



Movement Disorders Center
Department of Neurology
University of Colorado Denver

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO MOVEMENT DISORDERS CENTER 2022-2023 REQUEST FOR MDC PILOT GRANT APPLICATIONS

Description

Over the past several years the MDC has received philanthropic donations earmarked for movement disorders related research. The leadership of the MDC has decided that these funds would be best used to invest in pilot projects and young investigators with the objectives of increasing the chances of success for unique projects tied to the MDC and encouraging promising young investigators to pursue careers in research. Projects may be clinical, translational, or basic science.

Key Dates

- Funding Announcement July 6, 2022
- Proposals Due August 19, 2022 at 11:59pm MDT
- Review of Proposals September 7, 2022
- Funding Announcement and Project Start October 1, 2022
- Mid-term Progress Report January 13, 2023
- Project Presentation (MDC Research Retreat) June ??, 2023
- Project Completion Sept 30, 2023

General Considerations for All Applicants

- Number of awards provided will depend on funds available and quality of applications.
- We welcome proposals for all types of movement disorders; in addition, philanthropists have earmarked funds specifically for Parkinson's disease and proposals targeting this area will be given special consideration.
- Principal Investigators and Mentors (when applicable) must be members of the MDC to be considered for MDC Pilot Grants. For more details on how to become a member, please visit: www.ucdenvermovement.org
- Applications may include collaborations with persons and institutions outside of the MDC.
- Applicants are encouraged to involve a faculty member from the Movement Disorders section if their project will involve patients with movement disorders.
- Preference may be given to projects led by fellows, residents, students or PRAs, with projects seeking to collect pilot data that would be unlikely to be funded by other mechanisms.
- Funded applicants are expected to provide a mid-term progress report by January 13, 2023 and a progress report and presentation at our MDC retreat or Interdisciplinary Seminar that will take place in June 2023.



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Application Proposal Requirements

- The proposal should clearly describe a one-year research project using NIH-style structure, comprised of Abstract, Research Plan, Budget, Biosketches, and Letters of Support.
- Appendices are not allowed.
- Format must be Arial 11 pt font, single-spaced, with ½ inch margins, no footers.
- Applicants, particularly incoming fellows, are highly encouraged to meet with a minimum of two different potential PIs or mentors to discuss project options.

The following proposal documents are required to be submitted as a single PDF to movement@ucdenver.edu by August 19, 2022 11:59pm MDT:

1. **Cover page:** using *Fund Request Form* below.
2. **Abstract (250 word limit):** This concise summary of the project will be used to review your application, and it may be used to announce funded awards. Include header with project title and name/title/affiliation of investigators, overall goal, anticipated outcomes, and how the research meets RFA objectives.
3. **Research Plan (4 page limit, Arial 11 pt font, single-spaced, ½ inch margins, no footers):** to include the following sections:
 - a. **Specific Aims:** Provide a clear, concise summary of the Hypothesis to be tested and your Specific Aims.
 - b. **Strategy:** (Significance, Innovation, Approach), and Background/Preliminary Studies (if applicable).
 - **Significance:** Explain the importance of the problem or barrier to progress in field that the proposal addresses. Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
 - **Innovation:** Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.



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- *Approach*: Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project within the one-year timeline. Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted, as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work. Describe proposed tests, procedures, subject population, and ages in sufficient detail to allow adequate evaluation of your approach.
 - c. Future Directions.
 - d. References.
4. **Budget** (1 page limit): Projects for the 2022-2023 cycle should have budgets less than \$10,000 and duration of one year (Sept 2023). Applicants may ask for a no cost extension for up to one more year (Sept 2024). We will only provide a budget for Direct Costs.
- Clearly define project expenses with cost categories relevant to the project, such as Personnel, Supplies, Lab Testing, Animals, Human Subjects, Non-affiliate Organizations etc.
 - Salary support commensurate with percent effort is allowed for PI and lab personnel, subject to NIH- salary cap restrictions.
 - Unallowable expenses include but may not be limited to: Indirect costs (F&A), international entities, computers, telecommunications, food, furniture, administrative support, non-project specific office expenses, and professional dues/fees.
 - **Do not include expenses for publication or travel**; award recipients chosen to present their work at a conference will receive travel assistance from the MDC. In addition the MDC will explore resources for assisting with any publication costs should the need arise.
5. **How will this project forward the mission of the MDC** (250-word limit)?
6. **Letter(s) of Support (LOS)**: A letter from the Primary Mentor (when applicable) is required for all applications. This letter should describe the mentorship/career development plan and role of each mentor included in the proposal. Include:
- Information on his/her research qualifications and previous experience as a research mentor.
 - A plan that describes the nature of the supervision and mentoring that will occur during the proposed award period.



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- A plan for career progression for the mentee to move to the next stage of his/her career path during the project period of the award.
- A plan for monitoring the candidate's research, publications, and career progress.

Optional LOS from department chairs, consultants, foundations, commercial sources, manufacturers, etc. may be included as well.

7. **Biosketches** (no page limit): required for applicants, co-PIs, and mentor(s)

Review Criteria

Grants will be reviewed using the NIH scoring system and criteria including: Significance, Innovation, Approach, Investigators and Environment. Additional considerations for the MDC Pilot Grant process will be how well proposal forwards the mission of the MDC, how likely the proposal is to lead to future funding/publications, and (for junior investigators) how likely candidate is to continue in movement disorders related research.

Additional considerations

- If you are awarded a pilot grant, we request you recognize the University of Colorado Movement Disorders Center in any published articles or presentations resulting from the study. Additionally, MDC should be made aware of these published articles, presentations, and any additional funding resulting from the awarded project.
- Collaboration with the MDC is encouraged whenever possible.

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Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus

FUND REQUEST FORM

General Information

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR: Name: Email: Phone: MENTOR (IF APPLICABLE): CO-INVESTIGATOR(S):	DATE OF APPLICATION:
	AMOUNT REQUESTED (<i>up to \$10,000</i>):

PROJECT TITLE:

EXPECTED PROJECT DURATION:
Start date (mm/yyyy): _____ End date (mm/yyyy): _____

ABSTRACT (250-word limit)