Program Description
Our NIH/NIAMS-funded P30, FIRST-DailyLife Core Center for Clinical Research (CCCR) Pilot and Feasibility (P/F) Program aims to fund two proposals in order to catalyze research that improves the daily lives of persons with or at risk for rheumatic diseases or musculoskeletal conditions. We invite research from the following investigators across Northwestern University: 1) established investigators who have worked in NIAMS areas of interest (i.e., relevant to rheumatic diseases/musculoskeletal conditions) but who seek to pursue new directions; 2) early-stage investigators, including fellows, post-docs, and faculty; and 3) established investigators new to NIAMS areas of interest. P/F studies may be mentored or non-mentored, and may be devoted to technology development. The P/F mechanism will NOT be used for clinical trials, and it is expected that funded studies will foster both collaboration and NIH grant development. Projects must use the FIRST-Daily Life Cores.

Key Dates
Letter of Intent Due: 9/15/18
Application Submission Open: 9/15/18
Application Deadline: 10/15/18
Awards Announced: 12/15/18
Earliest Start Date: 2/1/19

Funds Available
We anticipate funding two projects, each at $20,000. Funding for subsequent years for each project will depend on progress, and will not exceed 3 years total.

Eligible Investigators
Investigators must be members of the Northwestern University community, must be members of FIRST-DailyLife (please register using our link: https://redcap.nubic.northwestern.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=FRM84DHX8T), and the project must have the ultimate goal of improving the daily lives of adults or children with or at risk for rheumatic diseases and/or musculoskeletal conditions.

New investigators must include a mentor on their team; funded effort of the mentor is not required. The FIRST-DailyLife Mentoring Sub-Core will help develop a mentoring support plan for such studies.

Letter of Intent
A letter of intent is due (9/15/18).
Please e-mail a letter of intent to L-Sharma@northwestern.edu. The letter must include:
- Principal investigator(s): name, position, e-mail, contact information
- Designate whether the PI is a new investigator, an early-stage investigator or new to musculoskeletal/rheumatologic research
- Mentor (if needed): name, position, e-mail, contact information
- Other key personnel: names, positions, e-mails
- Preliminary title of the proposal
- A short description of the project
The letters of intent will be reviewed by the FIRST-DailyLife Administrative Core for eligibility. You will be contacted if additional information is needed.

Application and Submission Information

- Letter of intent, due 9/15/18
- 3 page application, describing the P/F project and the proposed use of the FIRST-DailyLife Cores, with the following headed sections: Aims and Hypotheses; Significance; Approach; Use of FIRST-DailyLife Cores; Innovation; Investigator Team; Environment; the Next Studies (i.e., future study that the P/F will inform and lead to)
- Biosketch of the PI, using the NIH Biosketch template
- A gross budget category breakdown (personnel, supplies, etc.)

Projects are required to utilize the FIRST-DailyLife Cores. Applications should be submitted using Northwestern University NITRO Competitions. The application site will open prior to submission deadline, and the link will be sent directly to the PI listed on the letter of intent (see above).

Application Processing

Applications should be submitted through NITRO Competitions under FIRST-DailyLife Pilot and Feasibility Program 2018. The submission open date will be 9/15/18.

Applications must be received no later than 11:59 pm on the application receipt date describe above. Upon receipt, applications will be evaluated for completeness and responsiveness.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval of human subjects and/or approved animal use protocols are not required prior to review of an application. However, all necessary or applicable regulatory reviews will be required prior to the start of the proposed research. All P/F studies must comply fully with all applicable federal regulations, policies, and guidelines, including those for research involving human subjects and including the evaluation of risks and protections in proposals.

Review Process and Criteria

Each application will be evaluated by 3 reviewers using NIH-format criteria and scoring. For the management of the review process, we will utilize NITRO Competitions.

Obligations of the Pilot Award Recipients

1. Recipients of funding will be required to provide an interim report on the progress of their study and a final report detailing study outcomes. Specific due dates for reports will be provided in the Notice of Award and are chosen to support preparation of FIRST-DailyLife reports to NIH and advisory boards. This will include any of the following that resulted from the P/F funding:
   - Grant application(s) (project title, target sponsor, outcome of submission)
   - Presentations at scientific meetings
   - Community engagement initiatives
   - Publications
2. Recipients will receive integrated support from Cores relevant to the project.
3. Recipients will present their work at FIRST-DailyLife events, including the annual scientific session.
4. Awardees must cite FIRST-DailyLife in any publication or applications that result from P/F funding. For example: “This [insert: abstract /publication/ presentation/ grant proposal] was made possible, in part,
by Fostering Innovative Rheumatic Disease Team-Based Research to Improve Daily Life (FIRST-DailyLife), an NIH/NIAMS funded center (P30AR072579).”

5. Recipients must provide and agree to allow information about research awarded under this program, subsequent awards, and publications to be posted on the FIRST-DailyLife website.

Additional Information and Questions
Please contact us with questions or requests for assistance at any point in the application process.
Requests for additional information and questions may be directed to:

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