

2023 Call for Proposals for Pilot Project Funding Genomics Network (GeNe)

The Genomics Network (GeNe) builds on the rich resources and collaborative culture of Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago (Lurie) to accelerate outstanding innovative projects in clinical genetics and genomics to improve patient health and quality of life. We are excited to announce the GeNe Pilot Project funding opportunity for 2023, which provides support of two (2) independent \$75,000 awards.

The GeNe Pilot Project application process for 2023 will align with the [NIH R21](#) application format. We encourage interdisciplinary Lurie clinicians, researchers, and faculty to submit a proposal. Junior faculty are encouraged to apply, with mentorship from a senior colleague. Collaboration with Northwestern University colleagues is permitted.

For 2023, we are requesting a mandatory Letter of Intent (LOI). All LOIs will be reviewed by the GeNe committee and eight will be invited to submit a full application.

Scope: Collaborative, multidisciplinary clinical genetic and genomic- based projects focused on genomics, metagenomics, gene expression, or responder/non-responder phenotypes are priorities. Projects contributing to development of key institutional resources to advance the implementation of clinical genomics are considered responsive to this RFA. Examples include:

Scientific Discovery

- Collaborations between clinicians, genetics experts, basic scientists, and/or informaticists to identify, characterize, and/or sequence particular patient cohorts to define disease mechanisms or undergo gene discovery.
- Collaborations between clinicians, genetics experts, basic scientists, and/or informaticists to identify and/or study genomic biomarkers.
- Coordinated efforts to develop animal models or other mechanistic studies for functional validation of potential causative genes, transcripts, genome-encoded elements, foreign DNA, or variants of uncertain significance.

Translational Genomics and Implementation

- Collaboration between translational scientists and clinicians to develop effective diagnostic, management, risk/treatment stratification, specific therapeutics, or preventative strategies for patients based on genomic findings
- Collaboration between clinicians, informaticists, and/or ethicists to return genetic results to stakeholders and evaluate consequences
- Coordinated efforts to develop and apply new, broadly applicable methods, tools, resources, or applications of genomics that would result in more effective analyses and applications of genomic data.

Eligibility: Funding is limited to Lurie clinicians, researchers, and faculty. Only one award may be funded at a time.

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Timeline:

January 9th, 2023 – Deadline for receipt of the **mandatory** Letter of Intent (LOI)

Late February, 2023 – Invitations sent for full applications

April 3rd, 2023 – Deadline for submission of invited full applications

June 2023 – Awardees announced

July 1, 2023 – Funding awarded

Direct all questions to: Aweisman@luriechildrens.org

Letter of Intent (LOI) Details:

The LOI should be approximately 3 pages in length (may exceed with References) and include the following components: Investigators and Institution, Background, Purpose, Methods, Genetic Analysis (if applicable), Outcomes Measures, Preliminary Data (if applicable), Budget, and References. PI and any primary personnel biosketches (NIH format) should be submitted with the LOI. Please use 0.5" margins and Arial or Calibri size 11 or 12 font.

LOIs should be submitted as an attached compiled PDF document via email to Aweisman@luriechildrens.org by 11:59 PM on Monday, January 9th, 2023.

Application Details:

After Committee review of the received LOIs, eight will be invited to submit a full application. Invitations will be sent late February 2023. Applications should follow the guidelines for an [NIH R21](#) for their submission (components and page limits outlined below). Please use 0.5" margins and Arial or Calibri size 11 or 12 font.

Applications should be submitted as an attached compiled PDF document via email to Aweisman@luriechildrens.org by 11:59 PM on Monday, April 3rd, 2023.

This is an internal submission and therefore will **NOT** need the approval of Sponsored Programs. Budgets will be carefully evaluated. Rigorous standards for innovation and impact will be applied.

Applicants may also submit for NIH R21 funding.

No principal investigator (PI) may hold two actively funded GeNe projects and PI effort may not be included in this funding mechanism. Individuals may submit more than one proposal; however, only one proposal may be funded at a time.

Please provide the following information in the order below:

Date Submitted/Title/Applicant/Division/Key Personnel and their Divisions

- A. **Project Summary/Abstract** (30 lines of text)
- B. **Project Narrative** (Three sentences): Discuss the relevance of the project in plain language.

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- C. **Specific Aims** (Up to one page): Please describe research aims. If the research focuses on a specific clinical population, be sure to indicate evidence, if known, for a genetic etiology of the disease or phenotype. If you propose a patient-centered project, please describe numbers and accessibility of patients for the envisioned study.
- D. **Research Strategy** (Up to six pages): *Significance, Innovation, and Approach*. Please see Scored Review Criteria for key details regarding the content of these sections.
- E. **Bibliography**
- F. **Budget** (One page): may **not** include PI effort; approval by the PI's Division Administrator is required.
- G. **Biosketches** (Up to five pages): From all Key Personnel, compiled together as a single document.

Scored Review Criteria:

Please refer to the [NIH Scored Review Criteria](#) to understand how reviewers will assess proposals. Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for:

- *Significance* - Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise for the project? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?
- *Investigator(s)* - Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, or in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?
- *Innovation* - Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?
- *Approach* - Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of all sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

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- *Environment*- Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

The deadline for mandatory LOIs is 11:59 PM on Monday, January 9th.

LOIs should be submitted before the deadline via email to Aweisman@luriechildrens.org.

Genomics Network (GeNe) Chair: Carlos Prada

Genomics Network (GeNe) Vice Chair: Meredith Harris

GeNe Program Coordinator: Allison Weisman

GeNe Committee: Wendy Brickman, Renee Manworren, Gregory R. Webster, Philip T. Thrush, Duri Yun, Karina Vivar, Kathleen Boyne, Susanna McColley, Erica Davis, Alexander Ing, Meghan Coghlan, Aaron Hamvas, Brian Nolan, Mary Clyde Pierce, Kristen Young, Tracy Gertler, Linda C. Laux, Divakar Mithal, Todd A. Florin, Beth Leeth, Jami Josefson, Allan Wu, Tomoko Hayashida, Kai Lee Yap, Pamela Rathbun, Angela Waanders, Amy Walz, Sara Cherny, Andy Drackley