

## **CNPRC 2023 Call for Pilot Project Letters of Intent**

The California National Primate Research Center (CNPRC) Pilot Program invites Letters of Intent for pilot project proposals to support basic and translational research using nonhuman primates (rhesus macaques or titi monkeys) for the 2023-2023 funding period.

Pilot projects that address biomedical/translational research topics across the nonhuman primate lifespan and include CNPRC scientific research unit areas (Cardiorespiratory Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Neuroscience and Behavior, Reproductive Sciences and Regenerative Medicine) are requested. Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of services offered in CNPRC Cores (e.g., flow cytometry, *in vivo* imaging, inhalation exposure). Information on Core services can be obtained on the CNPRC web site: [www.cnprc.ucdavis.edu/our-services/core-services/](http://www.cnprc.ucdavis.edu/our-services/core-services/)

**NEW** For the 2023-2024 funding period, topics of special interest include:

- Studies that leverage samples available including archived biospecimens
- Informatics approaches using currently available data/datasets
- Impact of climate change on health
- Effects of social isolation on health
- Innovative approaches in nonhuman primate research with potential for high translational impact

**Purpose:** The purpose of the CNPRC Pilot Program is to provide a mechanism to obtain preliminary data for submission of NIH grant proposals, with the goal of supporting new, extramural funded research utilizing nonhuman primate models of human disease. The CNPRC supports the Pilot Program by providing unique facilities for nonhuman primate research, specialized Core services, Core Scientist expertise, and limited funding to conduct pilot investigations particularly for those investigators new to nonhuman primate research. Pilot projects must be innovative and lead to tangible results in a one-year period. Funds may not be used to provide interim support for established projects or to extend previously conducted work.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Applicants must have Principal Investigator (PI) status from a federally recognized institution. Project scientists, postdoctoral fellows, and non-academic titles may not serve as PI on applications but can participate as co-investigators or trainees. Submissions from early-stage investigators new to nonhuman primate research are particularly encouraged. Please note that there is a limit of one Letter of Intent submission per PI.

The proposed project must be planned and carried out in collaboration with a CNPRC Core Scientist who will be integrally involved in the design, coordination, and management of the project. Prospective applicants are urged to contact CNPRC Unit Leaders or other Core Scientists to discuss the project, gain a preliminary assessment of feasibility, and confirm alignment with the CNPRC mission. Prospective applicants may also contact the Associate Director of Research for assistance in identification of Core Scientist collaborators. See **Inquiries**, below, for contact information.

**Funds Available:** The direct costs for a single research project must not exceed \$50,000 and are limited to one year of support. Smaller pilot proposals (\$20,000 to \$30,000) are particularly encouraged to provide funding for a greater number of applications and investigators. In addition to funds provided by the Pilot Program, 3-5 animals may be included at no purchase or use fee cost as a part of the proposal. The number of animals will be dependent upon the study design and must be determined in consultation with the collaborating Core Scientist. All activities that involve nonhuman primates must be conducted on-site at the CNPRC.

Allowable budget expenses include animal- (e.g., per diem) and laboratory-related costs (e.g., Core services, supplies). *PI salary, equipment, and travel are not permissible*; salary support for technicians must be strongly justified if included and may not be permitted if the project is selected. PIs must provide evidence of support to

justify effort on the project. PIs may leverage CNPRC Pilot Program funding with other funding sources, however all animal charges and services beyond the Pilot Program awarded amount (which does not include indirect costs) may be subject to indirect costs. Projects must be completed within the base grant year that funding is awarded.

**Application Procedures:** A Letter of Intent (no more than 1-page, single space, 0.5-inch margins, Arial 11 font) that includes a short project summary with title, specific aims, goals, and list of participating investigators (including the Core Scientist collaborator) is requested by **March 13, 2023**. An NIH biosketch (5 pages, current format) is also requested for each participating investigator, *with the exclusion of the Core Scientist collaborator*. The completed Letter of Intent must be electronically submitted as a single PDF file to [lmiller@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lmiller@ucdavis.edu). Please note a Letter of Intent submission will trigger an email response along with a one question survey requesting information on how applicants learn about our program.

Letters of Intent will be reviewed and ranked by the CNPRC Research Advisory Committee, with full proposals requested from a subset of submissions. A committee of external reviewers will evaluate submitted full proposals and provide written feedback to applicants. Applicants should note that the CNPRC Pilot Program is competitive at two levels, for both the Letters of Intent and full proposals.

The deadline for full proposals is **May 1, 2023**. Full proposals will use the format of a required submission form and will be limited to five pages, excluding references. If a full proposal is requested additional details regarding format, budget, and proposal content will be provided. Applicants are encouraged to consider the inclusion of one or more trainees. If included, applicants should provide a brief description of the trainee role in the project and a mentoring plan (to be implemented by the PI and Core Scientist collaborator).

**Review Criteria:** Full proposals will be evaluated for scientific merit (significance, approach, innovation) and likelihood of the project to lead to a successful NIH grant application. The CNPRC Director will make final funding decisions based on recommendations by external reviewers and the CNPRC Research Advisory Committee.

**Progress Report:** Conditions of funding include quarterly progress updates and reporting of grants and publications that result from the pilot award on an as-requested basis. The CNPRC base grant (NIH P51OD011107) must be acknowledged in oral or written presentations of data obtained through the Pilot Program. All publications resulting from pilot awards must obtain a PMCID number to meet NIH requirements.

**Inquiries:** Potential applicants are encouraged to contact one of the following CNPRC faculty:

- Cardiorespiratory Diseases Unit Leader: Lisa A. Miller, Ph.D. ([lmiller@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lmiller@ucdavis.edu))
- Infectious Diseases Unit Leader: Koen Van Rompay, Ph.D. ([kkvanrompay@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kkvanrompay@ucdavis.edu))
- Neuroscience and Behavior Unit Leader: Brenda McCowan, Ph.D. ([bjmccowan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bjmccowan@ucdavis.edu))
- Reproductive Sciences and Regenerative Medicine Unit Leader: Alice F. Tarantal, Ph.D. ([aftarantal@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aftarantal@ucdavis.edu))
- CNPRC Director: John Morrison, Ph.D. ([jhmorrison@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jhmorrison@ucdavis.edu))
- CNPRC Associate Director of Research: Lisa A. Miller, Ph.D. ([lmiller@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lmiller@ucdavis.edu))
- CNPRC Associate Director of Primate Services: Jeff Roberts, D.V.M., DACLAM ([jaroberts@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jaroberts@ucdavis.edu))
- CNPRC Assistant Director of Primate Services: Greg Timmel, D.V.M., DACLAM ([gbtimmel@ucdavis.edu](mailto:gbtimmel@ucdavis.edu))

| <b>Important Dates</b>      |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Letter of Intent deadline   | March 13, 2023 |
| Letter of Intent decision   | March 28, 2023 |
| Full proposal deadline      | May 1, 2023    |
| Earliest funding start date | July 1, 2023   |