

2021 JOINT PILOT GRANT REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Center for Exercise Medicine, Hypertension Research Center, McKnight Brain Institute

The UAB Center for Exercise Medicine (UCEM), UAB Hypertension Research Center (HRC) and the McKnight Brain Institute (MBI) are pleased to announce a joint RFA to fund pilot research that focuses on the intersection of exercise, hypertension and cognition. We anticipate funding projects that expand the scope of the applicant to include research relevant to all three of these specific areas. Only proposals with a clear translational relevance will be considered. Funds should be used to generate key preliminary data to develop publications and contribute to an application for extramural funding. Funding that continues ongoing projects will not be considered. **Interdisciplinary, multi-PI projects that link basic, clinical or population investigators and have advanced beyond the initial stages of planning are strongly encouraged to apply. Projects that are responsive to an upcoming or issued NIH RFA or Program Announcement will be considered high priority. Applications from PIs from multiple schools and/or that establish new collaborations are encouraged.**

If funded, the proposed start date of the Joint Pilot Grant will be September 1, 2021. Up to 2 pilot projects with budgets not exceeding a total of \$50,000 each will be awarded based on merit of the applications. Awards are not renewable. Awardees will be required to present at one of the annual meetings of either the UCEM, HRC or MBI as well as provide an interim and final report of accomplishments.

ELIGIBILITY and EXPECTATIONS

1. Open to all full-time UAB faculty members at the Assistant Professor level or above.
2. Projects can be basic, translational, clinical, or population science, or a combination (i.e. basic-clinical, basic-population, etc.). This RFA is specifically soliciting innovative and high-impact science. Projects are expected to open a new line of investigation that bridges gaps between the areas of hypertension, exercise and cognition. Preference will be given to multi-investigator, team-based proposals – with emphasis on the establishment of new collaborations.
3. Applications that are extensions of currently funded research will not be considered. A statement describing **both** how this application differs from currently funded projects **and** how it has translational relevance should be included.
4. IRB and/or IACUC protocol submission prior to the funding start date is required (if applicable).
5. Awarded projects are expected to promote submission of extramural NIH or equivalent proposals within 12 months of pilot project expiration.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. A 2 page Letter of Intent should be submitted by **May 21, 2021 at 5:00pm (CT)** and should include: title of proposal, names of the PI and Co-Investigators, a brief statement of goals, how the proposed research addresses a significant problem of translational relevance, any new collaborations to be established and specific plans for how the proposed work will directly lead to a subsequent application for extramural funding.
2. Biosketch(es) of the PI(s) should be submitted.
3. PIs of the most meritorious pre-proposals will be notified by **June 1, 2021** and the **full proposal will be due by 5:00pm (CT) on Thursday, July 15, 2021**. The full application must include, in the following order:
 - Project title and summary describing the potential translational implications of the project and list of all participants, their expertise and contributions to the project (**≤ 1 page**).
 - Current NIH Biosketches for all key personnel ([Forms Library | grants.nih.gov](https://www.nih.gov/grants/forms-library)).
 - Budget and justification, including description of management of the project (**≤ 2 pg**), along with the source and extent of any matching funds and other available resources.
 - Scientific overview of project: hypotheses, aims, significance, clinical relevance, and approach (**≤ 4 pg**).
 - Timeline for milestones & deliverables, with a description of the targeted NIH (or other) grant mechanism (**≤ 1/2 pg**).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

<https://redcap.dom.uab.edu/surveys/?s=XKRYLHKE34>

Letter of Intent must be submitted electronically in a single PDF to Faith Lang (faithlang@uabmc.edu) by **Friday, May 21, 2021 at 5:00pm CT** and full proposals are due July 15, 2021. All applications should use the NIH PHS 398 forms for cover page, key personnel, budget, budget justification and NIH Biosketch, along with other support for all key personnel. Applications must use Arial 11-point font with 0.5-inch margins. Faculty salary, travel or publication costs are not to be included. **NO** indirect costs are awarded. Budgets should not be used to offset faculty salary. Applications that are not formatted as described will not be considered for review.

KEY DATES

- May 21, 2021: Deadline to submit Letter of Intent
- June 1, 2021: Applicants notified for full proposal submission
- July 15, 2021: Full proposal submission deadline
- September 1, 2021: Proposed funding start date