SUBJECT: RFA - Pilot/feasibility (P/F) project awards
DATE: July 1, 2019

UAB’s Nathan Shock Center of Excellence in the Basic Biology of Aging announces the availability of pilot/feasibility (P/F) project awards for investigators with a research focus on the comparative biology and/or energetics of aging and having the goal of future funding from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging. The projects must utilize one or more of the research cores of the UAB Shock Center, which can be found on the Center's website (https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores) and are briefly described below.

Budgets are generally less than $10,000 although larger budgets may be considered after consultation with Core leaders and/or co-leaders. Awards are for 1 year. Applications from institutions outside of UAB are particularly encouraged.

Applicants ARE REQUIRED to contact the Research Development Core (contact information below) for guidance about the eligibility of their project and how available UAB NSC Research Cores can potentially support their application. If approved then applicants also should then contact the leader of the proposed research core(s) to be utilized to obtain an initial feasibility assessment and approval that proposed budget to be submitted is appropriate.

Research Focus and Eligibility

The P/F studies may focus on any area of aging research that can be supported by our cores, with priority given to those examining comparative biology and/or energetics of aging. Basic Alzheimer's disease studies are eligible if they contain a clear aging and/or energetics focus.

The awards are intended to support scientists to obtain extramural funding for aging research. We particularly encourage applications from faculty level New Investigators (as defined by NIH) or established investigators new to aging research, and/or who are pursuing a new direction in the field. Applicants new to aging biology research should identify a collaborator, with a strong record in the field, who is willing to serve as a mentor. Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate close relevance to the Shock Center mission (https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/funding) and likelihood of future R01 funding from NIA.

Applicants MUST utilize Shock Center Research Cores, which are described below and at https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/about-us
Deadlines and Application Instructions

Online applications for the current cycle are open with a submission deadline of **September 1, 2019.**

Funding period: One year from award date.

Applications must include:

- The hypothesis and specific aims of the project (1 page, Arial font, 11 points or larger, margins at least 0.5 “)
- No more than one page of figures and figure legends
- Additional pages allowed for important references
- A one (1) paragraph statement (no more than ½ page) of how this research will impact your future directions in aging research.
- Budget describing Shock Center Core resources needed, including justification for sample number if applicable and approximate time frame (1/2 page)
- Evidence of core director’s approval that proposed budget is appropriate (typically email correspondence)
- Current NIH-style biosketch (up to 5 pages)
- NIH Other Support pages (including pending awards)

Applications should be submitted electronically through our Research Development Core website, [https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/funding/pilot-grants](https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/funding/pilot-grants). Again, all applicants are required to contact the Research Development Core leadership ([CAS-nscgrants@uab.edu](mailto:CAS-nscgrants@uab.edu)) as a first step toward preparing an application. Submit your final application online [https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/funding/pilot-grants/pilot-feasibility-grant-application-submission-form](https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/funding/pilot-grants/pilot-feasibility-grant-application-submission-form)

UAB Shock Center Cores

1. **Research Development Core:** Thomas Buford (twbuford@uabmc.edu), Leader; Christy Carter (cartercs@uabmc.edu), Co-Leader; and John Hartman (jhartman@uab.edu), Co-Leader. *The RDC administers the Pilot Grant Program and is the primary point of contact for interested applicants. Initial inquiries, questions about the application process, and final applications should be directed to the RDC, CAS-nscgrants@uab.edu.*

2. **Comparative Organismal Energetics Core:** Tim Nagy ([tnagy@uab.edu](mailto:tnagy@uab.edu)), Leader; Daniel Smith ([dsmithjr@uab.edu](mailto:dsmithjr@uab.edu)), Co-Leader; Mickie Powell ([mpowell@uab.edu](mailto:mpowell@uab.edu)), Co-Leader. This core provides state-of-the-art instrumentation and analyses for quantifying energy balance and body composition in diverse animals, including measures of energy expenditure (via indirect calorimetry), food intake, activity, and core body temperature. Body composition analyses can be performed on living and dead animals. Learn about their full list of services [https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores/coec/coec-services](https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores/coec/coec-services) and COEC fees [https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores/coec/coec-fees](https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores/coec/coec-fees).
3. **Comparative Mitochondrial Health Assessment Core**: Jianhua Zhang, (jianhuazhang@uabmc.edu), Leader; Victor Darley-Usmar (vdarleyusmar@uabmc.edu), Co-Leader; Scott Ballinger (scottballinger@uabmc.edu), Co-Leader. This core offers state-of-the-art services to investigators to facilitate research and training on mitochondrial function and mitophagy as it relates to aging. The core provides expertise in molecular energetics and metabolomics techniques in a variety of species from yeast to mice. Learn about our full list of services [https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores/cmhac/cmhac-services](https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores/cmhac/cmhac-services) and CMHAC fees [https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores/cmhac/cmhac-fees](https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores/cmhac/cmhac-fees).

4. **Comparative Data Analytics Core**: David Allison, (allison@iu.edu), Leader. Mark Beasley (mbeasley@uab.edu), Co-Leader; Andrew Brown (awb1@iu.edu), Co-Leader. This core provides consultation in study design, research proposal development, and data analysis, including traditional, specialized, and customized analytical methods for scientists performing research on the basic biology of aging. CDAC also conducts high-level statistical investigations of secondary data to answer questions about the comparative biology and energetics of aging. CDAC works with investigators to develop new analytical tools and offers training in statistical methods for the comparative biology of energetics as it relates to aging. For CDAC list of services, go to: [https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores/cdac/cdac-services](https://www.uab.edu/shockcenter/cores/cdac/cdac-services).