

Department of Radiology and Magnetic Resonance Research Center sponsored Pilot Funding Project

Program Summary

The Department of Radiology and the Magnetic Resonance Research Center (MRRC) at the University of Pittsburgh are pleased to announce a sponsored pilot imaging program to support new research projects that will benefit from the use of Magnetic Resonance (MR) Imaging. The goal of this funding is to support the collection of pilot data for which external funding would be otherwise unlikely to be obtained. Projects that represent a new direction of research for the PI are encouraged as well as projects that may be viewed as “risky” from either a technical or statistical level. This funding is not intended for investigators that are well versed in the field of MR imaging and are proposing the next logical step in research.

Eligibility

University of Pittsburgh faculty members at the levels of assistant/research assistant professor or higher are eligible to apply as principal investigators. Instructors and research scientists will be eligible if they can clearly demonstrate that they are eligible to and will apply for external funding upon collection of the pilot data, and must include a letter of support from the department chair. Post-doctoral scholars or associates will be eligible if the pilot data is needed to apply for an external K award (or NSF equivalent). Post-docs must additionally supply a letter of support from their advisor or department chair detailing support of the candidate for external (e.g. K-award) funding. Researchers at any level that are working in the lab of a senior investigator must clearly demonstrate how their research differs from the senior investigator and is not simply an extension of their research.

Application Deadlines

Applications will be reviewed three times each year in January, May, and September. In 2012 applications will be accepted January 16, May 7 and September 4. Applications received in January will be reviewed in February and investigators will be informed of funding decisions by March 1, 2012. Applications received in May will be reviewed in June and investigators will be informed of funding decisions by July 2, 2012. Applications received in September will be reviewed in October and investigators will be informed of funding decisions by November 1, 2012.

Facilities

The MR Research Center (MRRC), located on the 8th floor of Presbyterian University Hospital and Level-B of the Biomedical Sciences Tower 3, is a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to the development and implementation of Advanced MRI technology and its use by the Pittsburgh Research Community. The center has three whole-body human imaging/spectroscopy systems that will be available to proposed projects, including two 3T magnets, and one 7T magnet. Both the 3.0T Tim Trio scanners are fitted with a MRI-compatible eye tracking monitoring and recording system (ASL, Bedford, Massachusetts) as well as with a MR compatible physiological monitor (MEDRAD, Indianola, PA). The 7T scanner is equipped with 32 independent receive channels, each of them with multi-nuclear capabilities and a 12-channel head coil. Applicants are advised to discuss the feasibility of projects and the capabilities of these systems with either Denise Davis (davidk@upmc.edu) or Julie Myers-Irvin (myersirvinjm@upmc.edu) prior to submission.

Budget

The Department of Radiology plans to support a total 100 hours of scan time for applications received in 2011. In general projects will be awarded up to 20 hours of scan time; additional funding may be considered if a compelling case can be made that more than 20 hours are necessary to complete the project. Individual projects should not request any more than 40 hours. Each application must include a brief budget justification including the number of cost center (7 am to 7 pm) or after cost center hours requested. Use of the facility during cost center hours includes research technologists and MRRC nurses to assist with protocol completion and to assure subject safety. Those wishing to use the facilities after cost center hours will require approval by designated MRRC faculty and must demonstrate proficiency with imaging and subject safety. Because imaging is likely a new tool for most investigators applying for this funding, it is anticipated that most projects will have to be completed during cost center hours. All scan time must be used within one year of the award. Awards are only given in units of MRI time; no additional subject reimbursement, supplies, or salary support is allowable.

Application Instructions

All applicants must fill out the pilot imaging program application attached to these instructions. The research plan should follow section 3 (research plan) of the standard NIH SF424 (R&R) format including acceptable page margins and font sizes. The research plan may not exceed five single spaced pages and should include a description of the Significance, Innovation, and Approach. A "specific aims" section should be included WITHIN the 5-page limit. In addition, each application must also include a separate section (within the 5 pages) to clearly define how the data will be used to apply for external funding. Applicants may include up to one additional page for References. A current NIH-style biosketch should be included with the submission.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the committee for scientific feasibility and significance of the research as well as the potential to lead to future funding.

IRB

IRB approvals are not needed prior to submission an application. However, projects chosen for support will require IRB protocol approvals before scan time can be initiated.

Pre-Award requirements

Projects will be selected for potential funding and PIs notified of their selection. However, PIs will be expected to have a detailed protocol meeting with the members of the award committee prior to the release of funds to discuss the practicality of proposed work as well as the rules and regulations of the MRRC.

Post-Award requirements

Recipients of pilot funding will be required to meet with the pilot committee twice during the award period. They will meet halfway through their project to discuss progress and then meet again at the completion of the research. A written summary of the results will be required at the

end of the project. Applicants will also be asked to present their research findings at a Department of Radiology research seminar.

Submission

Applications should be submitted electronically, in pdf format, to either Denise Davis (davidk@upmc.edu) or Julie Myers-Irvin (myersirvinjm@upmc.edu) by 5 pm on the dates specified above. Confirmation of receipt will be emailed to each applicant. Applicants are encouraged to contact Denise Davis or Julie Myers-Irvin prior to submission to discuss the suitability of their proposed research or any questions that they may have.

PILOT IMAGING PROGRAM APPLICATION

Application Title:

PI Name/Title:

PI Position/Department:

PI Address:

PI Telephone:

Email address:

How many MR pilot hours are you requesting?

Provide a brief statement regarding why this number of pilot scans is required and what type of grant proposal you are planning to submit.

**Do you currently have a funded grant?
(if so, please include "other support" information)**

Yes

No

Date:

Signature:

Proposals should be submitted by May 2, 2011 or September 6, 2011. Applications may be no more than 5 pages and should include Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, Approach, and Future Directions (emphasizing how the data will be used for external funding). Applicants may include up to one additional page for References. Please include a copy of your Other Support with your submission. A progress report will be required at the completion of the pilot time. Submit proposal and application, by email to:

Denise Davis
davidk@upmc.edu
MR Research Center
UPMC Presbyterian
Room B-864.1

OR

Julie Myers-Irvin, PhD
myersirvinjm@upmc.edu
Department of Radiology
3950 Presby South Tower

Office use only

Progress Report Due: