

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. Both clinical and basic science projects are welcome.

The project can be on any topic related to chronic pain and/or opiates.

Some topics that are of particular interest to our center are:

- Novel approaches to analyzing pain and opioid exposure data
- Novel analyses of existing data (e.g., on the Dataverse, openpain.org, the EDW); This could include refinement of image analysis; analyses of longitudinal pain response; analyses of multidimensional pain data (e.g., intensity, quality, pain site) leading to new insights, AI, Bayesian, network analyses, and more
- Language processing analysis relevant to chronic pain and opioid analgesia and dependence
- Survey and/or behavioral studies related to chronic pain, substance misuse, and other goals of the center
- Projects that seek to understand and eliminate health disparities in chronic pain and opioid management
- 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: Graduate students, postdocs, and faculty can apply: The proposed research project must be relevant to clinical or basic science research on chronic pain and opioid exposure. 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 or graduate student, within Northwestern University. Postdocs who are already funded by an NRSA or T32 are not eligible, but otherwise postdocs are encouraged to apply. Projects with Multiple Principal Investigators are allowed.

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, 2021 by midnight. Applicants will be notified of award decision in March 2022. 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>) must be used; text must be in an NIH-style, 11-point font).

Key Dates:

December 23rd 2021 – Applications due at midnight

March 2022 – Awards announced

Please include:

1. Application title page (included in this document)
2. Project Summary/Abstract (30 lines, see template below)
3. Project Narrative (3 sentences, see template below)
4. Detailed Budget (form page 4 included in this document); the PI must charge effort to the grant or specify cost sharing
5. Budget justification
6. Biographical Sketches for key personnel
7. Research Plan: Specific Aims, Background & Significance, Innovation, Research Design & Methods, Literature
(Max of 3 pages including figures; references are not included in page count)
8. Human Subjects or Vertebrate Animals (as applicable, **only after the project is funded**)

Applications should be submitted electronically by email to j-griffith@northwestern.edu. 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

Reporting Requirements:

Grantees will be required to summarize their research progress in March 2023. A final research and expenditures report will be required in July 2023. Pilot grant awardees will be expected to present their grant progress during Pain Research Day in October 2023. 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

CENTER FOR TRANSLATIONAL PAIN RESEARCH

Pilot Application Title Page - 2022

Title of Project (81 characters or fewer):

*If there are Multiple Principal Investigators (PIs),
list details for all PIs and designate one person as the contact PI.*

Principal Investigator:

Name (include degrees):

Position Title:

Department:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

PROJECT SUMMARY [*30 lines*]

PROJECT NARRATIVE

[*Three sentences on the relevance to public health, in plain language for a general, lay audience*]

DETAILED BUDGET FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIOD DIRECT COSTS ONLY	FROM	THROUGH
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List PERSONNEL (*Applicant organization only*)
 Use Cal, Acad, or Summer to Enter Months Devoted to Project
 Enter Dollar Amounts Requested (*omit cents*) for Salary Requested and Fringe Benefits

NAME	ROLE ON PROJECT	Cal. Mnths	Acad. Mnths	Summer Mnths	INST.BASE SALARY	SALARY REQUESTED	FRINGE BENEFITS	TOTAL
	PD/PI							

SUBTOTALS →

CONSULTANT COSTS	
EQUIPMENT (<i>Itemize</i>)	
SUPPLIES (<i>Itemize by category</i>)	
TRAVEL	
INPATIENT CARE COSTS	
OUTPATIENT CARE COSTS	
ALTERATIONS AND RENOVATIONS (<i>Itemize by category</i>)	
OTHER EXPENSES (<i>Itemize by category</i>)	

CONSORTIUM/CONTRACTUAL COSTS	DIRECT COSTS	
SUBTOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIOD (<i>Item 7a, Face Page</i>)		\$
CONSORTIUM/CONTRACTUAL COSTS	FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIOD		\$

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

[BIOSKETCHES FOR ALL KEY PERSONNEL HERE]

[APPLICATION HERE – Aims and Research Strategy should be not more than three pages, not counting references]