

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 neurodevelopment and its 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 increase the potential for future federal research support. As many as five pilot grants (\$60K) will be awarded. Higher 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. Recipients of K99/R00 grants are eligible.
2. **New Direction Pilot Award:** High-impact/high-risk project in neurodevelopment and its disorders research and/or significant departure from PI's historical research program. Open to MUSC faculty at any rank.

Pilots are funded for 1-year with an option for a second year if: (1) the researcher demonstrates adequate progress, (2) additional support is likely to lead to major NIH funding (e.g., R21, R01, U01), and (2) funds are available.

Multi-PI applications will be considered for pilot funding in any of the two categories; however, a clear rationale for the need of the team, as well as a description of each team members contribution, will need to be included in the letter of Intent and full application.

Eligibility: All MUSC faculty are eligible, except current and past CNDD Research Project Leaders. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are important to the CNDD research community. Women and individuals from ethnic and racial populations that are underrepresented in medicine are strongly encouraged to apply.

Letter of Intent deadline:	June 1, 2023
Request for full proposal:	June 6, 2023
Full application deadline:	June 20, 2023
Funding Limit:	\$60,000 (faculty salary support is not allowed)
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 a 4-page maximum detailed proposal via the SCTR Pilot Program Platform.

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. Letters of Intent or inquiries should be sent via email to the CNDD PPP Director, Dr. Antonietta Lavin, at lavin@musc.edu.