

COBRE in Neurodevelopment and its Disorders (CNDD)

Request for Pilot Project Proposals

The CNDD invites letters of intent for its Pilot Projects Program (PPP). The PPP provides funding to MUSC researchers to perform basic, translational, or clinical research studies related to normal brain and nervous system development or to understanding the mechanisms underlying, or treatments for, neurodevelopmental disorders, such as autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, seizure disorder, intellectual disabilities, and schizophrenia. The objective of the CNDD pilot projects program is to attract new and established investigators into neurodevelopment-related research and to increase their potential for future federal research support. Up to three (3) pilot grants will be awarded, with a maximum one-year budget of **\$75,000**. Highest priority will be given to projects that utilize the CNDD-supported research cores: 1) **Genomic and Bioinformatics Core** (co-Director: Dr. Stefano Berto), which assists with analysis of transcriptomic, genetic, epigenomic, and multi-omic data, and 2) **Mouse Behavior Phenotyping Core** (Director: Dr. Rachel Penrod-Martin), which assists with mouse behavior testing (i.e., testing equipment and technical assistance).

Two types of pilot awards are available:

1. **Early-Career Pilot Award:** Discovery grant for early-career MUSC faculty (within 6 years of MUSC appointment) with no prior NIH R01-level grant funding as an independent PI (or MPI). Recipients of K99/R00 or K-type mentored faculty awards are eligible.
2. **New Direction Pilot Award:** High-impact/high-risk project in neurodevelopment and its disorders research and/or a significant departure from PI's historical research program. Open to MUSC faculty at any rank or funding status.

All Pilots are funded for 1-year. However, assuming adequate progress toward original goals, pilot grant recipients are eligible to compete for a second year of funding. Funds may be used at the discretion of the faculty member to achieve the goals of the pilot project proposal.

Eligibility: All MUSC faculty are eligible, except current and past CNDD Research Project Leaders. Applications from individuals underrepresented in medicine and biomedical research are strongly encouraged to apply.

Letter of Intent deadline: May 1, 2024

Request for full proposal: May 15, 2024

Full application deadline: July 8, 2024

Anticipated start date: September 1, 2024

Funding Limit: \$75,000

Funding Period: one year

Submission Guidelines:

- Applicant will submit (1) a one-page Letter of Intent (LOI) outlining the proposed CNDD pilot project and anticipated use of the CNDD cores, and (2) current NIH Biosketch.
- The CNDD Executive Committee will review the LOIs and select applicants will be invited to submit: 1) 4-page detailed research proposal, 2) 1-page budget and justification, and 3) other support document.

Prior to submission of full proposal, applicants are required to consult with the CNDD Biostatistician and key personnel of CNDD Core(s) they propose to use. LOI or inquiries should be sent to PPDP Director, Dr. Antonietta Lavin, at lavin@musc.edu.