

Penn Epigenetics Institute

2025 At-Large Pilot Projects Grant Application

Deadline: June 2, 2024 at 11:59PM EST

The Penn Epigenetics Institute announces a request for applications of a Pilot Projects Grant for faculty to conduct epigenetics-related research projects. A broad spectrum of proposal topics will be considered, including those that involve fundamental studies in epigenetics as well as more applied or disease-oriented studies that utilize epigenetics as a central component of the research.

Investigator Eligibility

- Only Epigenetics Core Faculty, Interest Group Members, and Program Members that are active participants of the Epigenetics Institute employed at the University of Pennsylvania or employed at one of our partner institutions (e.g. CHOP, Wistar) are eligible to apply for the Epigenetics Institute Pilot Project Grant. Active participation refers to attendance of monthly meetings, workshops etc. Proposals can be submitted by individual Principal Investigators or as a collaborative grant between a maximum of two different Principal Investigators. The proposed area of research cannot be funded through an existing or prior peer-reviewed national research grant.
- Emphasis will be on junior faculty and collaborations that bring together investigators with disparate expertise.

Research Project Criteria

- Innovative epigenetics research projects that have the potential for future peer review funding. Proposals focusing on development of new technology are encouraged.
- Research projects currently or previously funded through a national research grant will not be accepted. However, investigators with pending applications or those in the process of resubmission are encouraged to apply for a pilot award. If the funding comes through from NIH, we ask that the pilot grant funding be returned to us and it is understood that the project will not be eligible for second year funding through this program. The proposed research should be specifically distinguished from Aims in any related funding.

Award Period

The award period for the Pilot Project grant will be from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. No carryover of funds will be allowed. Awardees will be encouraged to apply for a 2nd year of funding if eligibility is maintained. Important criteria for such competitive renewals include scientific progress and attempts to secure external funding during the 1st year.

Funding Limits

The maximum award for the Epigenetics Institute Pilot Projects Grant will be up to \$50,000.

Allowable expenditures include:

- Research supplies and animal maintenance
- Technician/laboratory personnel support
- Costs of computer time
- Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)

- Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral trainees if their role is to promote and sustain the project presented by the faculty member
- Small equipment (e.g., less than \$5,000)

Non-allowable expenditures include:

- Secretarial/administrative personnel
- Office equipment and supplies
- Faculty salary
- Tuition
- Travel
- Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books
- Dues and membership fees in scientific societies
- Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
- Recruitment or relocation expenses
- Office and laboratory furniture
- Rental of office or laboratory space
- Patient care expenses, including per diem charge for hospital stay
- Non-medical or personnel services to patients
- Construction or building maintenance
- Major alterations

Submission Guidelines

- **Cover Page:**
 - Title of Project
 - The name of the Epigenetics Pilot Grant you are applying for (At-Large Epigenetics Pilot Grant)
 - PI name(s), PI signature(s) and professional title(s)
 - Department Chair Signature and title
- **Research Proposal:** The application for an Epigenetics Institute Pilot Project is limited to 2-pages and should conform to the following format:
 - Abstract of Proposed Research
 - Specific Aims
 - Significance of research and impact on the field of epigenetics
 - Description of Proposed Research
 - References (will not be included in the 2-page limit)
- **Pilot Project Budget (1 page)**
- **NIH Biosketch:** An NIH format biosketch must be submitted for the **PI and the Co-PIs only**. The Biographical sketch must list current and pending support.
- **Application should be submitted online through the online application form and all documents should be uploaded at the end of the online application as one single pdf.**
- **Application Form Link:** https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0f8Dgvh3OB2VN7U

Submission Deadline

All proposals are due by **June 2, 2024 at 11:59 PM EST** for a project start date of **July 1, 2024**. **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Post-Award Requirements

- Once awarded a grant, awardees should be active in the epigenetics community through seminar presentations and participation in local events of the epigenetics community.

- Awardees must submit progress reports and report successful and independent grant applications resulting from the pilot grant.
- Awardees are required to inform the Epigenetics Institute if the pilot project receives external funding during the project period.
- Awardees must acknowledge the Epigenetics Institute support in all scientific posters, presentations, and publications using the specific language listed below:
"This research was supported by a pilot award from the Epigenetics Institute at the University of Pennsylvania."
- Awardees will give a presentation within the 2024 - 2025 Epigenetics Monthly Seminar Series.
- Awardees must present a poster at the Epigenetics Annual Retreat.
- A final progress report is due one month after the close of the project period. The one-page report will contain a synopsis of scientific progress, a list of resulting collaborations, publications, and grants, and a description of the relationship of the project to our Core usage.

For additional information, please contact:

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