



UAB Nephrology Research and Training Center and Division of Nephrology

THE NRTC/ DIVISION of NEPHROLOGY MPI PILOT AWARD PROGRAM

The **UAB Nephrology Research and Training Center (NRTC)** and the **Division of Nephrology** invite proposals for interested faculty to participate in **The NRTC/Division of Nephrology MPI Pilot Award Program that is designed for multi-investigator collaborations in research in kidney-related diseases.**

Proposals must include **at least two investigators**, with a faculty member holding a **primary appointment within the Division of Nephrology** serving as the contact PI, and at least one UAB investigator from outside the Division of Nephrology. Proposed projects may be **clinical, preclinical, translational, and multidisciplinary research**, including - but not limited to - studies of kidney disease pathophysiology, fundamental biological mechanisms, therapeutic strategies, translational approaches, and clinical outcomes. The overarching goal of this pilot program is to provide **seed funding for team-based research** that will position investigators to successfully pursue subsequent **extramural funding**.

The proposed start date for this award is **July 1, 2026**. **Up to two projects** will be funded, contingent upon merit and availability of funds. Applications will be evaluated using **NIH review criteria**, with particular emphasis on significance, team-based approaches to investigating the hypotheses proposed and the likelihood of securing future extramural support. This funding opportunity specifically supports **Team Science and multi-investigator projects** that foster collaborative approaches and expand the scope and impact of kidney disease research at UAB.

ELIGIBILITY

Any UAB faculty member with a kidney related project/idea is eligible to apply. One investigator must hold a primary appointment in the Division of Nephrology, and at least one investigator from outside the Division.

TERMS OF SUPPORT

- Up to \$40,000 per year in project-related direct costs can be requested for the proposal, including appropriate staff salary support and supplies. No salary support for faculty may be requested, but reasonable support for staff is allowable. **No indirect costs or subawards will be allowed.**
- The award will be for one year. The successful applicants will be required to provide a 6-month progress report that highlights benchmarks of success and a final report at the end of the funding period. The PI will also be asked to present in the NRTC noon seminar after the completion of the award.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Letter of intent - maximum one single-spaced page (0.5-inch margins, 11 size Arial font) including the title, key personnel, the summary of the proposal, benchmarks proposed, and the plan for applying for extramural funds.

Full application - all proposals should include the following components **as a single PDF document**:

- A maximum of four total pages for Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation and Approach
- NIH format biosketches for all MPIs
- Budget pages and justification: PHS Form 398, conform to the NIH instructions
- Multi-PI plan (1/2 to 1 page). The Multi-PI plan must include description of clear roles for each investigator, with an explanation of how the project will promote synergy and requires a multidisciplinary approach.

APPLICATION DEADLINES AND DATES

- **Letter of intent deadline:** Friday, April 3, 2026 at 5 PM CST. Please send an electronic copy via email to mvasiliu@uab.edu
- **Full application deadline:** Friday, May 1, 2026 at 5 PM CST
- **Anticipated start date of funding:** July 1, 2026.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Paul Sanders (psanders@uabmc.edu) or Dr. Monica Vasiliu (mvasiliu@uab.edu).