Request for Proposals

Date: October 15, 2020

Purpose:
The Driving Out Diabetes (DODi), a Larry H. Miller Family Wellness Initiative and the Diabetes and Metabolism Research Center (DMRC) are requesting seed grant proposals for FY21 to catalyze novel research projects in the areas of diabetes, obesity, and metabolism. The goal of this program is to provide initial support to develop hypotheses and preliminary data that will allow competitive applications for funding by the NIH or other agencies and foundations within one year. A description of proposals funded the last three years can be found here.

Research Scope:
We invite applications from all diabetes and obesity-related areas including basic, translational, clinical, health services, community-based participatory research and population health research. Applications involving the broad areas of the genetics of diabetes/metabolic disease, drug discovery, diabetes prevention and management, and research addressing health disparities are especially encouraged.

Proposal Preferences:
Preference will be given to proposals that
- Have significant scientific merit
- Have a high potential for extramural funding, preferentially from the NIH
- Are not currently supported by extramural funding
- Develop or strengthen interdisciplinary partnerships within the DMRC community that build toward multi-PI grant applications

Proposal Guidelines and Eligibility:
- Only one research proposal per Principal Investigator per application cycle will be reviewed.
- Principal Investigators must be at least 0.75 FTE tenure track faculty or 0.75 FTE clinical/research faculty at the University of Utah/VA.
- Investigators who received DODi or DMRC support within the last two years are not eligible for funding.

Application Instructions:
Applications and all supporting documents should be submitted electronically through the University of Utah’s Competition Space interface at http://utah.infoready4.com/ by December 10, 2020.

All applications must include:
1. Lay Abstract (1/2 page). This abstract may be presented to philanthropic partners and will be included in the evaluation criteria.
2. Specific aims of the research proposal (1 page)
3. Detailed proposal. (Up to 3 pages, plus references on additional pages as needed). Please address significance, innovation, approach, and include detailed timeline.
4. NIH Biographical sketch for all investigators (5 pages max)
5. Current and pending support for all investigators
6. If human subjects or animal research is involved, provide one copy of the IRB or IACUC confirmation. IRB and IACUC approvals must be approved prior to funds being released. If approvals are not in place at time of application, please indicate expected approval date.
7. A list of 3 appropriate external reviewers for the proposed project. Please provide their name, position, organization, and email contact for the potential external reviewer.
8. Proposed project budget not to exceed $40,000. Budget template is attached.
9. Anticipated deliverables to be completed by the end of the one-year project period. Please include anticipated submitted/pending/awarded grants, awards, publications, new collaborations, new tools, etc. (1 page)

All applicable items must be submitted as one PDF.

Budget Guidelines:
Seed Grant funds may be used for salaries and fringe benefits of post-doctoral fellows, students, technicians, and other non-faculty project personnel, supplies, miscellaneous expenses, and services. Seed Grant funds cannot be used for faculty salaries (summer or academic year); travel that is not directly related to project research (e.g., conferences cannot be supported by this grant); consultants; or office equipment, including computers (unless specifically justified). Please prepare a one-page budget with maximum direct costs of $40,000 for one year of support. The budget template on Competition Space (https://utah.infoready4.com/) is not required but may be used for this purpose.

Evaluation and Funding of Proposals:
Proposals will be reviewed by a research committee to assess innovation, scientific merit, collaboration, and alignment with the goals of the Driving Out Diabetes Initiative and the Diabetes and Metabolism Research Center. Preference will be given to applications that have high scientific merit, are currently not supported by extramural funding, and have promise for significant extramural funding. The review committee will utilize external and internal reviewers for the grant review.

Applicants will be informed of the status of their proposal within ~3 months of the submission deadline, with funding to begin on or around March, 2021, and after appropriate IRB/IACUC approvals are in place. Maximum funding per project is $40,000. Unused funds must be returned to DODi/DMRC at the end of the project period. Grant administration is the responsibility of the Principal Investigators.
**Mid-Year Progress Report:**
After the first 6 months of funding, a one-page progress report will be required for review by the research committee to assure adequate scientific progress.

**Final Report:**
At the end of the project period, funded proposals must provide a progress report of no more than two pages in length describing the results of the research, future directions, and plans to secure additional funding. PIs and trainees may be required to present to the foundation at a diabetes symposium.

*Questions? Please contact:* Bridget Hughes (bridget.hughes@hsc.utah.edu) or Sara Salmon (sara.salmon@hsc.utah.edu)