# UAB Nutrition Obesity Research Center Pilot & Feasibility Program
# 2022 Request for Applications

## OVERVIEW
UAB's Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) will fund up to *three (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.* Awards 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. Postdoctoral 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. PIs (postdocs, instructors, and assistant professors) must identify a senior faculty mentor from among 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). Underrepresented minorities and women are strongly encouraged to apply.

## PRE-APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Pre-application proposals must be submitted online using RED-ASSIST, a REDCap-based project designed to facilitate proposals, and the RED-ASSIST online submission form completed by **February 25, 2022**.

Pre-applications should be prepared as a single PDF providing title, PI, and an abstract (<500 words) that highlights the background, significance, hypotheses, specific aims, experimental design, and procedures of the proposed project (including relevant statistical analyses). NIH Biosketches must be provided for PIs and must conform to the NIH Biosketch requirements. Biosketches are not required for co-investigators, collaborators, or other significant contributors.

The P&F 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 **April 8, 2022**. Specific instructions will be provided to those whose abstracts that 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 six-month intervals.**

**KEY DATES**

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| Posted Date | January 14, 2022 |
| Pre-Application Due Date | February 25, 2022 |
| Invitation for Full Application | March 11, 2022 |
| Full Application Due Date | April 8, 2022 |
| Notification of Award | May 15, 2022 |
| Award Start Date | June 1, 2022 |