



HOPKINS CONTE DIGESTIVE DISEASES
BASIC & TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
CORE CENTER

**2021-2022 PILOT PROJECT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
FOR HOPKINS FACULTY CONDUCTING GI-RELATED RESEARCH**

BACKGROUND

The Hopkins Conte Digestive Diseases Basic and Translational Research Core Center (<http://www.jhugicc.org/>) was established in June of 2011 to advance fundamental and translational gastrointestinal research at Hopkins. The Core mission is to bring together GI investigators and encourage others in the community to enter this area of research. This is accomplished by:

1. Providing cutting-edge resources that are too expensive or labor intensive to be maintained by most individual laboratories; and
2. Generating an environment that supports the intellectual activities of Center members through seminars, symposia, and work-in-progress updates on GI-related research
3. Funding Pilot/Feasibility projects

The Pilot/Feasibility Projects (P/FP) are key components of Core activities. The goal of this program is to provide seed money for projects, eventually leading to successful competition for funding at the national level. The P/FPs provide \$10,000-\$25,000, typically given each year to up to 4 investigators/projects. Alternatively, up to \$50,000 can be awarded for collaborative projects between a new investigator and a more senior investigator (#2 under *Eligibility* below). There is no requirement for permanent residence status or US citizenship. Preference is given to young investigators (see criteria of eligibility below); funding is usually for one year. All recipients of P/FP project funding are required to submit a yearly update on their progress for 5 years and formal presentation of progress after the 2nd year.

Pilot Project applications are due on February 15, 2021. Funding begins July 1, 2021.

ELIGIBILITY

Four groups of JHUSOM investigators are encouraged to apply.

1. New investigators, who have never held extramural NIH support other than a K or R03 award and have not been PIs on R, P or U grants, are the preferred group for funding. Those with MD, PhD or MD/PhD are eligible and applicants should be junior faculty or will be junior faculty at the start of this funding.
2. New investigators (as in #1 above) can apply in collaboration with a more senior investigator as co-principal investigator. These awards can be up to \$50,000. These funds may be shared between the investigators, for example, if the senior PI contributes specialized reagents, access to unique instruments, or licensed software. A detailed budget is required for these applications, and a majority of the funds should be designated to the junior investigator.
3. Established investigators who are interested in entering the GI field and initiate the GI-related projects.
4. GI investigators who are starting a new, innovative project that represents a significant departure from their on-going, funded research.

The order above (1=2>3>4) represents the priority for selecting projects for funding. Investigators may generally receive P/F support only once in any 5-year period. Consideration can be given for a second year upon submission of a formal application, which must include a progress report.



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We especially welcome applications from underrepresented minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities.

REQUIREMENTS OF P/F PROJECTS

1. The proposed research must be related to a GI topic.
2. The project proposes to use one or more of the Center's Core resources/services (see CORES page of GI Core Center website at www.jhuqicc.org)
3. The P/FPs awardees are expected to participate and present their research at a Center's work-in-progress meeting. Junior investigators are required to meet with a committee after six months of funding, to review progress.
4. Our center is judged on how many R or P grants result from the pilot projects. Priority for funding will be in part based on potential to lead to such funding.

PROPOSAL DETAILS

1. Applications are submitted electronically (by-e-mail) by **February 15, 2021** to Ms. Esther Choi (echoi34@jhmi.edu). Only fully completed applications that follow the format described below will be considered.
2. The \$10,000-\$25,000, or up to \$50,000 for collaborative projects, for one year can be used to cover expenses for salary (technician, postdoctoral fellow, NOT faculty), supplies, animals.
3. Format:
 - a. **Cover page** (Please use form on next page), which includes title, abstract up to 250 words (can be Arial 10) and pending/approved IACUC/IRB protocols.
 - b. **NIH Biosketch** of applicant and mentor (if applicable).
 - c. **Applicant's other support** (salary source, etc).
 - d. **Budget and Justification** for funds requested.
 - e. **Specific Aims, Background, Preliminary Results, Research Plan, Future Directions:** total 3 pages, font size Arial 11.
 - f. **Plans** to apply for extramural funding: topic and time frame: 1 page
 - g. **References:** 1 page.
 - h. **Letter from PI, mentor(s), Department Chair or Division Chief** stating how this project will allow you to advance independence and further your career, with emphasis on establishing independence.

REVIEW PROCESS

The Center's Internal Scientific Advisory Committee will triage the proposals based on the eligibility criteria. Applications will be scored by the External Scientific Advisory Committee. The top applications (typically 50% of submitted) will be reviewed by the Core Center's External Scientific Advisory Committee. **The finalists will present their projects at the Annual meeting of the Core External Scientific Advisory Committee on March 29, 2021.** Funding will be announced shortly thereafter.

For additional information, please contact: Esther Choi (echoi34@jhmi.edu).



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**HOPKINS DIGESTIVE DISEASES BASIC RESEARCH CORE CENTER
PILOT PROJECT APPLICATION 2021-2022**
(please use this form)

Project Title:

Name:

Title:

Department:

Campus Address:

Phone:

Email:

**IACUC/IRB protocol title, number, approval / expiration date:
(if approval is pending, list submission date)**

Abstract (up to 250 words, can be Arial 10):