

Request for Applications: Pilot Research Projects

The Division of Preventive Medicine invites applications for pilot research in the areas of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular, cancer, and addiction and substance abuse. Applicants are also encouraged to address our cross cutting themes of health disparities, outcomes and health services research, behavioral science, and population health/health systems.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Available Resources: The Division will provide support to funded pilots through the division infrastructure that includes: 1) the Biostatistics Shared Facility; 2) The Recruitment and Retention Shared Facility; 3) The Minority Health and Health Disparities Center; 4) The Research Clinic; 5) The Nutrition Facility; 6) DOPM Grants and Contract Office; and 7) DOPM IT and programming services. Contact information for the listed infrastructure is at the end of this document.

II. Award Information

Number of Awards: Up to 6 projects will be funded.

Award Budget: Total available funds for this announcement are \$400,000. We anticipate funding 4-6 projects. Application budgets are limited to \$100,000 in total costs for the entire duration of the project.

Award Project Period: The award project period is up to 1 year. Semiannual progress reports will be required for all funded projects, and funding will be contingent upon making adequate progress consistent with the proposed research plan.

III. Eligibility Information

Only faculty members at the levels of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor, with primary appointment in the Division of Preventive Medicine, are eligible for this pilot funding program. Applicants at the level of Assistant Professor must have a senior faculty member within DOPM serving as a mentor. Collaboration between DOPM faculty is highly encouraged. Applicants may participate in more than one application per cycle but may not submit more than one application as the Principal Investigator of a project.

IV. Application and Submission Information

The application process will be conducted in two phases: letter of intent and full proposal. Letters of intent deemed meritorious by the selection committee will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Key Dates

<u>Letters of intent due:</u>	January 12, 2018
<u>Announcement of LOIs selected for a full proposal:</u>	January 26, 2018
<u>Full proposals due:</u>	March 1, 2018
<u>Announcement of recipients:</u>	March 23, 2018
<u>Project start date:</u>	April 1, 2018

LETTERS OF INTENT AND FULL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY AT
www.uab.edu/medicine/mhrc/research/funding-opportunities

Letter of Intent (limited to 1 page): Include PI/Investigator(s) names and title(s), mentor(s) and title(s) if applicable, project title, purpose of the study, specific aims, timeline, and project cost.

Full Proposal: Investigators should submit an NIH-format application on **combined PHS 398 forms** (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>) as a single Word or PDF file. Applications should be single-spaced, with at least 0.5-inch margins, and should use 11- or 12-point Arial or Times fonts.

Applications should include:

- Face Page
- Project Summary/Abstract and Relevance
- Project/Performance Sites
- Key Personnel
- Other Significant Contributors
- Mentorship Plan – for Assistant Professors only (limit to 1 page)
- Table of Contents
- Detailed Budget
- Budget Justification
- Research Strategy (4 pages, plus 1 page Specific Aims):
 - a. Specific Aims (1 page)
 - b. Significance
 - c. Innovation
 - d. Approach
- Human Subjects Research (if applicable)
- References/Literature Cited
- Targeted Enrollment Table
- Letters of Support are optional

V. Funding Restrictions

The following types of expenditures are allowable:

- a. Research supplies
- b. Technical assistance
- c. Domestic travel when necessary to carry out or present the proposed research
- d. Publication costs, including reprints
- e. Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)
- f. Stipends for graduate students/postdoctoral fellows if their role is to support the project
- g. Equipment costing less than \$2,000
- h. Registration fees for scientific meetings
- i. Investigator salary
- j. Consultant/contractor costs
- k. Participant incentives

The following types of expenditures are **not** allowed:

- a. Secretarial/administrative personnel
- b. Tuition
- c. Foreign travel
- d. Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
- e. Per diem charges for hospital beds
- f. Construction or building maintenance

- g. Office and laboratory furniture and office equipment
- h. Rental of office or laboratory space (excluding rental space specific to the study, e.g., community space for participant interviews or focus groups.)

VI. Application Review Information

Applications will be evaluated on the scientific merit of the project, the mentorship plan if applicable, and the potential for future funding. It is expected that awarded projects will lead to R01/R03/R21 applications, K-awards, or other extramural funding.

Review Criteria

Overall Impact. Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the scored review criteria below:

Relevance and Significance. Is the project relevant to the focus of this FOA? Does the proposal address an important issue? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice improve? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Investigator(s). Are the PIs, collaborators, and mentors well suited to the project? Do they have appropriate experience and training? Does the proposed mentorship plan ensure accomplishment of the project aims?

Innovation. Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Approach. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for protection of human subjects from research risks, and engagement with community partners adequate?

Future Funding Potential. What is the likelihood that the pilot project will lead to an R01/R03/R21 application, a K-award, or other extramural funding?

VII. Infrastructure Services Contacts

We encourage inquiries concerning this funding opportunity from potential applicants.

Biostatistics Shared Facility:	Aras Acemgil, MBA	aacemgil@uabmc.edu	5-7932
DOPM IT:	Byron Chancellor	bchancellor@uabmc.edu	4-7662
DOPM Grants and Contract Office	Michelle East	meast1@uabmc.edu	6-1406
DOPM Programing Services	Aras Acemgil, MBA	aacemgil@uabmc.edu	5-7932
Minority Health and Health Disparities Center	Mona Fouad, MD, MPH	mfouad@uabmc.edu	4-4307
Nutrition Facility	Gareth Dutton, PhD	gdutton@uabmc.edu	4-6876
Recruitment and Retention Shared Facility	Cynthia Y. Johnson	cyjohnson@uabmc.edu	5-7934
Research Clinic	Beth Lewis, MD, MSPH	celewis@uabmc.edu	4-6383