



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY

School of Medicine

INDIANA ALCOHOL RESEARCH CENTER PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM

The Indiana Alcohol Research Center (IARC) is soliciting proposals for pilot projects from investigators who want to develop research programs on alcohol use disorders (AUD). The purpose of an IARC pilot grant is to allow an investigator to obtain preliminary data that will lead to extramural funding. Applications pertinent to the behavioral, biological, and genetic mechanisms of alcohol preference, binge-level (breath alcohol= 0.08) and higher ('high-intensity drinking') intake, and tolerance, are particularly relevant. Other proposals that elucidate mechanisms of AUD and risk for AUD are also welcome, as are novel techniques that are likely to move the field forward.

Pilot projects are limited to \$50,000 (direct costs) per year for two years (salary support for the principal investigator is allowed up to 5% effort). Up to two projects will be funded this funding period (December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2026). **The application deadline is September 3, 2024.** An e-mailed letter of intent to Dr. Karmen Yoder (kkyoder@iupui.edu) that includes the proposal title, the principal and co-investigators, and a few sentences describing the project is required by **August 1, 2024.**

Early-career investigators or researchers new to the field of alcohol research are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants should hold a faculty appointment in the IU system. Applicants should use [PHS 398 form](#) pages 1, 2, 4, and 5, Biographical Sketch for each Key Personnel, Resources Page, Checklist, and if applicable, Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table. A one-page cover letter with complete contact information for the Principal Investigator is also required. The Research Plan is limited to 3 pages and must include the following:

1. **Specific Aims** (1/2-page limit): Goals of the research, expected outcomes/impact on the research field(s), and objectives.
2. **Significance**: Importance of the problem; how this line of research will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, etc.; how and why the preliminary data obtained will support an extramural proposal for the broader line of research.
3. **Innovation**: Describe novel approaches, methodologies, instrumentation etc., and any advantage over existing ones; how the application challenges/seek to shift current research.
4. **Approach**: Overall strategy, methodology and analyses; how data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted; Potential problems, alternative strategies; add any PI's preliminary studies, data and experience.
5. **Application Plans**: Describe plans/timeline to apply for extramural funding related to the pilot project, including funding sources.
6. **Connection with IARC**: Provide details on how this pilot project is related to the IARC scientific program and/or uses center resources.

The following criteria will be used in evaluating applications:

- A. **Scientific merit** (scientific premise, impact, significance, innovation, feasibility)
- B. **Investigators** (expertise, potential contributions, career stage, new entry into alcohol research)
- C. **Likelihood of leading to extramural funding** (R01 or similar)
- D. If appropriate to the proposal, **Relevance to the [IARC scientific program](#)** and use of center resources (facilities, expertise, animals, data, specimens, etc.)

Applicants should submit their application in a single PDF file using the **START A SUBMISSION** link on the Indiana CTSI [website](#), **no later than September 3, 2024.**

The funding of the IARC pilot project program is conditional on continued support from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, as well as approval of recommended proposals by the Program Officer. Questions should be directed to Karmen Yoder, Pilot Core Director, at kkyoder@iupui.edu or 317-963-7507.