

UAB Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) Pilot & Feasibility (P&F) Program
2021 Request for Applications (RFA)

TO: UAB Faculty

FROM: Stephen Barnes, PhD, UAB NORC Pilot & Feasibility Program Director
Martin Young, DPhil, UAB NORC Pilot & Feasibility Program Associate Director
James Hill, PhD, UAB NORC Director

DATE: December 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Request for Pilot & Feasibility Studies in Nutrition or Obesity Related Research

OVERVIEW: UAB's Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) will fund up to **3 nutrition and/or obesity related pilot & feasibility (P&F) studies at up to \$35,000/year**; a second year of funding is possible through a competitive renewal process. Renewal applications will also be considered from investigators currently funded by the NORC P&F program; substantial progress in the aims of the original application must be evident.

RESEARCH FOCUS: The P&F studies may focus on **any area of research related to nutrition and/or obesity** and are designed to provide initial project support for new investigators; allow exploration of possible innovative new directions for established investigators in nutrition sciences or obesity research that represent a *significant departure* from ongoing funded research; and stimulate investigators from other areas of endeavor to use their expertise for nutrition/obesity research. Multidisciplinary applications are encouraged, covering topics such as nutrition, metabolism, and obesity, as well as associated comorbidities (e.g., cancer).

ELIGIBILITY: P&F funding is intended to support: 1) full-time UAB faculty (Instructor or Assistant Professor) and postdoctoral fellows without current or past NIH research project support as a PI; 2) established investigators with no previous work in nutrition or obesity research; or 3) established investigators in nutrition/obesity with a proposal to test an innovative idea representing a significant departure from ongoing research interests. Post-doctoral fellows wishing to apply are strongly encouraged to meet simultaneously with their UAB faculty mentor and the P&F and/or NORC Director prior to submitting a proposal. PI's (Postdocs, Instructors and Assistant Professors) must identify a senior faculty mentor, from the NORC members. Priority is given to applications demonstrating close relevance to the NORC mission (<https://www.uab.edu/norc/>), using NORC core facilities (<https://www.uab.edu/norc/cores>), and having a likelihood of future NIH funding (e.g., K- and R- series grants). Under-represented minorities and women are strongly encouraged to apply.

PROCEDURE: Please provide a title, PI, and abstract (<500 words) that highlights the background, significance, hypotheses, specific aims, experimental design, and procedures of the proposed project (including relevant statistical analyses). Please submit the P&F Application Form and a copy of the PI's NIH Biographical Sketch to <https://www.uab.edu/norc/pilot-funding/pilot-feasibility-training/letter-of-intent>, by **January 25, 2021**. The "application" form is located on the webpage; please convert to PDF and use the "upload" function on the "Letter of Intent" page for submission. Our committee will review all abstracts and select the most competitive for development of a five-page application plus supporting materials for a final round of selection. The full application will be due **March 1, 2021**. Specific instructions will be provided to those whose abstracts are selected.

INQUIRIES: Investigators are encouraged to contact Dr. Stephen Barnes (sbarnes@uab.edu; 4-7117), Dr. Martin Young (martinyoung@uabmc.edu; 4-2328), or Dr. James Hill (hillj@uab.edu; 4-6103) to determine their eligibility and the appropriateness of their project.

Acceptance of funding will indicate agreement to submit a grant application for extramural funding to continue the project, and to provide written progress reports at 6-month intervals.