CLEAR Center Pilot & Feasibility Awards
Request for Applications
2019

Putting the Evidence in Evidence-based Medicine

Overview

The purpose of the University of Washington (UW) Clinical Learning, Evidence And Research (CLEAR) Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders' Pilot and Feasibility Program is to foster early-stage investigators interested in musculoskeletal research. Investigators can receive up to $20,000 (direct costs) over one year for faculty/staff effort and/or the purchase of services and supplies. This funding opportunity is limited to faculty investigators at the UW.

Key Dates

RFA Released	February 15, 2019
Application Deadline	March 31, 2019 – applications due by 5pm Pacific
Awards Announced	May 1, 2019
Project Dates	August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020

Eligible Investigators:
- UW investigators focused on musculoskeletal research
- All UW faculty, although preference for early-stage investigators (i.e., no prior extramural R01-type funding)
- Applications limited to one per investigator

Eligible Expenses:
- Limited to $20,000 in direct costs over one year
- CLEAR Center Core services, personnel effort, benefits, and consultant time as well as materials, services and/or supplies. Budget must include anticipated costs
- Applicants encouraged to pursue matching funds with their home department

History:

In 2017, NIH/ National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases(NIAMS) awarded to the UW a P30 grant (1P30AR072572) to establish the UW CLEAR Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders. The CLEAR Center's mission is to improve the health of patients with musculoskeletal conditions by providing scientifically rigorous methods and resources for clinical research towards a learning healthcare system. The CLEAR Center's Pilot & Feasibility Program exists to develop the next generation of musculoskeletal researchers.

Application Process:

We accept applications online through the CLEAR Center website (https://theclearcenter.org/funding-opportunities/). Applicants will receive email confirmation upon receipt of their application.

Application components are outlined below. The CLEAR Center website (https://theclearcenter.org/funding-opportunities/) has template documents for download:
- Cover page, including project title and abstract (250 word maximum)
- 2- page research plan
  o Aim(s)
  o Background and Significance
  o Approach
- Budget and Budget Justification
- NIH formatted Biosketch for investigators (senior/key personnel)
- If institutional commitment is offered, a letter of support from the department chair is required.

Formatting Requirements:
- Font size must be 11 points or larger (smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams and charts is acceptable as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%).
- Text color must be black (color text in figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, footnotes and headings is acceptable).
- There is no requirement for specific citation format.
- Provide at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.
- Appendices and other supplemental documents are not allowed.
- Table and figures DO count toward the 2-page Research Plan limit.
- References can be in addition to the 2-page Research Plan limit.

Review Process:
All proposals will undergo peer review through the CLEAR Center Internal Steering Committee members, and potentially select members of the National Advisory Board and external content experts. Applications will be scored based on the domains of Significance and Innovation, Approach, Environment, Investigators, and Strategic Relevance to the CLEAR Center's Mission. Reviewers will specifically be looking for proposals that:
- Increase applicants' competitiveness for subsequent extramural funding
- Lay the groundwork for a future clinical trial
- Are likely to lead to a peer-reviewed publication
- Utilize the CLEAR Center's core resources and services

Contact Us:
To learn more about this opportunity or for application assistance, contact us at theclearcenter@uw.edu.