GUIDELINES FOR PILOT & FEASIBILITY PROGRAM APPLICATION

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
GENE THERAPY PROGRAM

This Pilot and Feasibility Program is part of the Penn Gene Therapy Program’s NIDDK P30 CF Research and Translation Center grant application. This Center grant is designed to provide shared resources to support research which develops and tests new cellular and molecular therapies for cystic fibrosis.

A Pilot and Feasibility study provides modest research support for a limited time (one to two years) to enable eligible investigators to explore the feasibility of a concept related to the mission of the Center and generate sufficient data to pursue it through other funding mechanisms. The pilot and feasibility studies are intended to: (1) provide initial support for new investigators; (2) allow exploration of possible innovative new leads or new directions for established investigators in gene therapy and (3) stimulate investigators from other areas to lend their expertise to research in this area. Pilot and feasibility study support is not intended for large projects by established investigators which would otherwise be submitted as separate research grant applications. Pilot and feasibility funds are also not intended to support or supplement ongoing funded research of an established investigator.

A proposed pilot and feasibility study should present a testable hypothesis and clearly delineate the question being asked, detail the procedures to be followed, and discuss how the data will be analyzed. It must be on a topic related to the objectives of the Core Center. Projects should be focused, since funding for these studies is modest and is limited to two years or less. Any one investigator is eligible only once for this support, unless the additional proposed pilot and feasibility study constitutes a real departure from his/her ongoing research.

Pilot & Feasibility applications may receive funding of up to $50,000/year for up to two years (based on a successful competitive renewal).

LETTERS OF INTENT

The Gene Therapy Program requires that a Letter of Intent (LOI) is submitted for review and approval prior to submission of a full application. The deadline for submitting an LOI is Monday, March 31, 2014 by 5:00pm (EDT). Late submissions will not be accepted.

The LOI is a brief description of the research project (one page) and should include:

- PI name, degree, title, department
- Project title
- Scientific Abstract (up to 200 words)
- proposal summary (up to 250 words) emphasizing the relevance of the pilot grant to molecular therapy for CF
- Format: 0.5” margins all around, typed in font Arial 11
- LOI must be submitted as a PDF via email to moniquek@mail.med.upenn.edu by 5:00pm (EDT) on March 31
FULL APPLICATION

If your LOI is found to be suitable for our Center theme, you will be invited to submit a full application. Full pilot applications should be completed on PHS 398 forms and typed in ARIAL 11 font. Each project should begin with an abstract (NIH form page 2) and a detailed budget (NIH form page 4). This should be followed by a Research Plan (five page maximum) including:

- Specific Aims
- Research Strategy (Significance, Innovation and Approach)
- References Cited
- All figures and references are included in the 5 page limit
- Photomicrographs and manuscripts may be submitted in a separate appendix.

Also required are your NIH biosketch, other support, and letters of collaboration, if appropriate. Principal Investigators need to devote at least 5% effort to the project and equipment is not an allowable expense. NIH forms to be used can be found on our website: http://www.med.upenn.edu/gtp/PilotInstructions2014.

The proposal must use the services of one or more cores of the P30 Center. These are:

- Vector Core (Director, Julie Johnston)
- Animal Models Core (Director, Maria Limberis)
- Cell Morphology Core (Director, Peter Bell)
- Immunology Core (Director, Roberto Calcedo)
- Ion Transport Core (Director, Liudmila Cebotaru)

In planning your research strategy, you are encouraged to communicate with the core director(s) to discuss ways in which the Core can support your pilot studies.

All of these pages for the full application should be combined into one PDF and emailed to: moniquek@mail.med.upenn.edu

DEADLINE: Wednesday, APRIL 30, 2014, 5pm (EDT)

General Timeline

LOI Deadline: Monday March 31, 2014
Notifications sent by: Tuesday April 1, 2014
Full Application Deadline: Wednesday April 30, 2014
Applicants Notified: Monday June 2, 2014
Earliest Start date: April 1, 2015

LOI and full application must be submitted via email to moniquek@mail.med.upenn.edu

Please direct all questions to:
Monique Molloy
Gene Therapy Program
T: 215-573-8435
E: moniquek@mail.med.upenn.edu