

The Lung Health Center Pilot Program for Lung Research

Application Guidelines

Purpose

The Lung Health Center (LHC) Pilot Program seeks to foster lung-related research across campus by enhancing translational, collaborative and team science targeted towards amelioration of lung disease.

Eligibility

Candidates are preferably early-stage investigators and within 7 years of graduation with terminal degree. Both basic science researchers and clinical researchers are encouraged to apply. PIs must be full-time faculty at the Instructor or Assistant Professor level at UAB. Projects that are supported by ongoing extramural funding will not be considered. Candidates currently supported by research training grants or intramural funding may apply. Candidates who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States should demonstrate appropriate visa status that will allow completion of the study within the allocated time.

Research Areas of Interest:

Submission Requirements

Letter of Intent:

A two-page letter of intent (LOI) should be submitted. The LOI should include names/titles of the principal investigator and co-investigators; a brief summary of aims of the study; plans for subsequent application for extramural funding. Please submit the PI's biosketch with the LOI.

Complete application:

Applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal after review of the LOI. Consultation with a biostatistician for input on study design is required before submission of the full application. The complete application should be submitted to itis-lhc@mail.ad.uab.edu by 5:00 PM CST on April 30, 2021. Submit the application as a single PDF file. The submission should include the following, and any missing documents will result in rejection of the application.

- Specific aims (one page)
- Research plan (6 pages)
- Bibliography (excluded from page limit)
- Candidate statement (300 words)
- Biosketches of PI and collaborators
- Budget
- Budget justification
- IRB and/or IACUC protocol approval prior to the funding start date (as applicable)
- Letter of support from the Division Chief or Department Chair.

The Research Plan should include sections on significance, innovation, approach, and project timeline. Preliminary data is encouraged but is not necessary. For all documents, page margins must measure at least 0.5 inch (top, bottom, and sides) on pages formatted to be no larger than 8.5" x 11". Font size must be at least 11 points. Smaller text of at least 8 points in above is permissible for figure legends, graphs and diagrams. Fonts recommended are one of Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, and Palatino Linotype (per NIH guidance). The type density must be no more than 15 characters per linear inch (including characters and spaces). The line spacing must be no more than six lines per vertical inch.

Duration and Effort:

Funding in the amount of \$40,000 will be provided for one year. Candidates may request up to \$10,000 for salary support inclusive of F&A (can be used for investigators, research staff, or coordinators).

We anticipate funding two awards in the first year.

Allowable Costs:

The pilot grant will provide one year of support. Costs allowed are salary support for PI and/or research staff, supplies and/or equipment directly relevant to proposed research, and travel.

Core Services:

Candidates may, and are encouraged to, utilize the core services provided by the LHC. These include, but are not limited to:

Pulmonary Function Tests (PFT): The LHC has a state-of-the-art PFT lab which can perform spirometry, body plethysmography, diffusing capacity of carbon monoxide (DLCO), impulse oscillometry, 6-minute walk tests, and cardiopulmonary exercise testing.

Lung Imaging: The UAB Lung Imaging Lab focuses on the use of advanced imaging techniques and image processing to aid early diagnosis and phenotyping of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other lung diseases. Members of the lab bring complementary expertise in pulmonary, radiology, biomedical engineering, electrical engineering, and computer science. Candidates can avail of quantitative analyses of CT scans.

Laboratory of Integrative 'Omics: This lab has expertise in 'omics analyses as well as cell biology, genetic epidemiology, biostatistics, statistical genetics, computer programming, bioinformatics and network theory.

Biorepository: The LHC maintains a biorepository of human samples including serum, plasma, and induced sputum from current and former smokers with COPD and healthy control subjects

Some of the services such as spirometry, lung imaging, and genetics analyses support may involve a fee, and candidates are encouraged to contact Ms. Elizabeth Westfall to assess feasibility and potential costs.

2021 Deadlines

Letter of intent: January 15, 2021

Notification on decision to submit full application: February 15, 2021

Full application: April 30, 2021

Notification of award: May 31, 2021

Earliest start date: July 1, 2021

Research progress summary: 6 monthly for the duration of the grant

End of funding: June 30, 2022

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Elizabeth Westfall, MPH
Director-Clinical Research Administration
Lung Health Center
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
526 20th St S
Birmingham, AL 35294
P: 205.934.9282 | ewestfall@uabmc.edu