**T1 – BENCH TO BEDSIDE TRANSLATION AWARD**

The MICHR Pilot Grant Program (PGP) is requesting applications for projects designed to identify basic science discoveries that have a significant potential for impacting human health. Proposals that effectively bridge the gap between discovery and clinical applicability to accelerate the translation of promising discoveries will be favored.

For consideration of funding, collaboration between a basic scientist and a clinical or social scientist is required. The Principal Investigator MUST be a basic scientist from any department/center, and MUST partner with a clinical or social scientist from any clinical department or school. (Principal Investigators who are faculty in a Basic Science Department within the Medical School should apply to the T1 - EBS Partnership Accelerating Translation Award). In addition to the stated expectations, please consult the [Eligibility Requirements and Application Guidelines](#) for additional Pilot Grant Program restrictions and requirements.

The T1 – Bench-to-Bedside Translation Award aims to foster the translation of innovative discoveries in molecular-, cell- or animal-based models or in the creation of novel technology platforms that have direct clinical potential for altering our understanding and/or management of human disease. This grant mechanism provides funding for promising ideas to identify novel diagnostic or therapeutic targets that may otherwise encounter roadblocks in the translation from bench-to-bedside applicability.

Research using tissue or other samples from humans, or clinical and physiological data from humans, will be considered provided that the applicant states compelling rationale for how the proposed study will lead to an impact on a highly significant human health challenge.

**Use of animals in PGP research:** If the work involves animals, it is required that the investigator show how the study will lead as a next step to a clinical or translational research project. The research “next step” is to take the findings from the pre-clinical model to humans. If the animal model has already been validated as a predictor of how human disease will respond and the pathway toward humans is clearly evident as the next logical step, the study is eligible for pilot grant support. If the model has not yet been validated and a significant amount of work will be required to determine if the animal model would serve as a predictive model for human disease, it is not eligible for support. Nude mice or other immune-compromised animals may be appropriate as ‘vehicles’ for human tissues in order to assess the effects of drugs or other interventions. **Applications deemed not responsive to the limitations in the use of animal models will be administratively turned down.** If the research will primarily be done in animal models, it is recommended that the investigator contact the Faculty Lead for the Pilot Grant Program prior to submission of the application.

**Use of Stem Cells in PGP research:** In general, work with human-derived stem cells or induced pluripotent stem cells are not considered translational research for the purposes of the PGP. A proposal may be turned down administratively if it is felt not to comply with the intent of the PGP. Researchers are encouraged to contact the PGP staff with specific questions of eligibility.

**Duration:** Pilot Grant applications can request funds for either one or two years of funding. MICHR will provide up to $25,000/year in co-funding with the understanding that other sponsoring entities will provide at least a 1:1 match. **Multiple year applications must have a strong rationale and have documented commitment by the co-funding entities for the entire period.** The rationale for a two year funding period must be included in the application and will be taken into account in scoring of the application.

**Funding and cost-share requirement:** The most common source of co-funding of Pilot Grants will continue to be from Schools or Departments with a maximum contribution of $25,000 from MICHR. However, the Pilot Grant Program will allow other institutional entities to co-fund grants which may include funding by NIH funded Centers, Institutes, or other sources of funds.
The MICHR Pilot Grant Program will also allow the submission of grants that have multiple sources of funding, such as by two Centers, a Center and a Department, or two Departments. The co-support can be of any magnitude with the understanding that other sponsoring entities will provide at least a 1:1 match, and MICHR will provide a maximum of $25,000/year. The application must have sign-off by each of the co-funding entities prior to submission of the application. All other eligibility requirements for the PI or Co-PIs will be enforced.

For the T1 and T2 multiple-year funding opportunities, a detailed budget and justification must be provided for each year. The MICHR Pilot Grant Program reserves the right to withhold and/or not fund the second year of a project if all sponsoring departments, units, centers, and/or other institutional entities do not fulfill their agreement and contribute their cost-share in the first year of the project. That is, the second year of funding is contingent on all sponsoring parties putting forth their cost-share on time during the first year of the project.

The grants will be reviewed by the Scientific Review Committee and prioritization will be based on the criteria used for review of all Pilot Grant applications. Centers or other entities can preselect applications for submission through their own application process, and the reviews from the pre-selection process can be submitted with the application.

Support for this award must be justified by a detailed budget. Applicants must ensure that the co-funding from other sponsoring departments, centers, or other sources is secured prior to submission.

Centers with Pilot and Feasibility Grant Programs may participate as a ‘Department’ for the purposes of this award. A letter from the Center stating its willingness to participate is required PRIOR to the submission of the application.

Any questions concerning the funding should be directed to the PGP administrator, Kate Althouse at 734-998-7626 or at MICHR-PilotGrants@umich.edu