CLEAR Center Pilot & Feasibility Awards
Request for Applications
2020

Putting the Evidence in Evidence-based

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 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 investigators at the University of Washington.

Key Dates:

RFA Released	Monday, February 3, 2020
Application Deadline	Friday, March 20, 2020 – applications due by 11:59pm Pacific
Awards Announced	Friday, May 1, 2020
Project Dates	August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

Eligible Applicants:

- UW investigators (faculty, trainees, staff) focused on musculoskeletal research
- 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 are encouraged to pursue matching funds with their home departments

Use of CLEAR Center Datasets:

We are interested in funding projects that make use of data housed at the UW CLEAR Center and will give preference to applications that propose to use one or more of these datasets. The UW CLEAR Center currently houses the following datasets:

- Back pain Outcomes using Longitudinal Data (BOLD)
- Lumbar Epidural steroid injections (ESIs) for Spinal Stenosis (LESS)
- Lumbar Image Reporting with Epidemiology (LIRE)
- IBM MarketScan

More information on these datasets, including data dictionaries, can be found on the CLEAR Center website: https://theclearcenter.org/about/resource-core/.

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. Learn more about current and former Pilot & Feasibility Award projects on the CLEAR Center website: https://theclearcenter.org/research-programs/.

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
  - Aim(s)
  - Background and Significance
  - Approach
- Budget and Budget Justification
- NIH formatted Biosketch for applicant, plus any additional senior/key personnel
- If institutional commitment is offered, a letter of support from the department chair is required.

Review Process and Criteria:
All proposals will undergo peer review through the CLEAR Center Internal Steering Committee members. 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 peer-reviewed publications
- Utilize the CLEAR Center's core resources and services
- Utilize a CLEAR Center-owned dataset (details on available datasets available on the CLEAR Center website: https://theclearcenter.org/about/resource-core).

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).
- 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.

Contact Us:
To learn more about this opportunity, CLEAR Center core services and datasets,ja or for application assistance, contact us at theclearcenter@uw.edu.