NIH/NIDDK P30 Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive & Liver Diseases
Joint Penn-CHOP Center for Digestive, Liver and Pancreatic Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology
University of Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER
Winter 2014

REMEMBER
Please remember to cite the Center (NIH-P30-DK050306) and its core facilities (Molecular Pathology and Imaging Core, Molecular Biology/Gene Expression Core, Transgenic and Chimeric Mouse Core, and Cell Culture Core) in your publications.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
The NIDDK Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive and Liver Diseases will be hosting our annual Center Retreat on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at the National Constitution Center.

MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY AND IMAGING CORE (MPIC)
We have just added a second live cell imaging microscope capable of light and fluorescent microscopy. This microscope was a gracious gift from the Department of Dermatology. It will help distribute to use of the spinning disk confocal and allow more people to image overnight experiments. Please stop by BRB 931 if you are interested in finding out more information.

The MPIC also maintains a human GI cancer tissue bank that contains both frozen and paraffin embedded. The bank is a service that is provided by the MPIC and can be used at no additional charge to sectioning. The majority of tissues also have a pathology report. If you are interested in seeing what is available please contact Adam Bedenbaugh, blakebe@mail.med.upenn.edu, for more information.

VetTest CHEMISTRY ANALYZER
The Penn Diabetes Research Center Mouse Phenotyping, Physiology and Metabolism Core (http://www.med.upenn.edu/idom/derc/cores_mice.html) provides serum/plasma chemistry assays for mouse, rat and several species using VetTest slide technology. Researchers can order single or panel assays for assessing liver/gut, kidney and muscle functions. Contact the MPPM Core Technical Director, Fred Anokye-Danso, PhD (afred@mail.med.upenn.edu). Please acknowledge the Penn Diabetes Research Center grant P30-DK19525, and the services of the Mouse Phenotyping, Physiology and Metabolism Core in all publications and presentations.

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY CORE (MBC)
Molecular Biology Core provides the following resources:

- Maintains and provides access to instruments (934 and 973BRB) that individual investigators may not want to purchase for themselves. A list of equipment and software available can be found on our webpage: http://www.med.upenn.edu/molecular/core_molecular.shtml. Please remind your lab personnel to reserve the PCR instruments prior to use through the “Equipment Sign-out” function. If you do not have access to the signup site please see Sue Keilbaugh (keilbaugh@mail.med.upenn.edu). Also remind users of the MBC instruments to sign the log sheets next to the instruments when used, so we can justify their existence. Contact Sue Keilbaugh if you need training on any of the instruments or if you have any suggestions as to other instruments that might be added to the Core.

- Provides advice and support for research studies which require the archiving of human metadata, tissues, plasma, serum and other body products for studies to be run at a later date. Sample material is delivered to the Core where it is logged in and stored appropriately for future use. Upon consent of the study PI, information or sample material is dispersed to study members or collaborators. If interested, please contact Dr. Gary Wu, Director of the Core (gdwu@mail.med.upenn.edu).

- Has established collaborations with other core facilities within the University for use by Center Members such as the Bioinformatics Core (PGFI), Biostatistics Core (Penn Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, CCEB), and the Biomarker Facility (Center for Excellence in Environmental Toxicology, CEET).
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: PILOT & FEASIBILITY GRANTS

Purpose and Research Focus
The purpose of the Penn-CHOP Joint Center for Digestive, Liver and Pancreatic Medicine is to facilitate research, educational, and clinical programs involving issues related to the transition from childhood to adulthood, designated as transitional medicine. The large number of such patients provide unique opportunities for basic and translational research. One of the most important aspects of this effort is the funding of Pilot/Feasibility Projects.

The Joint Center is seeking Pilot/Feasibility Projects proposals in clinical, basic science, and/or translational research projects related to inflammatory bowel disease, eosinophilic esophagitis, nutrition, obesity, liver diseases, pancreatic diseases and endoscopy. All projects should either involve both pediatric and adult patients in these areas and/or focus on a research question that is relevant to these areas that involve the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Currently, it is anticipated that three applications will be funded each with a one year budget of $25,000. This is a one-time request for applications. There will not be an opportunity to resubmit applications or renew a funded grant for additional funding beyond the first year as future RFAs will be in different themes or topics. Consideration will be given to interdisciplinary applications, and those that span CHOP and Penn investigators. Recipients who have received pilot grants through the Joint Center in the last 3 years are not eligible.

Eligibility
All faculty members of the Penn and CHOP scientific community who meet the eligibility requirements below are invited to submit proposals. Applicants must be US. citizens or have permanent residency.

Applicants may be: 1) New investigators who have never held extramural NIH support (R29, R01, P01); 2) Established investigators in other areas of basic biomedical and/or clinical research who wish to apply their expertise one of the seven topics listed above in a manner that is relevant to the mission of the Penn-CHOP Joint Center; or 3) Established clinical or basic digestive disease investigators who wish to study an area relevant to the cited areas and the mission of the Penn-CHOP Joint Center that represents a significant departure from currently funded work.

Proposal Preparation
Submit all documents, in the format below, as one PDF to kimmeyer@mail.med.upenn.edu. Proposals are due Monday, March 3, 2014. Funding will commence June 1, 2014.

Format
- Cover page: Includes abstract of up to 400 words (including a statement of how the proposal is relevant to the mission of the Penn-CHOP Joint Center) and list approved or pending IACUC/IRB protocols
- NIH biographical sketch
- NIH other support (provide full information)
- Budget and justification: one year, $25,000; one page only
- Background, preliminary results, 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: The Joint Penn-CHOP Center for Digestive, Liver and Pancreatic Medicine, Telephone: 573-4264; Fax: 573-2024; Email: kimmeyer@mail.med.upenn.edu

Thank you for your interest and support.
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