a novel research direction or hypothesis.
- Enable young scientists and clinicians to pursue innovative and promising pilot projects, which ultimately might lead to independent support. This is the primary focus of the Pilot and Feasibility Program.
- Entice investigators without current involvement to engage in research related digestive diseases.
- Enable established investigators already working in digestive disease-related research to make a substantial change in the direction of their research.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- New/Young Investigators are particularly encouraged to apply and to use P/F funding to gather preliminary data needed for subsequent NIH applications.
- Applicants must be at the level of “Instructor” or higher at the time the funding commences.
- P/F projects cannot overlap with any ongoing funded project.
- Established investigators must show how this project is a significant departure from ongoing work. Proposals that are logical extensions of ongoing projects are not eligible.
- Investigators must address aspects of Rigor and Transparency in their application (<http://grants.nih.gov/reproducibility/index.htm>). This will be distinct criterion for review.
- P/F grants are not intended to be used as bridging support.
- An investigator can be funded only once in every five-year cycle.
- Funding for the second year is contingent on review of a year 1 progress report.
- HDDC member laboratories and applicants with projects aiming for careers relevant to mission of HDDC will have priority.

## **EXPENSES FOR WHICH FUNDS MAY BE USED**

Funds may be used for the following:

- Technical support
- Research supplies
- Equipment is funded only in very rare instances where it is vital to the particular project, unique and not available in any of the HDDC core facilities. Equipment requests require a budget justification and approval by the Executive Committee.

Non-allowable expenses:

- Salaries (Investigator, Post-Doctoral)
- Travel

## **MAXIMUM AWARD**

Awards are made for up to \$45,000 over 2 years. In recent years, project budgets have ranged from \$25,000 to \$45,000 direct costs. Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs are limited to 25%.

## **CONTACTS**

Wayne Lencer, HDDC Director (617) 919-2573 [wayne.lencer@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:wayne.lencer@childrens.harvard.edu)

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***Visit the HDDC website for details, LOI form, and application instructions***

<http://hddc.hms.harvard.edu/>