

# OBESITY/NUTRITION RESEARCH CENTER

## APPLICANT INFORMATION FOR PILOT/FEASIBILITY GRANTS

(Please read carefully)

The Obesity/Nutrition Research Center (ONRC) at the University of Pittsburgh offers a pilot/feasibility (P/F) program to stimulate new and innovative research relevant to obesity and nutrition. Pilot/feasibility studies are primarily for new investigators without major research support.

Research can range from basic science to psychosocial investigations and can focus on obesity, or related topics such as eating disorders, exercise, energy metabolism, or nutrition. Studies utilizing the ONRC's services will be given special consideration. Please reference the attached explanation of available ONRC services for more information.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must be faculty of the University of Pittsburgh or post-doctoral fellows sponsored\* by a faculty member as co-investigator. Funding is not provided for doctoral dissertation research. Funding is primarily intended for new investigators without major research support. In certain circumstances pilot feasibility grants may be awarded to established investigators who are proposing projects which constitute a significant departure from their ongoing research, or established investigators in other fields who are proposing projects in which they will transfer their special expertise to the research focus of the Center. **If you are applying as an established investigator, please submit a letter describing your current research, the proposed project (in brief), and how the proposed research would differ from your current research. This letter must be submitted to the ONRC at least 1 month prior to the grant deadline for consideration by the ONRC Executive Committee.** Please see the attached eligibility guidelines specified by NIH for further clarification (page 4).

### **BUDGET**

Most projects will be funded for 1-2 years. Funding will consist of a maximum of \$15,000 (direct costs) for the entire project period.

Please reference the enclosed application instructions (page 2) for the required format in submitting a pilot/feasibility grant proposal.

\* Trainees who are recipients of an NRSA individual award (F32) or are supported by an institutional training grant (T32) are eligible for P/F funds, but only if they are in their last year of training, have had at least one year of research laboratory experience, and have suitable expertise and independence to design and carry out the planned experiments. P/F funds can not be used to supplement NRSA stipends; but may be used for supplies, technical support, special services, etc.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications are due at 4:30 PM on the deadline date for each cycle. The application is limited to 5 pages (not including the references), single-spaced, 12 pt font size. Please submit **an original and 14 copies**. The application must conform to the following format:

Title of Project:

Abstract

Response to reviewers: If this is a resubmission, the applicant should describe how the concerns of the reviewers have been addressed. (This must not exceed 1 page and should not be included within the 5 pages allowed.)

Specific Aims: State Hypothesis

Significance/Background: Why is the study worth doing?

Preliminary Studies: What has been done before?

Methods: How will it be done? Include comments on sample size, power, controls, analysis of data.

Future: What is the next scientific step? Clarify how you plan to obtain enough data to become competitive for outside funding.

References: Not more than 15.

## DO NOT SUBMIT APPENDIX MATERIAL

In addition,

Complete and submit the attached grant application form (page 3).

2 Page Biosketch (NIH format) should be provided for the PI and Co-PI's.

Submit a statement of all past and current funding of PI and current funding of Co-PI. Indicate funding agency, title of project, start and end dates of project, direct costs of project, and your specific, and your specific role on the project. Indicate how many past/currently funded projects differs from the proposed project.

Provide the attached Budget Summary Page (Page 5; Budget not to exceed \$15,000). Please refer to page 6 for allowable expenditures.

Complete the attached statement indicating how you meet the criteria for eligibility for a Pilot/Feasibility award (page 4).

If you need further assistance, please call Tara Ghee, Program Secretary, Obesity/ Nutrition Research Center, N807 Montefiore University Hospital, 3459 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 at 412-692-2848, (fax) 692-2165.

# OBESITY/NUTRITION RESEARCH CENTER GRANT APPLICATION

1. TITLE OF PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

2. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SS# \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEGREE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NO. \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

3. HUMAN SUBJECTS:

\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ YES IF YES, IRB APPROVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

VERTEBRATE ANIMALS:

\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ YES IF YES, ACUC APPROVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATES OF ENTIRE PROPOSED PROJECT PERIOD:

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ THROUGH: \_\_\_\_\_  
(YY-MM-DD) (YY-MM-DD)

5. COSTS REQUESTED FOR ENTIRE PROPOSED BUDGET PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_

6. ONRC CORES WHICH WILL BE USED IN EXECUTING THIS STUDY:

\_\_\_\_ Administrative Core: Statistical Consultation

\_\_\_\_ Metabolic Core

\_\_\_\_ Biochemistry/Genetics Core

\_\_\_\_ Behavior Assessment Core

7. IS THIS PROJECT A RESUBMISSION OF A PILOT/FEASIBILITY GRANT?

\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ YES

SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

# University of Pittsburgh Obesity/Nutrition Research Center

## Criteria for Eligibility for a Pilot/Feasibility Award

Investigators eligible for P/F funding generally fall into three categories: (1) new investigators without current or past NIH research project support (R01, R29, P01) as a principal investigator (current or past support from other sources should have been modest); (2) established supported investigators with no previous work in areas related to the ONRC who willing to test the applicability of their expertise on an obesity/eating disorders, energy regulation/expenditure and nutrition related problem; (3) established investigators in areas related to the ONRC with a proposal for testing the feasibility of a new or innovative idea but represents a clear and distinct departure from his or her ongoing research interest. It is expected that the majority of the investigators will fall into the first category.

The National Institutes of Health defines feasibility/pilot studies as those designed primarily for:

\_\_\_\_\_ New investigator without major research support.

\_\_\_\_\_ Established investigator in another field who is proposing a project in which he will transfer his special expertise to the obesity and nutritional sciences research.

\_\_\_\_\_ Established investigator proposing a project which constitutes a significant departure from his/her ongoing research.

**PLEASE INDICATE WHICH OF THE ABOVE STATEMENTS DESCRIBES HOW YOU MEET THE CRITERIA FOR A FEASIBILITY AWARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

## BUDGET SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE:

NAME OF INVESTIGATOR

COST

Salaries:

(List name, title, of individuals, role in project)

Equipment:

Supplies:

Miscellaneous:

(List each item with brief description and specific amount for each item)

Budget Total \_\_\_\_\_

## TYPES OF EXPENDITURES ALLOWED

Research supplies and animal maintenance

Technical assistance

Domestic travel when necessary to carry out the proposed research program

Costs of computer time

Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.)

Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their role is to promote and sustain the project presented

Payment of research subjects

## TYPES OF EXPENDITURES NOT ALLOWED

Tuition

Foreign travel

Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books

Publication costs including reprints of results of obesity/nutrition related research

Registration fees at related scientific meetings

Dues and membership in scientific societies

Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lectures

Relocation expenses

Office and laboratory furniture

Rental of office or laboratory space

Construction or building maintenance

Major alterations

## **SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE OBESITY/NUTRITION RESEARCH CENTER**

The University of Pittsburgh Obesity/Nutrition Research Center includes 4 cores, each of which is described briefly below:

1. The Administrative Core: This core is responsible for the overall administration of the ONRC, management of the Pilot/Feasibility Grants Program and the Enrichment Programs, and assistance with study recruitment. This core includes the Methodology and the Statistics related subcore, which assists with study design and data management and analysis.
2. The Metabolism, Body Composition and Fitness, and Clinical Assessment Core: This core is responsible for assisting investigators in metabolic, body composition, exercise fitness, and clinical assessments of patients in research protocols. This core provides consultation of studies measuring metabolism, energy expenditure, insulin sensitivity, body composition and assessing physical fitness. This core is also responsible for developing off-site facilities for other obesity-related assessments (e.g. insulin clamp measure; CAT scans).
3. Laboratory Core: This core includes facilities to conduct both biochemical and genetic assays. This core is responsible for performing assays commonly used in obesity and nutrition research, developing new assays for investigators, and identifying useful polymorphic variation in obesity-related genes. This core can assist and provide consultation in the use of biochemical and genetic assays for obesity/nutrition related research.
4. The Behavior Assessment Core: This core is responsible for assisting investigators in intervention-oriented weight loss studies. Behavior Core staff are available to provide consultation to investigators on selection and use of nutrition and physical activity measures. These trained personnel can assist in the collection of dietary data from research subjects, and are also available to train project staff in use of these instruments. The Core is also available for consultations with investigators on selection of psychosocial assessments (e.g., measures of depression or disordered eating) and development of standardized behavioral weight loss protocols. This core can assist and provide consultation in the analysis of dietary intake records and other approaches to nutrition assessments.