

Cognitive Neuroscience of Development and Aging (CONDA) Center

REQUEST FOR PILOT GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Cognitive Neuroscience of Development and Aging (CONDA) Center is pleased to announce an opportunity for pilot project funding through an NIH/NIGMS grant. 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 Pilot Projects Program is to provide support to emerging scholars in this area by enabling them to pursue promising new research directions and acquire the preliminary data necessary to apply for and obtain external federal funding. Successful applicants will receive up to \$50,000 in direct costs per year for 1-2 years, as well as access to the resources and equipment of the Center for professional development and project support. We anticipate funding several Pilot Projects through this RFA in 2020-2021.

Relevant Areas of Research: This mechanism aims to support innovative, collaborative research that focuses on the cognitive neuroscience of lifespan development. Specifically, pilots 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 extramural funding. Applications not relevant to the Center's themes (i.e., cognitive neuroscience, neuroimaging, development, and/or aging), will be returned without review.

For questions pertaining to whether your research would qualify for Center support, please contact Melissa Welch-Lazoritz, m.welchlazoritz@unmc.edu.

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

Notification of Selection: June 15th, 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 Pilot Application” in the subject line. **Applications must be received by 5pm CST on May 15th, 2020.** Late applications will not be accepted. Second year funding (if applicable) is contingent on favorable review by the CONDA Center Leadership Team of a two-page progress report due ten months after project initiation. Renewal decisions will be based on project progress, scientific integrity and rigor, potential for Center synergy, and potential for successful external funding.

The Application must include the following components:

1. NIH format Biosketch for applicant and any other key personnel (if applicable).
2. NIH Face Page (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>). This needs to be signed by your institutional official and all fields on the NIH Face Page must be complete and correct. Please leave dates of proposed period of support blank.
3. Project summary (limited to 30 lines or less of text, ½ inch margins, Arial size 11)
4. Research Plan: limited to **five pages in total** (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 5 page limit)
5. Budget (use attached budget template; if this is a 2 year project, please complete a budget for each year)
6. Budget Justification

Application Review: All applications will be sent to external experts in the field for review. 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. The CONDA Center Leadership team will review rankings and make recommendations for funding based on rank and fit with the Center’s themes. These rankings will be forwarded to the External Advisory Committee and NIGMS for Final Approval. Projects selected for funding will be notified the June 15th, 2020 and required to obtain all regulatory approvals before July 15th, 2020.

Special Considerations, Institutional Approvals, and Reporting

Budget Restrictions: Faculty salary support is not allowed, although all key faculty should be listed in the budget justification and their role explained. Student/post-doctoral salary/wages are permissible. Wages for technical personnel are permissible. 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 pilot 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 pilot funds may be contributed by partner institutions, rather than NIH, and these institutionally designated awards will not include indirect costs.

Clinical Trials: If your project meets the NIH definition of a clinical trial, you must check "Yes" to the clinical trial question on the NIH face page. If you answer "YES" to all four questions below, your project is considered a clinical trial.

- a. Does the study involve human participants?
- b. Are the participants prospectively assigned to an intervention?
- c. Is the study designed to evaluate the effect of the intervention on the participants?
- d. Is the effect being evaluated as a health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome?

For additional information, visit: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials.htm>

Regulatory Approvals: If your project includes human subjects or vertebrate animals, final institutional IRB or IACUC (respectively) approval from your home institution is required before the project can be sent for NIGMS approval and before funds can be released. **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 15, 2020).**

Additional Requirements: Within 7 days of notification of selection for award, Pilot project 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, Pilot project grant recipients must participate in Center Enhancement and Programmatic Activities (e.g., CONDA Seminar series, retreats). Pilot recipients will also be required to provide Twice Annual Project Updates at Monthly Center Meetings. Pilot recipients must submit written annual progress reports [standard NIH-RPPR Sec 6 A-H].

Eligibility and Eligible Institutions: Current full-time faculty at any 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 – YEAR 1

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>)							\$	

DETAILED BUDGET – YEAR 2

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>)						\$		