**MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN**

**CENTER FOR IMAGING RESEARCH**

**PILOT AWARD PROGRAM**

**PURPOSE:**

The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) Center for Imaging Research (CIR) supports cutting-edge imaging research to advance human health. Successful extramural grant applications typically require preliminary data that supports study feasibility. The MCW CIR Pilot Award Program addresses this gap by funding preliminary studies leveraging CIR resources, in turn positioning researchers for more successful grant applications. The pilot project award goal is explicitly to increase the extramural funding of researchers who engage with the CIR in their research.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

All MCW employees who meet institutional requirements for submitting extramural grants are eligible to apply for funding through the CIR Pilot Award Program. An investigator may hold multiple concurrent, non-overlapping pilot awards. For human or animal research, a current IRB or IACUC approved protocol is required.

**AMOUNT:**

Awards of up to $6,250 will be made on a rolling basis with at least 8 awards budgeted to be made annually. Further awards may be made dependent upon CIR margin and prioritized research opportunities. Prior to submitting an application, researchers are encouraged to verify project alignment with pilot award goals (i.e. obtaining extramural funding) by discussing the project with the CIR Director. Awards may be extended in time and amount through continuing applications if further resources are justified to support extramural funding applications.

**PERMITTED EXPENSES:**

Permitted expenses include services of the CIR as well as supplies and related expenses necessary to perform the proposed work in the CIR. Examples include animal purchasing and housing, consumables such as isoflurane or ECG electrodes, research participant support consumables like ECG or EEG electrodes, research participant stipends, etc. **Costs of services or supplies which are not offered by the CIR cannot extend beyond 15% of the total requested costs without prior authorization.** Fee-for-service support from CIR team members may be included, including technical support and data analysis. Other support for personnel (i.e. study team percent effort) is not permitted. A current list of services, and their costs, is available on the Center for Imaging Research webpage: <https://www.mcw.edu/departments/center-for-imaging-research/imaging-services>

**REVIEW:**

Review will follow the NIH “Category 1,” “Category 2,” and “Category 3” evaluation assessment categories:

* Category 1 (Significance): Should the work should be performed,
* Category 2 (Feasibility): Can the work be successfully achieved as described, and
* Category 3 (Team): Can the work be performed with the team and resources.

Factored strongly into the “Category 1” review will be the plan for using the pilot award to secure extramural funding as described in the Extramural Funding Plan. Investigators without previous imaging research experience are strongly encouraged to collaborate with established imaging investigators or engage fee-for-service CIR team members to strengthen their Category 3 score. New investigators are welcome to contact CIR leadership for assistance in identifying potential collaborators. Additionally, experienced imaging investigators who expand their efforts to engage laboratories that have not previously pursued imaging research will receive favorable consideration.

Review will be performed by a subset of the members of the MCW CIR internal advisory committee ensuring no perceived or actual conflicts of interest for each application. Resubmissions of previously non-awarded applications will be considered if the resubmission sufficiently addresses prior concerns, with responses to the prior concerns included in a cover letter with the revised application.

Failure to comply with instructions will result in the return of an application.

**QUESTIONS:**

Questions can be addressed to Lauren Williams ([laurenwilliams@mcw.edu](mailto:laurenwilliams@mcw.edu)) or Andrew Nencka (anencka@mcw.edu).

**RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR CIR PILOT FUNDING**

#### APPLICATION COVER PAGE

**Title of Research Project:**

1. **Investigator (s) – Degrees:**
2. **Estimated Duration of Project:** (cannot exceed 12 months)
3. **Amount Requested:** (whole dollars only, limit $6,250)
4. **Research Plan Format:** (template documents included below)

Use the following format. Be brief yet complete, adhering to the maximal page limits noted below. Proposals need only be as long as necessary to communicate essential information, and bulleted lists in sections are sufficient provided they convey the necessary material. In many cases, a single page application can be appropriate.

1. Specific Aims (no more than 1 page)
   1. Summarize the context of the work, the hypothesis to be considered, and how the proposed work will support application(s) for further extramural funding
2. Research Strategy (no more than 2 pages)
   1. Significance
   2. Innovation
   3. Approach
3. Detailed Project Budget (no more than 1 page)
   1. For each expense include the item/service, justification, amount, quantity, and total.
4. Extramural Funding Plan (no more than 1 page)
   1. Note the targeted extramural funding mechanism(s); If appropriate, include recent funding outcomes such as scored but not-funded submissions related to the proposed work. If the PI has existing funding that utilizes CIR resources, include statements on how this project does not constitute overlap with these awards.
   2. State the sponsor’s deadline for the targeted funding mechanism(s)
   3. Describe how the proposed work will strengthen an application to the targeted mechanism(s)
5. Project Timeline (no more than 1 page)
   1. Include activity, milestones, and spending commitments month-by-month.
   2. Include submission to targeted funding opportunity as a milestone.
   3. Include quarterly updates to the CIR regarding actual progress and award spending compared to the proposed project timeline. If timeline changes are required, they should be justified in the quarterly report. Failure to progress in effort or spending in line with the proposed timeline will put the project at risk of de-committing all or a part of the pilot award so that it can be invested in other pilot projects or Center work. Failure to meet project timeline deliverables may impact an investigator’s consideration for future pilot awards.
6. Bibliography and References Cited
7. Are human subjects involved? (YES or NO):

# If Yes, attach Human Subject Protocol and Approval(s) which will be used for all human imaging in this award

# Are animals involved? (YES or NO):

# If Yes, attach Animal Care Protocol and Animal Care Approval which will be used for all animal imaging in this award

Date:

Signature of Principal Investigator

PLEASE RETURN TO: Lauren Williams

laurenwilliams@mcw.edu

**RESEARCH PLAN**

1. **Specific Aims**
2. **Research Strategy**

1) Significance

2) Innovation

3) Approach

**C. Detailed Budget**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item/Service** | Justification | Unit Cost | Unit Quantity | Total Cost |
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| **TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED** | | | |  |

**D. Extramural Funding Plan**

*1) Targeted extramural funding mechanism*

*2) Sponsor’s deadline for targeted funding mechanism*

*3) Describe how the proposed work will strengthen the application for the targeted mechanism.*

E. Timeline

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| **Month** | **Activity** | **Milestone** | **Budgeted Expenses** |
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| **TOTAL** | | |  |

**F. Bibliography and References Cited**