

Cognitive Neuroscience of Development and Aging (CONDA) Center

REQUEST FOR MINI GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Cognitive Neuroscience of Development and Aging (CONDA) Center is pleased to announce an opportunity for research funding through an NIH/NIGMS mechanism. The CONDA Center is a new Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (CoBRE) that focuses on the cognitive neuroscience of lifespan development and strives to support and develop all neuroimaging and human neuroscience research in the region.

The goal of the Mini Grants Program is to provide support to promising research projects led by graduate students and post-doctoral research associates. These projects can be largely independent from the mentor's ongoing projects, or can substantially build on the same theme. Acceptable examples would include adding a study group (e.g., un-medicated patients) to an ongoing study of several patient groups, adding a new measure (e.g., MRI or blood test) to an ongoing study, adding an additional follow-up visit, or similar scenarios. The main goals of the program are to enhance graduate student and postdoctoral research projects across the Omaha academic community. Total budgets should range from \$5,000 to a maximum of \$20,000 and we anticipate funding several mini grants in 2020. Note that the project period should be less than one year and that the average budget is expected to be about \$10,000. Successful applicants will also receive access to resources of the Center for professional development and project support.

Relevant Areas of Research: This mechanism aims to support innovative, collaborative research by graduate students and/or postdocs in areas of cognitive neuroscience with a special emphasis on development and aging. Specifically, mini grants focused on the below issues are of high interest to the CONDA Center:

- Novel neuroimaging studies of Alzheimer's disease or other neurodegenerative diseases
- Multidisciplinary studies of aging and factors that lead to pathological (vs healthy) aging
- Systems-level investigations of neurodevelopmental disorders in youth or adults
- Studies examining the impact of stress on brain structure and/or function in youth and/or adults
- Neural mechanisms of psychiatric disease and/or psychiatric symptoms in other diseases
- Neuroimaging studies of Down's syndrome
- Studies examining the impact of environmental contaminants on systems-level brain health
- Impact of neuroinflammation on brain structure and function across the lifespan
- Normative cognitive neuroscience and cognitive aging research
- Neural bases of sensory processing and/or motor dysfunction in youth and/or older adults
- Mechanisms and novel applications of brain stimulation
- Studies on the neural dynamics of motor control in youth and/or adults

Priority will be given to those projects that are most likely to lead to successful outcomes by enhancing student dissertation projects and/or postdoctoral research initiatives, and those that link the trainee with a new area of research and/or research team member. Applications not relevant to the Center's themes (i.e., cognitive neuroscience, neuroimaging, development, and/or aging), will be returned without review. For questions on if your research qualifies for Center support, please contact Melissa Welch-Lazoritz, m.welchlazoritz@unmc.edu.

Application Deadline: 5pm CST on May 15th, 2020

Notification of Selection: June 1st, 2020

Application Submission Process

Applications should use standard NIH formatting requirements (½ inch margins, Arial size 11 font). The application should be submitted in a PDF format and sent by email to m.welchlazoritz@unmc.edu, with “CONDA Center Mini Grant Application” in the subject line. **Applications must be received by 5pm CST on May 15th, 2020.** Late applications will not be accepted.

The Application must include the following components:

1. NIH format Biosketch for applicant and any other key personnel (if applicable).
2. Project summary (limited to 30 lines or less of text, ½ inch margins, Arial size 11; Please place Title of project and Mini Grant PI name in the header of this page)
3. Research Plan: limited to **three pages in total for Specific Aims and Research Strategy** (sections included in italics)
 - a. *Specific Aim(s) (one page maximum, but can be shorter)*
 - b. *Research Strategy*
 - i. *Significance: a) the rigor of prior research -- the strengths and weaknesses of the research that is used to form the basis for the proposed research question.*
 - ii. *Innovation*
 - iii. *Approach: Can include preliminary data, although not required. Experimental design, including steps taken to ensure scientific rigor (robust and unbiased experimental design, sample, measures, procedures, analysis, interpretation and reporting of results, explained as appropriate for a pilot project) and consideration of key biological variables if applicable (please see <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-011.html>).*
 - iv. *Plans for extramural funding applications (e.g. to NIH or other agencies, please specify) upon successful completion of this project.*
 - c. References (excluded from 3 page limit)
4. Budget (use attached budget template)
5. Budget Justification

Application Review: All applications will be reviewed by a panel of local experts. Reviewers will use the NIH review criteria (Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, and Environment) and scoring system. Up to three reviewers will provide critiques on each application. In addition to the Overall Score, Reviewers will be asked to comment on the application topic’s relevance to the CONDA Center mission and the potential for advancing cognitive neuroscience and the student/postdoc’s training and career potential. The CONDA Center Leadership team will review rankings and make recommendations for funding based on rank, which will be forwarded to the External Advisory Committee and NIGMS for Final Approval. Projects selected for funding will be notified the June 1st, 2020 and be required to obtain all regulatory approvals before July 1st, 2020.

Special Considerations, Institutional Approvals, and Reporting

Budget Restrictions: Salary support is not allowed. Equipment (>\$5,000 per item) and/or computer purchases are not allowed. Renovation and/or Honorariums are not allowed. Travel is limited to research related tasks only (e.g., no conference travel). Travel to locations outside of the US & Canada is not allowed.

Indirect Costs (F&A): Indirect costs associated with mini grants will be awarded to the investigator's institution for NIH-funded pilots. *Please work with your Sponsored Programs office to ensure that your proposal budget includes your institution's correct F&A rate.* Additional funds may be contributed by partner institutions, rather than NIH, and these institutionally designated awards will not include indirect costs.

Regulatory Approvals: If your project includes human subjects or vertebrate animals, your final institutional IRB or IACUC (respectively) approval is required before the project can be sent for NIGMS approval and before funds can be released. We expect in many cases that existing protocols can be amended to include the new research elements funded through the Mini Grant. **Protocols must be submitted to IRB/IACUC for approval within 10 days of notification of funding and final approval must be sent to us within 30 days (before July 1, 2020).**

Additional Requirements: Within 7 days of notification of selection for award, mini-grant recipients must submit the Protection of Human Subjects Section (including Inclusion of Women & Minorities and Inclusion of Children) and an inclusion and enrollment report (if applicable). They must also submit documentation of human subjects training (if applicable) and a vertebrate animals section (if applicable). These documents should be submitted to m.welchlazoritz@unmc.edu. Furthermore, Mini Grant recipients must participate in Center Enhancement and Programmatic Activities (e.g., CONDA Seminar series, retreats). Mini-Grant recipients will also be required to provide Twice Annual Project Updates at Monthly Center Meetings, and a written final progress report at the end of the grant budget period [standard NIH-RPPR Sec 6 A-H].

Eligibility and Eligible Institutions: Current graduate students and post-doctoral research associates at a participating institution are eligible to apply. Participating institutions include the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Creighton University, and Boys Town National Research Hospital. Individuals must be eligible to apply for NIH funds (i.e. US citizen or a permanent resident). Individuals currently receiving funds from other CONDA Center mechanisms are *not* eligible to apply.

Program Director/Principal Investigator (Last, First, Middle):

DETAILED BUDGET	Project Start Date	Project End Date
	07/01/2020	01/31/2021

List PERSONNEL (*Applicant organization only; no faculty effort nor faculty salary support is allowed*)

Use Cal, Acad, or Summer to Enter Months Devoted to Project

Enter Dollar Amounts Requested (*omit cents*) for Salary Requested and Fringe Benefits

NAME	ROLE ON PROJECT	Cal. Mnths	Acad. Mnths	Summer Mnths	INST.BASE SALARY	SALARY REQUESTED	FRINGE BENEFITS	TOTAL
SALARY & FRINGE SUBTOTALS →								
CONSULTANT COSTS								
SUPPLIES (<i>Itemize by category</i>)								
TRAVEL (<i>only what is necessary to perform research; no conference or training travel</i>)								
OTHER EXPENSES (<i>Itemize by category</i>)								
CONSORTIUM/SUBAWARD COSTS (<i>Include subaward F&A as a direct cost</i>)								
SUBTOTAL DIRECT COSTS (<i>Item 7a, Face Page</i>)								\$
Institutional F&A Rate:					FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS			
TOTAL COSTS FOR INITIAL PROJECT PERIOD (<i>Item 7b, Face Page</i>)								\$