

PILOT & FEASIBILITY AWARD COMPETITION REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

LETTER OF INTENT DUE: February 2, 2024 at 5:00 PM

FULL APPLICATION DUE: March 8, 2024 at 5:00 PM

The Harvard Digestive Diseases Center (HDDC) will be accepting applications for new pilot and feasibility projects for the upcoming funding period July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026. Applications from those with faculty appointments (at the level of Instructor or above) and current postdoctoral fellows will be considered separately.

- For Faculty applications, the maximum request is \$45,000 direct costs awarded over two years with an approved progress report at end of year 1.
- For Postdoctoral Fellows, the maximum request is \$35,000 direct costs awarded over two years with an approved progress report at end of year 1.

A Letter of Intent is required. Please use the **LOI form** and submit, *along with your updated NIH format biosketch*, to Alia Polyzou-at: Aqlaia.polyzou@childrens.harvard.edu
Eligible applicants and projects will be invited to submit a full application by March 8, 2024.

SCIENTIFIC SCOPE

The Harvard Digestive Disease Center is focused on the study of epithelial cell function and mucosal biology including inflammation and host defense of the gastrointestinal tract. The Center's major areas of emphasis include inflammatory bowel disease, gut microbiology, and cell and developmental biology of the intestine, liver, and pancreas. Pilot and Feasibility projects must relate to the scientific missions of the HDDC and NIDDK. Eligible projects may be in areas such as:

- cell and molecular biology that relate to epithelial structure and function in the alimentary tract, liver, and pancreas
- epithelial-microbe interactions and pathogenesis of enteric infectious diseases
- host defense in the GI tract, mucosal immunity and vaccine development
- epithelial cell growth and differentiation, and stem cell biology
- smooth muscle motility and biology of the enteric nervous system
- applications that are better aligned with another NIH institute or center, e.g., GI and liver cancer, are not eligible per NIDDK policy.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be either:
 - Faculty (Instructor or higher) at a Harvard-associated institution when funding commences.
 - A current postdoctoral research fellow at a Harvard-associated institution.
- Faculty that have not previously held R-level support, applications should describe how PF funding will lead to preliminary data to support NIH grant applications.

- Faculty that have previously held R-level support are eligible if:
 - They are at-risk of having no independent R01 or R01-equivalent grant support if they do not secure a substantial grant award in the near future, or
 - They have worked in other areas and need support to develop a new research program related to digestive disease.
- Postdoctoral research fellows must have two years of postgraduate research (necessarily in the current lab), and both the preliminary data and proposed studies must be the applicant's work.
- For all applicants:
 - P/F projects cannot overlap with ongoing funded projects.
 - HDDC core facility use must be proposed.
 - An individual can be funded only once in every five-year cycle.
 - Funding for the second year is contingent on review of a year 1 progress report.

FINANCIAL

- Funds may be used for the following:
 - Technical support
 - Research supplies
- Non-allowable expenses:
 - Salaries (Investigator, Post-Doctoral)
 - Travel
- Equipment is funded only in very rare instances where it is vital to the particular project, unique, and not available in HDDC core facilities. Equipment requests require approval by the Harvard Digestive Disease Center Executive Committee.

CONTACTS

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Visit the HDDC website for details, LOI form, and application instructions
<http://hddc.hms.harvard.edu/>