PILOT PROJECT AWARDS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

NOW WITH EXPEDITED REVIEW PROCESS

Awards up to $35,000 for one year

ROUND 20 NOW OPEN  Application Deadline:  October 14th, 2016; Funding: December 1st, 2016

The NIEHS Center for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan is seeking innovative and promising pilot project proposals in all areas of environmental health. Priority will be given to projects that focus on the thematic goal of the Center, namely, understanding the impact of environmental exposures over the life course with a major focus on air toxics and bio-aerosols, oxidative stress, epigenetics, and climate change or that involve community-based participatory research. The Center primarily carries out research in three areas: respiratory disease, cancer, and neurotoxicology/neurodegenerative disorders. Please refer to the Center’s Pilot Project webpage for additional information.

Pilot grant applications can request up to $35K; projects should be completed within two years. International studies are permitted, but budgets must be discussed with the pilot projects administrator (gcg1) prior to submission of the proposal. In addition, we will accept small mini pilot proposals with a one-page write-up for quick turnaround funds (up to $10K), on a rolling basis. Since the major goal of the Program is to assist in the generation of preliminary data leading to the development of an R01 or similar grant, applicants must have academic positions that allow grant submissions. Junior faculty with ideas for innovative projects are strongly urged to apply. Senior faculty and all Center members are eligible to submit new pilot proposals if they are expanding their research into new areas of environmental health or proposing an inter-Center collaboration with investigators at another NIEHS p30 Center, regardless of having received previous pilot funding.

Instructions for Submission: All applicants are required to obtain statistical input from Dr. Thompson, Director of the Integrative Health Sciences (IHS) Core (342-1252 or jlt12@columbia.edu), prior to submitting a pilot proposal. The written application should be no more than 3-5 pages, exclusive of references, budget and biosketches and include the following sections:

A. Title page (title, investigator and affiliation, abstract in lay language)
B. Specific Aims (must be environmentally relevant)
C. Background
D. Study Design/Method
E. Use of Facility Cores
F. Future Plans (Clearly outline how results will lead to a larger project)
G. Budget and Justification (PI salary support is not permitted)
H. NIH Formatted Biosketches (For all key personnel)

Applicants will have access to the Facility Cores of the Center at no or limited cost depending upon the extent of use. See the Center website for a detailed description of the Exposure Assessment, Trace Metals and Integrative Health Sciences Cores. Applicants are encouraged to develop projects that use these Facility Cores and discuss their project with the Core Directors.

New Review Process: All 3-5 page pilot proposals will undergo a single review process whereby a combination of internal and external reviewers will evaluate and score the proposal. Based on these scores and Center priorities, final funding decisions will be made by the Executive Committee (EC) within six weeks. Mini pilots will be reviewed and funding decisions made by the EC within 2-3 weeks of submission.

Contacts: Investigators interested in submitting applications are encouraged to discuss them with Drs. Matt Perzanowski, Deputy Director (305-3465; mp2217@columbia.edu), or Regina Santella, Director (305-1996; rps1@columbia.edu). For administrative issues, contact Gail Garbowski, (305-1364; gcg1@columbia.edu). Proposals should be submitted to Gail electronically as a single Adobe file by the deadline date.