Purpose and Research Focus
The Purpose of Penn’s Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive and Liver Diseases (CMSDLD) is to unite investigators with interests in digestive and liver physiology and disease and to stimulate others in the biomedical community to enter this area of research. One of the most important aspects of this effort is the funding of Pilot/Feasibility Projects.

The Pilot/Feasibility Project should be related to the focus of the Center, which encompasses molecular studies on the biology or disease of the alimentary tract, pancreas, and liver. Relevant investigators include those in developmental biology, nutrition, regulation of gene expression, growth, differentiation, the biology of stem cells, molecular genetics, gene therapy, the gut microbiome, and immunology, including growth factors and cytokines. Pilot project awards are for 1 year with a second year possible through a competitive renewal.

Eligibility
All faculty members of the University scientific community who meet the eligibility requirements below are invited to submit proposals. Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen or have a permanent visa. There are three categories of applications:

1. New investigators who have never held extramural support at the level of a NIH R01

2. Established investigators in other areas of biomedical research who wish to apply their expertise to a problem in digestive and liver disease.

3. Established digestive and liver investigators who wish to study an area that represents a significant departure from currently funded work.

Proposal Preparation
1. Submit documents either through the online form located at the bottom of the Pilot and Feasibility Grant Program webpage, here, or by attaching the below documents to your final application. Complete proposals are due by Friday, May 21, 2021.

2. Format
   - Cover page: includes abstract of up to 250 words and list of approved or pending IACUC/IRB protocols
   - NIH Biosketch
   - NIH Other Support
   - Budget and justification: one year, $33,000, one page only.
   - Background, preliminary results, estimated core usage, research plan, and future directions; up to four pages total
   - Senior investigators should indicate how this project represents a new direction in their research
   - References: one page only
   - Appendix: pertaining to preliminary data only, no reprints

For additional information, please contact and submit to: Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive and Liver Diseases. Telephone: 215-573-4264; Fax: 215-898-0573; email: kimmeyer@pennmedicine.upenn.edu