

## **NIDA Core Center of Excellence in Omics, Systems Genetics, and the Addictome 2018 Call for Pilot Project Applications**

The goal of the NIDA Center of Excellence in Omics, Systems Genetics, and the Addictome (OSGA) is to enable NIDA and NIAAA researchers to more easily analyze complex interactions of genetic, epigenetic and environmental factors on drug abuse risk, relapse, and treatment.

We are now requesting proposals for pilot projects to be initiated on Aug 1, 2018. This pilot program is designed to entice early career investigators to explore the role of genetics and genomics of addiction by reducing and eliminating some of the barriers to implementation and to promote the development of collaborative, inter-disciplinary teams. Grant application must include one Principal Investigator (early career scientist) and a collaborator from a different laboratory within the same institution or a different institution.

**Types of grants that will be supported.** The Center will fund two general types of pilot grants: 1) pilot grants to investigate new and cutting-edge technologies to study addiction and 2) pilot grants to expand current behavioral and exposure rat models to a more genetically diverse population (e.g., heterogeneous stock, recombinant inbred panels, the Hybrid Rat Diversity Panel).

**Nature of grant awards.** Applicants may request up to \$20,000 per year for two years, although larger budgets are considered if fully justified. We highly recommend consulting with the Center Director (Rob Williams) or Core Leads (Laura Saba and Saunak Sen) about budget. Funds are intended for research supplies and reagents, animals, sequencing cost, or equipment use. Funds should not be used to cover salary of the PI but can be used to support time of a technician. A written progress report will be required after the first year if two years of support are requested. A final report must be submitted to the Center at the close of the project and data generated as part of the pilot grant should be deposited within the Omics Portal for Addiction Research (OPAR) or an affiliated website, e.g., GeneNetwork or PhenoGen.

Once a pilot grant is funded, it will be assigned to one of the two center directors for logistic coordination. The director and/or core leads will meet on a quarterly basis with the grant recipients over the phone to discuss progress and particularly what the Center can do to enhance their project. The first meeting will be prior to funding to address any issues about study design that surfaced during the grant review process.

Also including in these discussions will be how their work can be expanded to a larger, longer-term project supported by NIDA. Grant recipients will be asked to present their research at an annual Center meeting. This will be a chance for the grant recipient to garner feedback from a larger systems genetics community.

**Eligibility criteria and application requirements.** To be eligible to participate in the Center's Pilot program, the PI must be a postdoctoral fellow or an assistant professor within 5 years of their appointment. Applicants from institutes that are currently

supported by this center (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Indiana University, Medical College of Wisconsin, Marquette University, Jackson Laboratories, University of California San Diego, University of Florida, University of Texas at Austin, and Tufts University) are especially encouraged to apply. The applicant must outline their research question and specifically how the Center will support the proposed research.

#### Application Procedure:

The application should contain the following components:

1. Abstract
2. Specific Aims
3. Background/Significance
4. Research Strategy
5. Plan for use of current omics databases such as GeneNetwork and PhenoGen and plan for sharing data with the Omics Portal for Addiction Research (OPAR).
6. Future Directions including how the pilot data generated can be used to justify a larger NIH-funded study.
7. References
8. Budget Justification
9. Biosketches for all investigators involved.

5-page maximum length, not including references, budget justification, or biosketches. Deadline date for receipt, at the below email address, is May 15, 2018 by 11:59pm.

Please send one PDF of the completed submission to Laura Saba at [Laura.Saba@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Laura.Saba@ucdenver.edu).

**Review Procedures.** Grants will be reviewed by the Directors of the Center, a member of our Internal Review Board, and a member of the NIDA staff. The applications will be evaluated on (1) the strength of the cross-institute collaboration proposed, (2) the utility of the generated data and how it contributes to the rat addictome data, and (3) the use or development of novel technologies, systems genetics methods, or behavioral models.

Additional queries can be directed to:

Laura Saba, PhD

Center Co-Director

[Laura.Saba@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Laura.Saba@ucdenver.edu)

303/724-9697 office