

CALL FOR PROPOSALS & APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Diabetes Research Center Pilot & Feasibility Awards

Grant Submission Deadline – October 31, 2023, 5PM CST
Anticipated Start Date of Funding – April 1, 2024

Availability & Purpose of Funds

The Washington University Diabetes Research Center (DRC) anticipates funding new Pilot & Feasibility Grants starting 04/01/2024. The goal of this program is to support the generation of preliminary data leading to the submission of new applications for independent (NIH, JDRF, or ADA) research grants. Faculty members from any department at Washington University are encouraged to apply.

For those interested, there is also a Translational Imaging Track: The objective of the track is to enhance collaborative research in translational imaging (preclinical and clinical). The research activities at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology (MIR) can be found at:
<http://www.mir.wustl.edu/research>.

Qualifications

- The following qualify for grant support under the Pilot & Feasibility Program:
 - New faculty members involved in diabetes-related research who have not yet obtained independent funding. Applications from these individuals are most likely to be supported by this mechanism.
 - Established investigators not involved in diabetes-related research who propose feasibility studies related to diabetes.
 - Established investigators involved in diabetes-related research who propose feasibility studies clearly not related to previously supported research.
- Applicants must hold a faculty appointment by 04/1/2024 and be independent investigators. Postdoctoral Fellows or their equivalents are not eligible.
- There is no specific citizenship requirement.
- Previous recipients of Pilot & Feasibility support are eligible, **but first priority will be given to those who have not been supported by this program.**

Budget Guidelines

- Grants of up to \$50,000/year (direct costs) for one year are awarded with a second year of funding possible based on research progress. **If requesting 2 years of funding, both years should be requested in the initial application.** Budget year should begin April 1, 2024
- It is expected that the Grantee will use the full amount of funding awarded during each one-year term of the award. Special permission is required to carry forward remaining funds at the budget year-end and is not automatically granted.
- **Investigators pursuing the translational imaging track may request supplemental funds provided by MIR up to \$15,000/year for preclinical and up to \$20,000/year for preclinical or clinical imaging research utilizing cyclotron-produced radiopharmaceuticals for costs associated with the use of research imaging facilities. Translational imaging resources can be found at:**
<https://www.mir.wustl.edu/research/core-resources/>. For questions regarding the imaging

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research facilities, contact Kooresh Shoghi, Ph.D. (preclinical) at shoghik@wustl.edu or Pamela Woodard, M.D. (clinical) at woodardp@wustl.edu.

- Up to 10% salary support for faculty will be considered, if amount <25% of the total award.
- The budget may not include funds for computers, software, travel, tuition, journal subscriptions, memberships to professional societies, or the purchase of printed reference materials.

Review

- Applications are evaluated by external reviewers and the Diabetes Research Center Pilot & Feasibility Review Committee.

General Guidelines

- NIH [PHS 398 \(03/2020\)](#) non-modular format (see page 3 for specific instructions).
- [Please submit your application online by 5 pm CST, October 31, 2023.](#)
- Applications do **NOT** need to go through the Grants & Contracts office.
- Successful proposals must be approved, if applicable, by the Human Studies, Animal Studies, Biosafety, and Radiation Safety Committees before funds will be released. Regulatory approvals may be "Pending" at the time of application.

Applicant Eligibility

- Each pilot & feasibility study proposal should state clearly in an accompanying cover letter the justification for eligibility of the investigator under one of three criteria:
 - New faculty members involved in diabetes-related research who have not yet obtained independent funding. Applications from these individuals are most likely to be supported by this mechanism.
 - Established investigators not involved in diabetes-related research who propose feasibility studies related to diabetes.
 - Established investigators involved in diabetes-related research who propose feasibility studies clearly not related to previously supported research.
- An important eligibility criterion for the DRC P&F awards is that the individuals to whom awards are made must hold a faculty appointment and be independent investigators. For those applicants who hold a mentored award (e.g., NIH K01, K08, Scientist Development Grant, etc.) or who have indicated that a senior scientist will serve as a mentor, the application should be accompanied by the mentor's other support page and a letter from the mentor stating that the proposed project is independent of the mentor's research program.

Requirements for Pilot & Feasibility Award Recipients

- DRC support will be acknowledged on all publications related to Pilot & Feasibility Award (P30 DK020579)
- Comply with NIH Public Policy: <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>
- Recipients will present posters at the annual Washington University Diabetes Day Symposium held each November.
- Recipients will assist the DRC in collecting follow-up data regarding their career progression
- Successful proposals involving human subjects research must be prepared to provide the following to the WashU DRC Program Coordinator kenney.m@wustl.edu who will then forward to the NIDDK for approval before funds will be released:
 1. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval
 2. Brief description of the project purposes/aims, intervention(s), outcomes/endpoints, and eligible population with sample size (1-2 pages)
 3. Data and Safety Monitoring Plan (DSMP) (refer to [DSMP Guidance](#))
 4. Project Enrollment Tables

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5. Clinicaltrials.gov registration number, if applicable
6. Education in the Protection of Human Research Participants certifications

In addition, all DRC P&F supported projects including non-exempt human subjects research will be required to:

1. Submit planned enrollment/inclusion data in the Humans Subjects System (HSS)
2. Register all clinical trials in clinicaltrials.gov and deposit the results according to clinicaltrials.gov regulations

Application should include the following PHS398 (03/2020) Form Pages (in order):

Link to NIH forms: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

- **Face Page (fp1)**
- **Description/Abstract (fp2)**
- **Detailed budget (fp4)**
- **Budget for entire period with justification (fp5)**
- **NIH Biosketch (5 page limit) (Include PMCID numbers for publications)**
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
- **Other support (continuation page)**
- **Resources**
- **Body of the Application: Specific Aims and Research Plan that together do not exceed 5 pages (including tables and figures, excluding references). Please address Significance, Innovation, and Approach. Use NIH Continuation pages for this section.**
- **Appendix is required and must include (in order):**
 1. Cover Letter from applicant stating eligibility.
 2. Letter from Department Head or Division Chief endorsing the project.
 3. Mentor's letter and other support page, if required. See above eligibility guidelines.
 4. Regulatory Approvals for the proposed project should be secured (or pending at the time of application) from the Human Research Protection Office, Animal Studies Committee, Environmental Health & Safety, and/or Radiation Safety.
- Upload as a separate PDF, a list of six (6) Reviewers, outside Washington University, **who are free of conflict of interest. Do not include collaborators, co-authors, or mentors.** Provide name, position, institution, phone number and email.

ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL

Please submit your application online by 5 pm CST, October 31, 2023.

For any issues with the online application portal, please contact kenney.m@wustl.edu Subject line: "WUSM PF APPLICATION"

Questions: Contact Dr. David Piston piston@wustl.edu or Marie Kenney kenney.m@wustl.edu