

Request for Application

Collaborative Pilot Award

Northwestern University Center for Human Immunobiology

Maximum funding level: \$100,000

Award duration: 1 year project September 1st, 2026 – August 31st, 2027

Eligibility: Northwestern University Center for Human Immunobiology Faculty members

RFA issued: April 13th, 2026

Application due: June 22nd, 2026

Application notification: July 13th, 2026

Earliest start date: September 1st, 2026

The Center for Human Immunobiology (CHI) is pleased to announce the Collaborative Pilot Award Request for Application. The goal of the Pilot Award is to foster collaborative research projects in Immunology between the CHI members. Eligible collaborative teams of two Faculty are invited to present proposals to support the Center mission in advancing our understanding and treatment of immune mediated diseases. Proposals involving preclinical *in vitro* and /or *in vivo* models that can be translated into future human studies are also encouraged. Funds should be applied to generate preliminary results for grant applications to external funding agencies for more long-term projects.

Format of the application:

- Research Plan:
 1. Title of the proposal, Applicants names and departments, Lab addresses, Lay abstract/description of the project (250 words)
 2. Research Strategy:
 - a. Specific aims: 1 page
 - b. Proposal: 2 pages with figures
 - c. Bibliography: no page limit
- Budget justification for the proposed study:
 - a. 1page
 - b. (Funds used to provide salaries should not exceed NIH salary caps) No indirect costs are required.
- NIH Biosketches of all faculty within the team (old or new format)
- Must be ready to submit/provide IRB and/or IACUC approvals before funding is provided.

Please send all the required documents in one PDF file to immunology@northwestern.edu with subject line: *CHI Pilot Award*.

Evaluation:

Collaborative Projects will be evaluated by the Pilot Award Review Committee of the CHI Steering Committee, chaired by the CHI Director. Proposals will be scored based on scientific merit, impact on immunology as the primary research focus, and likelihood of the project leading to successful external grant submissions.

Post Award Information & Requirements:

- Awardees will be expected to present their research project progress orally at the 2027 CHI Retreat
- Awardees will acknowledge the CHI in publications resulting from the Pilot Award support and will notify the Center when such papers have been accepted and the results of grant submission based on pilot data generated as part of the project.

Contact:

For requests for additional information, questions, or assistance, please contact Kaouther Ajroud, CHI Scientific Research Program Director (kaouther.ajroud@northwestern.edu)

