ITMAT
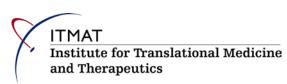**Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics**

Program in Comparative Animal Biology (PICAB)
Pilot Grant
Submission Requirements

Guidelines

- The Penn-CHOP CTSA Program in Comparative Animal Biology (PICAB) announces a pilot grant program between veterinary and human medicine to advance translational therapeutics. The purpose is to use naturally occurring domestic animal models of disease that are sufficiently similar to human diseases as a means to evaluate potential feasibility of novel treatments.
- Two pilot grants of up to $45,000 each are available this year.
- The project must have one co-PI from the School of Veterinary Medicine, and one co-PI from the School of Medicine, either in PSOM or CHOP. Additional faculty may be part of a proposal as co-Investigators. Projects may be in any area of medicine. Co-PIs must be standing faculty.
- The emphasis of this pilot program is on molecular medicine approaches to therapy (gene therapy, stem cells, recombinant proteins), but compelling reasons for other approaches will be considered. The candidate disease and experimental therapy should involve a domestic animal disease model that, if successful, would provide a clear path towards human application or overcome a major barrier to translation. Domestic animal models of disease that have a high potential to accelerate the path to clinical trials are desirable. The review will place a strong emphasis on the likelihood the pilot study will advance translational application and generate extramural funding to pursue the preliminary findings.
- The use of client owned animals is encouraged, in which case the study may wish to involve the Veterinary Clinical Investigation Center, which is organized to recruit patients, support study design and track cases. The use of animal models from breeding colonies should be focused on new directions or novel diseases that are not covered by existing grants. The pilot projects ideally should be completed in 12 months, however, the funding may be extended for up to 24 months if needed to accrue a statistically valid cohort of subjects.
- PICAB grants are available to registered members of the Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics (ITMAT). Interested investigators who are not currently members of ITMAT can register to join (www.itmat.upenn.edu/membership). Investigators who would like advice on potential partners in the other school may contact Dr. John H. Wolfe via Emily Romick at 215-590-7030 or emromick@vet.upenn.edu.
- All proposals are due by **December 7, 2018 at noon** for a project start date of **February 1, 2019. *LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED NOR WILL EXTENSIONS BE GRANTED.***

Required Documents

- The application should adhere to NIH grant application formatting and font requirements and include: up to 2 pages for specific aims, description of the model, and experiments to be undertaken; up to 1 page explaining a plausible pathway to translation and how the proposed studies will support that goal, as well as extramural grant applications; biosketches in the NIH format for both PIs, including other support; and a 1 page budget which may include animal care, laboratory supplies, and salary for technicians, graduate students or post-docs (travel and faculty salaries are not allowed).
- Copies of **IRB and IACUC approval letters** will be required if an award is funded. Funding will be delayed until these approval documents are received.

Other

- Any publications that are the direct result of this funding must reference:
  - **"Supported in part by the Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics of the Perelman School of Medicine and the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania."**
  - **"Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number UL1TR001878. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH."**
- A progress report will be requested every year for 4 years so that we can track the success of supporting projects that result in the receipt of a grant, publication, or technology transfer. You will receive a system generated email requesting you to complete a progress report.
- **You will be prohibited from applying for ITMAT pilot funding if you do not reference the funding support on publications and if you do not submit progress reports.**

Document Submission

All applications should be submitted via ITMAT's Pilot Grant System at www.med.upenn.edu/apps/itmat/pg. *PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU CHOOSE THE PICAB GRANT PROGRAM WHEN SUBMITTING YOUR GRANT PROGRAM.* You will need your PennKey logon and password to access this system. If you do not have a PennKey, obtaining one will take at least 48 hours so do not wait until the last minute. We will not accept applications late because of this. Once you start an application, you can proxy someone (grants manager, post doc, etc.) to finish it for you.

- Each investigator and Co-Investigator must be an ITMAT member.
- Each Investigator and Co-Investigator must have the approval of their respective Business Administrator.
- *Penn Faculty should select the Business Administrator or Grants Manager that normally signs off on all of their research proposals.*
- *CHOP Faculty* must select Michael Campbell, Prema Sundaram, or Robert DeNight as their Business Administrator. *PLEASE ONLY CHOOSE ONE.*
- *Please ensure that the documents you upload are the final documents. ITMAT will not update or replace files. This means that prior to hitting the submit button, all documents must be final.*
- *When contacting the ITMAT business office, please use the same discretion you would employ if contacting an external sponsor.*
- *Please ensure that you have liaised with all of the Co-Investigators on your application. This will avoid proposals being rejected by their Business Administrator.*
- All documents must be **uploaded by *noon* on the due date** of the proposal to ensure time for all approvals. All approvals must be completed by *5 pm* on the due date. *Do not wait until noon to start uploading documents.*
- Once all approvals are completed, the grant will be received by ITMAT.

Application or Funding Questions

Investigators who would like advice on potential partners in the other school may contact Dr. John H. Wolfe via Emily Romick at 215-590-7030 or emromick@vet.upenn.edu. If you do plan to submit a proposal, it would be very helpful for organizing the review process if you would let us know in advance the title or subject area and the names of the co-PIs.

Please direct any system-related questions to Jessica German, bickhart@upenn.edu , or Charles Molli, cmolli@upenn.edu.