

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 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 **two** (2) pilot grants will be awarded, with a maximum one-year budget of **\$75,000**.

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, including the option for PI salary support up to 10%.

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: April 16, 2025

Full application deadline: June 15, 2025

Anticipated start date: September 1, 2025

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 (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.

LOI or inquiries should be sent to Dr. Antonietta Lavin, at lavina@musc.edu.