Center for Gene Therapy of Cystic Fibrosis

Call for Pilot Grant Applications
http://genetherapy.genetics.uiowa.edu/

The University of Iowa Center for Gene Therapy of Cystic Fibrosis is accepting applications for pilot and feasibility grants. The Center supports pilot grants funded by NIH/NIDDK for research relevant to gene therapy of cystic fibrosis and disease pathophysiology in cystic fibrosis. Pilot grants, with budgets of up to $75,000 annually, are funded for one or two years and will have a start date of 04/01/2015. Pilots not selected for the initial year of funding may be considered during subsequent rounds of pilot solicitation. Two pilots will be chosen for a renewal application of the Center due in June 2014.

Deadlines for the submission of pilot grants:

- Notification of Intent and Abstract of Proposal and current biographical sketch: March 20, 2014
- Pilot Grant Submission: April 15, 2014

NOTE: “Notification of Intent” is not required but is highly encouraged to allow for feedback prior to a full pilot grant submission.

Eligibility for a pilot grant is not dependent on Gene Therapy Center membership, and is open to all faculty members, as well as non-tenured faculty such as research scientists, of the University of Iowa. Unlike previous pilots, NIDDK has refined the program that funds the Center to be specific to cystic fibrosis (CF) research with a translational focus. This program is open to:

- New investigators who have never had extramural support for their research program.
- Established investigators who are currently performing research outside gene therapy and CF, but wish to apply their expertise to a problem relevant to CF.
- Established investigators currently performing CF and/or gene therapy research, but who wish to investigate a novel idea that represents a significant departure from currently funded research.

Research areas pertinent to the goals of the Center include, but are not limited to:

- Development of new gene therapy vectors for CF targeting any affected organ.
- Study of inflammatory responses to vector delivery of CF affected organs.
- Assessment of host cell/vector interactions and the mechanisms of transduction to CF affected cell types.
- Identification of stem cells targets for gene therapy and cell therapy applications in CF.
- Development of surrogate endpoints for assessing gene transfer and complementation in vivo.
- Pathophysiology of CF in any affected organ.
- Development of animal models to test CF gene therapies in vivo.

A description of the pilot program, including eligibility requirements, the review process, and downloadable forms and guidelines for the submission of pilot grant applications, can be found in the Pilot Program section on the Gene Therapy Center web site http://genetherapy.genetics.uiowa.edu/pilotprogdescript.shtml. If you do not have access to the web and desire additional information or a set of guidelines for pilot grant submission, please contact the Center Administrative Office (Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, 1-100 BSB, 335-7744, julie-stark@uiowa.edu).