# **Tulane National Primate Research Center**



## Pilot Study Program



## Director Andrew A. Lackner, DVM, PhD

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## PILOT STUDY PROGRAM

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Tulane National Primate Research Center (TNPRC) Pilot Study Program provides funding to investigators who show promise of developing a career in nonhuman primate biomedical research or to those who wish to add a nonhuman primate component to an existing research program. The Pilot Study Program is also open to investigators with established nonhuman primate research programs who wish to develop substantially new research directions. The direct cost for a single research project should not exceed \$50,000. Project duration will be of one year; no-cost extensions for one additional year may be permitted. Pilot Study Program research funds will not provide interim support for an established project or for any project that qualifies for support from other sources.

Research may involve initial model identification, characterization, and development that may follow a case workup of a spontaneously occurring disease, evaluation of improved husbandry or animal management procedures, or more detailed examination of serendipitous laboratory findings. Pilot Study Program support is typically for proposals that do not have sufficient preliminary data or results that are needed to obtain support from normal sources of funding. The overall purpose of the project must complement the objectives of the Center's research programs, and the projects themselves must have the potential of leading to an extramurally funded grant application. The proposal must be substantially different from the applicant's funded projects. Investigators must be beyond the postdoctoral rank and based at any non-profit academic or research institution. If the applicant is not a TNPRC Core Staff Scientist, he/she must secure sponsorship from such a Core Scientist. The latter will assume responsibility for overall management, coordination and reports concerning the project. In general, all major activities related to the approved project must be conducted and carried out on site at the Center.

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The application process is two tiered, with an initial letter of intent followed by invitations for full applications. There are two submission deadlines per year.

#### A. Letter of Intent

A one-page Letter of Intent summarizing the background, significance, specific aims, and experimental design of the proposed work must be submitted for consideration prior to submission of a full application. Responses to Letters of Intent will be issued within four weeks of the submission deadline, and decisions are final.

- 1. **February 1** Letter of Intent deadline for the May 1st Pilot Study Program Application date.
- 2. August 1 Letter of Intent deadline for the November 1st Pilot Study Program application date.

#### **B.** Application

Applications for each of two yearly deadlines will be solicited following the acceptance of an applicant's Letter of Intent. An investigator is allowed to apply for one proposal per funding period and can receive no more than one pilot project award every two years. Unsolicited applications will not be reviewed.

- May 1 Pilot Study Program application submission deadline July: Application review by TNPRC Pilot Study Review Committee August: Award announcement September: Proposals funded
- November 1 Pilot Study Program application submission deadline January: Application review by TNPRC Pilot Study Review Committee February: Award announcement March: Proposals funded

#### REVIEW

The TNPRC Pilot Study Program Review Committee will review all applications for scientific merit. Committee members are appointed by the Center's Director and include one member from each of the TNPRC's seven research-based divisions. Committee members will be permitted to seek verbal or written reports from colleagues if they have a need for outside assessment. All outside assessments received, whether verbal or written, will be reported to the committee. Ad-hoc members with particular areas of expertise may be appointed as needed. The recommendations of the Committee will be forwarded to the Center Director. It is the Director's responsibility to make the final decision on which proposals are funded and at what budgetary level. In the event that overlapping funding is received at any time after a pilot study award is made, funding for the pilot study project will terminate. An application that is not funded may be resubmitted as a revised application one time only.

#### **REVIEW CRITERIA**

The following criteria will be used to review the proposal:

- Scientific merit (Significance, Approach, Innovation)
- · Complementarity between project's goals and TNPRC's scientific program
- · Likelihood of moving from the pilot study to a NIH-grant application or equivalent
- · Feasibility of project completion within the allotted time period
- Budget
- Availability of an approved IACUC protocol. To prevent delays, an IACUC protocol may be submitted at the same time as the application. An approved IACUC protocol is required prior to starting the project.

#### **PROGRESS REPORT**

It is expected that one or more manuscripts and a NIH grant application or equivalent will be submitted while the pilot project is in progress or shortly after its conclusion. If manuscripts or grant applications are not submitted within one year of the conclusion of the pilot project, a written statement must be provided to the Center's Director explaining the reasons for this omission. A report of progress on each pilot research project, including manuscripts and grants submitted, must be provided to the Center's Director in March for inclusion in the Center's annual progress report. Failure to do so will result in termination of funding.

### **DIRECTIONS FOR SOLICITED APPLICATION**

#### **TITLE PAGE**

The title page will include the following blocks of information:

- Project Title
- Principal Investigator-General information- name, title, affiliation, contact information
- Budget Time period of proposed project and funding requested
- Authorizing Official Division Chair or Institution Official
- TNPRC Core Scientist sponsor
- Project Description/Abstract

#### **BUDGET PAGE** (USE PHS398 APPLICATION FORM PAGE 4 AND 5 FORMAT)

The budget period is for up to one year (\$50,000 cap) and must include all costs for purchase of animals, per diem and veterinary technical support. For TNPRC Principal Investigators, the budget may include 2.5 to 5% effort with salary support. Other TNPRC faculty and staff scientists may serve as consultants at no cost to the grant. Principal Investigator's salary at other institutions must show a percentage of effort but without salary support. The percent of effort for those investigators is unlimited. The following items will not be funded through the Pilot Study Project Fund: travel to scientific meetings, publication costs and salary for faculty-level investigators other than TNPRC Principal Investigators.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH** (USE PHS398 format including other support)

#### **Research Plan**

Page limit for the Research Plan (NIH format) is eight pages excluding references. Attachments essential to the review of the application are permitted but should be kept to a minimum. The Research Plan should include the following:

- Specific Aims
- · Background and Significance
- · Preliminary Studies
- · Research Design and Methods
- Literature Cited
- Appendix (if necessary)

#### **Abstract of Funded or Submitted Proposals**

This section should contain the abstract page or a brief summary of each grant and contract that is currently funded or submitted, including those funded or submitted elsewhere for pilot study support.

#### **Relationship of Proposed Pilot Study to Funded or Submitted Proposal**

Explain the relationship, if any, of the proposed study to funded or submitted proposals. If there is no relationship, a single sentence will suffice.

#### LIST OF PREVIOUSLY AWARDED TNPRC GRANTS

List each grant awarded internally at the TNPRC during the past five years, and identify any external grant(s) or contract application(s) that resulted from the internal grant whether or not they were funded.

## PILOT STUDY RESULTING IN NIH-GRANT APPLICATION OR EQUIVALENT.

Discuss the feasibility that funding of this pilot project will result in a larger, externally funded research program.

## Tulane National Primate Research Center Pilot Study Program Blank Application Form

	ATOR	
Name	Position Title	
Mailing Address	Department	
	Institution	
	Telephone	Facsimile
Signature and Dute		Smail
BUDGET		
Period of Proposed Project	Start Date	End Date
Funds Requested	5	Total \$
AUTHORIZING DIVISI	ON CHAIR OR INSTITU	FIONAL OFFICIAL
	Title	
Name		
Signature		Date
Signature		Date
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#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NOTE: State the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, making reference to the health relatedness of the project. Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving these goals. Avoid summary of past accomplishments and the use of first person. This abstract is meant to serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work when separated from the application. If the application is funded, this description, as is, will become public in formation. DO NOT EXCEED THE SPACE PROVIDED.



NOTE: See instruction. ose confinuation pages as needed to provide the required information in the format shown below. Start with Principal Investigator. List all other key personnel in alphabetical order, last name first.

Name	Organization	Role In Project	

### APPENDIX

### **RECENTLY FUNDED TNPRC PILOT STUDY PROJECTS**

#### May 2002 - May 2006

Rhesus Papillomavirus Infectivity and Persistence in Experimentally Infected Female Rhesus Macaques

A Nonhuman Primate Model of Tick Immunity

Identification of Cytotoxic and T Helper Epitopes in Rotavirus VP6 Surface Protein

Evaluation of a Prototype Mucosal *Chlamydia Trachomatis* Vaccine in Pigtailed Macaques

Nonhuman Primate Pilot Study of a Therapeutic DNA Vaccine against Chaga Disease

T Cell Activities in a Rhesus Monkey (Macaca mulatta) Model of Ricketsial Infection

T Regulatory Cells in Rhesus Macaques and African Green Monkeys

A Rhesus Macaque Model for GB Virus Type C (GBV-C) and SIV Coinfection

Experimental Viral Myocarditis: Characterization in a Nonhuman Primate Model

Statins as Potential Agents for NeuroAIDS

Primate Model of MHCII Contribution to HIV Pathogenesis

HSV-2/HIV Vaginal Infection Model for Microbicides

Stereotaxic Gene Transfer to the Rhesus CNS

Repopulation of Macaque Lungs With Macaque Mesenchymal Stem Cells

Comparative Pathogenesis of SIVsm Viruses Belonging to Different Genetic Lineages Targeting an SIV nef Core Vaccine to Dendritic Cells HIV and the Mucosal Immune System: New Vaccine Strategies Development of Strategies for Vector-Mediated Gene Transfer into Rhesus Monkeys Primate Model for Novel Immunization Strategies against Anthrax Targeting an SIV nef Core Vaccine to Dendritic Cells



#### **Contact Information**

Robert Johnson, Manager of Communications - E-mail: rjohns5@tulane.edu Web Address: www.TNPRC.tulane.edu

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