



Pittsburgh Mind-Body Center

Call for Pilot Proposals

The Pittsburgh Mind-Body Center (PMBC) is pleased to announce the availability of Innovative Pilot Research Funding. PMBC is dedicated to the scientific study of mind-body relationships and physical health, with an emphasis in understanding the pathways by which social/ psychological factors are related to physical health. The purpose of the pilot funds is to stimulate testing of new hypotheses on mind-body relationships and physical health by providing sufficient funds to provide preliminary data for grant proposals and/or to develop a new direction of research. ***For this call for proposals, we are particularly interested in projects that propose new methods to assess psychological and biological processes relevant to physical health and illness, although worthy proposals on other relevant topics are also welcome.***

Eligibility: Faculty, postdoctoral and predoctoral fellows affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh or Carnegie Mellon University. Fellows must have faculty sponsorship. A faculty sponsor can sponsor more than one project at a time; award recipients can only receive funding for one project at a time.

Amount: PMBC anticipates being able to fund 3 – 4 projects. Selected applications will be funded at a maximum of \$15,000 per year for projects of faculty and postdoctoral fellows and a maximum of \$7500 per year for projects of graduate students. There is an option for additional years depending on demonstrated productivity and need. Recipients will have priority to access additional technical support and consultation through the Research Cores: Data Management and Statistical Resources; Psychosocial and Health Behavior Assessment; Sleep Assessment and Resources; and Biological and Biomedical Measurement.

Submission Deadline: The review will be a two-part process, with an initial letter of intent due Friday, July 6, 2007.

Format for Letter of Intent: Interested investigators are asked to submit a two-page letter of intent. This letter should include a statement of the hypothesis, a paragraph of background information, a description of the experimental design, a summary of proposed methods, and how the proposed work would contribute to understanding mind-body relationships. From these letters, applications will be selected to submit a full proposal. The format for proposals will be provided later.

Application should include the original hard copy and an electronic copy submitted to Lori Liller Arnold (Campus mail: WPIC, 210 Bellefield Towers; Courier delivery: 432 Bellefield Towers, 100 N. Bellefield Avenue; E-mail: arnoldla@upmc.edu).

PMBC Mission Statement: To understand common pathways -- psychological, behavioral, and psychobiological -- connecting environmental factors, especially chronic burdens and resources, with the onset of and recovery from diverse physical illnesses. Examples of research relevant to the mission include, but are not limited to: identification of new psychobiological concept(s) relevant to a number of diseases, development and piloting of interventions that manipulate pathways, development of new biological markers of psychological burdens and resources, application of ideas about pathways to a disease not represented already in the PMBC projects (osteoarthritis, cardiovascular disease in women, breast cancer, and respiratory illness), and application of ideas about pathways to a new age/ethnic group not represented already in the PMBC projects (currently represented: middle-aged and older adults). ***This round we are particularly interested in funding proposals that propose new methods to assess psychological and biological processes relevant to physical health and illness, although worthy proposals on other relevant topics are also welcome.***

Questions: Contact Lori Liller Arnold by phone: 412-246-5284 or E-mail: arnoldla@upmc.edu.