**CENTER FOR TRANSLATIONAL PAIN RESEARCH (CTPR):**
*Pilot Project Funding Opportunity*

We intend to make 1-2 awards in the amount of $5k-$10k each.

The Center for Translational Pain Research (CTPR) is a National Institute of Drug Abuse funded (NIDA; P50 DA044121) Center of Excellence regarding Chronic Pain and Drug Abuse. The Center offers competitive funding for pilot projects in Chronic Pain and Drug Abuse. Clinical and basic science research projects are both sought.

The project can be on any topic related to chronic pain. Some topics that are of particular interest to our center are:

- Machine-learning approaches to processing data, including video data of behavior
- Language processing analysis relevant to chronic pain
- Novel analyses of existing data (e.g., on openpain.org); This could include refinement of image analysis; analyses to clarify defining longitudinal pain response; analyses of multidimensional pain data (e.g., intensity, quality, pain site) leading to new insights, AI, Bayesian, network analyses, and more
- Interdisciplinary projects that combine expertise from different fields
- Opioid mechanisms especially relevant to chronic pain

The pilot grants may be used by junior investigators to gather pilot data for R01 and other NIH grants, established investigators for testing a new hypothesis or methodology that is not an extension of ongoing research, high-risk projects, or by any investigator who wishes to expand their research in the area of chronic pain and/or drug abuse research.

**Eligibility:** The proposed research project must be relevant to clinical or basic science research on chronic pain. Projects with relevance to the relationship between chronic pain and drug abuse, especially opioid use-related mechanisms are especially encouraged. Both human and animal studies will be considered. Preference will be given to projects that utilize the core facilities of CTPR. The principal investigator must have faculty appointment, or be a postdoctoral fellow, within Northwestern University. Postdocs who are already funded by an NRSA or T32 are not eligible, but otherwise postdocs are encouraged to apply. Graduate students, postdocs, and faculty can apply.

**Timeline:** Pilot funds are limited to one year of support. Projects with meritorious progress can apply for a second year of funding. No-cost extensions will be possible with written justification.

**Budget:** The maximum level of support will be $10,000 in direct costs. There is no additional support for indirect costs. The funds must be used for a new project. The amount of support provided will be contingent on project scope and availability of funds.

**Deadline:** Applications are due December 23rd, 2020 by midnight. Applicants will be notified of award decision in March 2021. IRB or ACUC approval are required before projects can begin.

**Format:** Application Format PHS398 (revised 03/2020; [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html)) must be used; text must be in an NIH-style, 11-point font).

Please include:

1. NIH-Style Face Page (form page 1)
2. Project Summary, Relevance, Performance Site and Key Personnel (form page 2)
3. Detailed Budget (form page 4)
4. Budget justification
5. Project effort for the PI(s), whether directly charged or cost-shared
6. Biographical Sketches for key personnel
7. Other Support (specify any potential overlap)
8. Resources and Environment (relevant to the pilot project)
9. Research Plan: Specific Aims, Background & Significance, Innovation, Research Design & Methods, Literature
   (Max of 3 pages including figures; references are not included in page count)
10. Human Subjects or Vertebrate Animals (as applicable, only after the project is funded)

Applications should be submitted electronically. It does not need to be submitted to OSR. Proposals chosen will be presented to NIDA for final approval, and will then need OSR approval and signatures from PIs.

**FOR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS ONLY:**

You must also include with your application a letter from your mentor supporting the application and confirming the time and resource commitment. You cannot hold a National Service Research Award (NRSA) or NIH training grant appointment and a Pilot Project simultaneously.

Review Criteria:

1. Significance to the field
2. Innovation
3. Scientific merit and research design
4. Use of resources and tools/methods of CTPR Core Facilities
5. Appropriateness of proposed research time schedule
6. Appropriateness of proposed budget (negotiable by the review committee)
7. Probability that the pilot project will lead to independent funding

Key Dates:
November 30th 2020 – Applications open
December 23rd 2020 – Applications due
March 2021 – Awards announced

Reporting Requirements:
Grantees will be required to summarize their research progress in March 2022. A final research and expenditures report will be required in July 2022. Pilot grant awardees will be expected to present their grant progress during Pain Research Day in October 2022. Investigators should acknowledge CTPR support and grant number P50 DA044121 on any publications resulting from pilot grant support.

Please submit your application in PDF format to:
j-griffith@northwestern.edu

Questions regarding the Pilot Grant program or the application process can be directed to:
A. Vania Apkarian, PhD, a-apkarian@northwestern.edu or
James Griffith, PhD  j-griffith@northwestern.edu