

CNPRC 2025 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 2025-2026 base grant funding period.

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

Areas of interest include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Developmental and high-risk studies with the potential for gaining key insights into basic processes that will have high translational impact.
- Projects that propose new multidisciplinary teams with the inclusion of trainees.
- Investigations that leverage samples or data available including archived biospecimens to obtain necessary information to support proceeding to *in vivo* studies.

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 health and disease. The CNPRC supports the Pilot Program by providing Core Scientist expertise, specialized Core services, unique facilities for nonhuman primate research, and limited funding to conduct pilot investigations. Pilot projects must 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. Applicants must provide data in support of the nonhuman primate pilot project proposed, and work with a Core Scientist to ensure an appropriate study design that addresses essential rigor and reproducibility and rationale for the number of animals (and/or samples) proposed.

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 the 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, management, and oversight 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 funding during the award period (not to exceed 12 months). 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. All CNPRC Pilot Program funding must be spent at the CNPRC, although purchased supplies can be shipped from the vendor to the PI. 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 CNPRC base grant funding period (for this call for applications completed by April 30, 2026).

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 **January 17, 2025**. 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. Please note a Letter of Intent submission will trigger an email response along with a one question survey requesting information on how applicants learned about the 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. Applicants should note that the CNPRC Pilot Program is competitive at two levels, for both the Letters of Intent and invited full proposals.

The deadline for full proposals is **March 3, 2025**. 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 and written presentations of data obtained through the Pilot Program. All publications resulting from pilot awards must obtain a PMID number to meet NIH requirements.

Inquiries: Potential applicants are encouraged to contact CNPRC Unit Leaders or Core Scientists:

- Cardiorespiratory Diseases Unit Leader: Lisa A. Miller, Ph.D. (lmiller@ucdavis.edu)
- Infectious Diseases Unit Leader: Koen Van Rompay, D.V.M., Ph.D. (kkvanrompay@ucdavis.edu)
- Neuroscience and Behavior Unit Leader: Brenda McCowan, Ph.D. (bjmccowan@ucdavis.edu)
- Reproductive Sciences and Regenerative Medicine Unit Leader: Alice F. Tarantal, Ph.D. (afantarantal@ucdavis.edu)
- CNPRC Core Scientists <https://cnprc.ucdavis.edu/our-science/scientists/>

Important Dates	
Letter of Intent deadline	January 17, 2025
Letter of Intent decision	January 28, 2025
Full proposal deadline	March 3, 2025
Earliest funding start date	May 1, 2025