Keck School of Medicine of USC

The Wright Foundation Trust
Standard Pilot Grant Program – Request for Proposals
2023–2024 Academic Year

The Robert E. and May R. Wright Foundation is seeking proposals for pilot grants to support **basic research** broadly related to **cancer**, **arthritis**, or **heart disease**. Projects should generate preliminary data in support of innovative and high-impact research that will compete effectively for extramural research funding. Applicants may request up to $50,000 for one year.

Application Process

Eligibility

Anyone who will be a full-time faculty member at the Keck School of Medicine as of July 1, 2023, and who is committed to a career in research is eligible to apply. Special consideration will be given to:

- Junior faculty members who are establishing an independent research program

- Established investigators who are transitioning to a new phase of research (e.g., from basic to translational, translational to clinical)

- Two or more established investigators from different disciplines who are proposing a new collaboration

Past Wright Foundation Pilot Grant awardees are NOT eligible to apply.

Submission

By **5:00 PM PDT on April 10, 2023**, please email a single PDF file of the application to Cort Brinkerhoff, Special Project Manager in the Office of Research: cort.brinkerhoff@med.usc.edu. Please follow up if you do not receive a confirmation that your application was received.

Selection

Applications will be peer-reviewed internally at USC. Strong emphasis will be placed on potential for future extramural funding. Recommendations for funding will be presented to the Wright Foundation Board of Trustees, chaired by the Dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC, at the annual board meeting near the end of the USC fiscal year. Awardees will be notified in July of 2023.

Award

Approved proposals will be funded beginning September 1, 2023. Research projects will be supported for one year. Unexpended funds may be rolled over to a second year with approval from the Vice Dean for Research, Keck School of Medicine of USC.

<p align="center"># Keck School of Medicine of USC</p>

Application Format

The application should be prepared using **Arial 11-point font** with a document layout of **0.5-inch** margins all around. Place your name in the header (upper right) and page numbers in the footer (lower right). Figures, charts, tables, legends, and footnotes may use a font size no smaller than Arial 10.

Please create **one single PDF file** containing the following information in the order listed below. Please incorporate your last and first name into the PDF file name using the following naming convention: PI-Lastname_PI-Firstname_Wright-Standard-2023

1. **Letter of Support**

Junior faculty members (Assistant Professor and below) must provide a letter of support from their department chair or other unit head committing to the research career development of the applicant and to the availability of research space, dedicated time for research, and other resources needed for the proposed research. Faculty members with rank of associate or full professor need NOT provide a letter of support.

2. **Project Title**

3. **Principal Investigator**

   Name:
   Title:
   Primary Department Affiliation:
   Primary School Affiliation:
   Email Address:
   Campus Address:
   Phone:

4. **Co-Investigators** (if any, <u>limit two</u>)

   Same info for each as number 3 above

5. **Grants Administrator**

   Same info as number 3 above

6. **Lay Abstract** (max 300 words)

7. **Research Plan**

   A. Specific Aims (one page maximum)

   B. Research Strategy (five pages maximum)

      a. Significance
      b. Innovation
      c. Approach

   C. Commitment to Research (one page maximum): Describe the career emphasis of the PI and what role research plays or will play in that path. Priority will be given to applicants who are pursuing a career path in which research is a strong component.

D. Bibliography (no page limit)

8. **Plans to secure future funding for the project** (half page maximum)

These plans should justify the selection of the pilot study design and discuss how the anticipated outcomes would contribute to future application for extramural grant funding. For example, will the preliminary data examine the plausibility of your hypothesis, the feasibility of your methods, and/or the variability of responses? How will those outcomes strengthen future grant applications? What specific funding agencies and mechanisms do you anticipate pursuing if the pilot project is successful? Simply stating plans to apply for extramural funding is NOT sufficient.

9. **Short description of how the research fits at least one of the priorities of the program** – cancer, arthritis, or heart disease (one page maximum)

10. **For junior faculty members** (Assistant Professor and below)

A mentoring plan that promotes development as an independent researcher (one page maximum)

11. **Budget**

Please use "Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period" from the PHS 398 forms, which can be downloaded from the NIH website as a writeable PDF: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html

12. **Budget justification**

Budgets can be up to **$50,000** Allowable costs include but not limited to:

- Salary/benefits for support staff or trainees

- Student stipends

- Materials and supplies

- Equipment and software should be limited to <$5,000 and strongly justified

Not allowable: indirect costs, space charges, administrative support, travel costs, publication charges, PI salary, equipment costs greater than $5,000.

13. **NIH Format Biographical Sketch** (for PI and all co-investigators)

Form available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

14. **NIH Format "Other Funding" Page** (for PI and all co-investigators)

Form available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/othersupport.htm

15. **Regulatory Approvals**

These are not required at the time of submission, but proof of all required regulatory approvals (e.g., IRB, IACUC, Radiation Safety Committee, Biosafety Committee) is required before access to awarded funds will be granted.

Questions

Direct any questions about this RFA to Cort Brinkerhoff: cort.brinkerhoff@med.usc.edu.