Request for Applications:
Translational Research Projects Investigating Obesity or Metabolism in COVID-19 Infection

Seeking applications for a special Pilot & Feasibility Award for translational research investigating how obesity and/or metabolic processes moderate infection rate, illness severity, outcome, or long-term sequelae of COVID-19. Award is $30,000 over 1 year, with possibility for additional funds during year 2 via the standard NORCH competitive renewal process if good progress is achieved.

ELIGIBILITY:
This RFA specifically aims to fund investigation at T0 (basic) or T1 (translation to humans) along the research spectrum, addressing pathophysiological mechanisms related to how obesity, glycemia, or other metabolic traits affect COVID-19 outcomes.

Although preference will be given to early career investigators in nutrition, metabolism, or obesity, all investigators from any Harvard institution are eligible to apply. Per NIH rules, fellows are not allowed to be PI of these grants, but final-year fellows may apply if the grant would be awarded after completion of their fellowship. Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of our Core laboratories.

DEADLINE:
Application must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5th, 2020. No extensions will be granted. We expect to announce decisions Wednesday, July 1, 2020 and the funding period will begin September 1, 2020.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:
Please submit applications here. Applications should use NIH Forms (links provided) where appropriate and should consist of the following:

- NIH Face Page
- Research plan of 3-5 pages, including specific aims, significance, and approach. Preliminary data is welcomed but not necessary; short discussion of feasibility and relevance is encouraged.
- NIH Form Page 4 (detailed budget)
• Budget Justification
• NIH Biographical Sketch for PI and all Key Personnel
• NIH Other Support Page (PI only)
• Protection of Human Subjects/Animals (if applicable)
• Names of 3-4 suggested reviewers including full name, institution, and email address.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

*Please note that, since part of the criteria for grant-funding include the applicant’s accomplishments and potential for success, these grants may NOT be transferred to another PI once awarded.*

Funds MAY be used for supplies, assays or testing, salary for research assistance, or equipment less than $5,000.

Funds MAY NOT be used for the following:

- PI salary or Mentor Salary
- Secretarial or administrative salary support
- Computers
- Tuition
- Travel
- Publication costs
- Dues or membership fees
- Equipment costing $5,000 or more
- Indirect costs

Please submit a budget for up to $30,000 in direct costs. Indirect costs are not supported, and all grants must be awarded to an HMS-affiliated institution.

Please email Nika Grzejka (egrzejka@mgh.harvard.edu) for any administrative questions or Takara Stanley, MD, (tstanley@mgh.harvard.edu) with any scientific/scope of research questions.