Penn Epigenetics Institute: Mass Spectrometry & Epigenetics Pilot Project Grant Application
Deadline: February 20, 2017

Submission & Budget Guidelines

The Penn Epigenetics Institute announces a request for applications of a Pilot Project Grant for faculty to conduct epigenetics-related research projects involving use of mass spectrometry. 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 mass spectrometry as a central component of the research.

Investigator Eligibility

• Only full-time faculty that are members and active participants of the Epigenetics Institute employed at the University of Pennsylvania are eligible to apply. Proposals can be submitted by individual Principal Investigators or as a collaborative grant between a maximum of two 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 research projects in the general field of Epigenetics that make substantial use of mass spectrometry and have the potential for future peer review funding. Proposals focusing on development of new technology are encouraged.

• Research projects currently 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 funding be returned to us and it is understood that the project will not be eligible for second year funding through this program.

Award Period

The award period for the Pilot Project grant will be from March 15, 2017 – March 15, 2018. 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.

The deadline for submitting a completed Mass Spectrometry & Epigenetics Pilot Project application is February 20, 2017.

Funding Limits

The maximum award for the Mass Spectrometry & Epigenetics Pilot Projects will be $30,000. Applicants must detail in their budget how funds will be spent for mass spectrometry experiments.

Allowable expenditures include:

- Mass spectrometry expenses
- 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
Non-allowable expenditures include:
- Equipment, unless a small piece of equipment is essential for the experiments
- 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**
- The application for a Mass Spectrometry & Epigenetics Pilot Project is limited to 2-pages and should conform to the following format includes:
  - 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)

- A NIH Biographical sketch that lists current and pending support and must be included with the completed application.

- A 1-page pilot project budget must be included in the application.

- Note that the signatures of the investigator(s) and respective Department Chair are the only ones required and should be on a separate sheet from the 2-page application section.

**The application should be submitted electronically as one pdf file to:**

Sophia Castro-Anderson, Epigenetics Program Coordinator: andes@mail.med.upenn.edu