2024 Collaborative Pilot Research Grant
AN INITIATIVE FUNDED BY
The Neuroscience Institute (NSI)

DEADLINE: January 31st, 2024 @ 11:59 p.m.

Application: UPLOAD via the Start a Submission link here: NSI Collaborative Pilot Research Grant

Please note that you will be submitting through the Indiana CTSI's grants management software WebCAMP.

The WebCAMP user's guide is available under the funding announcement here:
https://www.indianactsi.org/researchers/funding/open-funding-opportunities/

For RFA questions, Lindsay Treadway treadway@iuhealth.org

Contact **Julie Driscol** judrisco@iu.edu / 317-278-2822 for WebCAMP questions.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Working across the tripartite mission, the IUH/IUSM Neurosciences Institute (NSI) is a multi-disciplinary collaboration between the SNRI, Neurology, and Neurological Surgery as well as other clinical departments. Through these partnerships, the NSI is passionately committed to pursuing cutting-edge care and discovery across the neurosciences by reducing the burden of disorders of the nervous system through world class therapies, interventions, and cures for the people of Indiana and beyond.

This **Collaborative Pilot Research Grant** program is intended to provide research support for new research projects in areas of relevance to the scientific mission of the NSI.

The Overarching Goal of the NSI Collaborative Pilot Grant is to provide pilot funding to support new research collaborations that will produce preliminary data needed to prepare subsequent research grant applications:

- Establish new research collaborations that advance the NSI strategic research goals
- Encourage investigators working within and outside the neurosciences to submit exploratory, initial feasibility pilot studies within the mission of the NSI
- Provide funding to generate preliminary data that will lead to larger-scale research applications, including clinical research studies
- Support novel hypotheses, new methodologies, techniques, new animal models

Examples of projects may include:

- Feasibility studies
- Secondary analysis of existing data
- Development of new research technology or research methodology
- Research projects leading to a defined product, resource or "deliverable" that has inherent value to neuroscience. Examples include: promising new clinical evaluation techniques/tools or treatment options; creation of new animal models (e.g., mouse genetic models); generation of reagents (e.g., antibodies, RNAi, affinity capture reagents for use in a protein chip microarray); development of cellular models for neurological disorders; development of novel phenotypic or behavioral screens for models of neurological disorders.

All applications should have a maximum requested amount of $50,000 and be limited to a two-year duration with a start date of July, 2024.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants (the contact PI and Co-PI(s)) must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply.

1. Must have primary appointments at Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM, all campuses), Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Indiana University (IU, all campuses), Purdue University, or University of Notre Dame
2. All eligible applicants must be independent investigators who have the education, skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. Faculty in visiting rank and postdoctoral fellows or their equivalent are not eligible.
3. Must involve collaboration between two or more principal investigators in areas of relevance to the scientific mission of the NSI and avoid focusing on existing collaborative relationships or efforts.
4. Collaboration must include at least one team member from the IU School of Medicine/ Neuroscience Institute.

APPLICATION & SUBMISSION PROCESS

Application Parameters:

- Applications may include basic, translational, or clinical neuroscience researchers
- Project must be responsive to the scientific mission of the NSI
- This initiative will provide $25,000, per year for a period of up to 2 years. The second year of funding will be contingent on progress (as evaluated by the Pilot Grant Committee). Total funding available is up to $50,000 in the 2 years.
- Applications are due January 31st, 2024 review February 1st through May 31st, funding decisions will be announced June 15th, 2024

Application Guidelines:

Application narratives should follow the sequence provided in the application form and be single spaced in at least 11 point Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype or Georgia typeface, using 0.5 inch margins. The abstract and research plan together should not to exceed 5 pages.

Applications should follow the sequence outlined on the application form:

1. **Abstract (included in 5 pages allowed):**
   o Provide a brief summary of your project. Include the project's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, a description of the research design/methods for achieving the stated goals and neurosciences interdisciplinary collaborations.
2. **Research Plan (included in 5 pages allowed):**

- o Describe the research plan to include: specific aims, significance, innovation and approach
- o Address the impact and future plans (potential for subsequent external funding)
- o If this is a resubmission, an additional ½ page is allowed for response to reviewer's comments.

3. **Additional Information:**
   - o Key personnel
   - o Investigator bio sketches (NIH format)
   - o Budget and justification
   - o Letters of support from collaborators

Review Criteria: The **primary** review criteria will be the strength of the **proposed new research collaborations** and the **potential for the pilot study proposed to lead** to larger scale research application and future funding (e.g. NIH R01, or equivalent).

Proposed Collaborations:

- Strength of the proposed new/*novel* research collaboration
- Clarity with which the proposed new collaboration is justified and integrated into the study aims/plan
- Explain how this new collaboration will lead to future, externally funded research proposals
- The potential of the proposed pilot study to be the basis of future research studies/ lead to large scale research application/serve as basis/foundation for subsequent research grant application
- Projects that include/incorporate basic and clinical scientists, and/or a physician in a multidisciplinary focus are especially encouraged to apply

Project Justification

- A successful pilot project will provide the data needed to apply for large scale external funding
- Explain how this project represents a change in research focus or a new research direction for laboratory, why this project would not be appropriate for submission as a "regular" research grant at this time, and how this project, if fruitful, will enable you to craft a research proposal appropriate for submission as a full-scale research grant application
- Specific aims should describe the technology being development needs or the data being acquired
- To obtain preliminary data and conduct studies to support the rationale for a subsequent full-scale research proposal

Scientific Review Criteria will also be evaluated

1. **Significance**
   o Does the study address an important problem?
   o Will the study advance scientific knowledge or clinical practice?

2. **Innovation**
   o Will the project advance new or novel information?
   o Does the project challenge existing paradigms or clinical practice?
   o Will the study provide the foundation for future research in the field?

3. **Approach**
   o Is the proposed methodology appropriate to address the goals of the project?
   o Is the proposed methodology clearly described?

4. **Investigators**
   o Are the key personnel appropriately trained and able to successfully accomplish this work?
   o Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project?

5. **Environment**
   o Are the inclusion/exclusion criteria appropriate?
   o Are the proposed study subjects available?

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS

1. Awards cannot be given without proof of any applicable regulatory documentation. It is, therefore, important that applicants be ready to submit any necessary IACUC or IRB documents at the time of award notification.

2. Any publications and/or grant submissions from this study should acknowledge this initiative and the Neuroscience Institute. The appropriate acknowledgement statement will be provided by the Neuroscience Institute with the award notification.

3. Completion of an annual progress report while the project is still active and annually for three years following the completion of funding to collect outcomes and impact. (Please note: If a one year no cost extension is given, then the project will require an additional progress report.) Reports will be due in December and an online link will be sent via the Indiana CTSI staff.

4. Presentation of findings and/or grant results to the Neuroscience Institute leadership and review committee at one or more sponsored events. The time and place of these presentations is dependent on the Neuroscience Institute.

5. Notification to the Neuroscience Institute in writing, if you leave your institution before the project is complete and/or if the project is transferred to another PI.

6. Requested grant funding period cannot exceed 24 months. However, funded projects may be extended for up to one year with approval. When circumstances prevent a Principal Investigator (PI) from completing their proposed project objectives by the award end date and funds are still available, the PI should consider a no-cost extension (NCE).

   In order to request a no-cost extension for this grant, please use the following instructions to help you through the process. Notably, a no-cost extension MUST be requested in advance of the end date of the award.

   The PI should send the following information to the Neuroscience Institute Leadership ltreadway@iuhealth.org
   - Grant mechanism
   - Principal Investigator
   - Title of project and original expiration date
   - Summary of work accomplished to date
   - Reasons for delay in project and extension request
   - New end date requested
   - Copies of latest, approved, applicable regulatory documents
   - Account number, remaining balance, and how the remaining funds will be spent during the extension