

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CORE VOUCHER PROJECTS

Program Description: The Core Facility Advocacy Committee (CFAC) in the Office of Research Technologies, UNC School of Medicine (SOM), announces a pilot program to support research projects that directly utilize UNC SOM biomedical research cores. Core vouchers worth up to \$10,000 will be awarded to investigators with qualified projects to be used exclusively for core services.

Project Requirements: To be eligible for funding, projects must be for new method development or generation of pilot data for a project not currently funded AND at least one of the following:

- Pipeline project that utilizes more than one core
- Applicant is a new customer of at least one core utilized in this proposal
- Applicant is using a technology or service within a core that they have not used before, even if they have previously worked with that core

This program is not intended to supplement ongoing, funded research but rather to help labs innovate, test new ideas, develop a new method, or work with a core that they have not previously used.

Awarded funds must be spent by **June 30, 2025**. Carryover of funds to the subsequent fiscal year is not guaranteed. Feasibility of completing the project within the funding window will be considered in scoring the applications.

Applicants can be from any department or school at UNC Chapel Hill but must utilize at least one core which invoices for services that is managed by the SOM or serves a SOM-majority customer base. A list of approved core facilities is attached.

Awards will be paid directly to the core facility upon receipt of an invoice from the core for completed work.

Conditions of Award:

- Awarded projects are expected to provide a brief follow-up report at 12 months following the award.
- Cores must be acknowledged in published work stemming from this award.
- Funding must be acknowledged as: "Funding provided by the Core Facility Advocacy Committee and Office of Research Technologies, UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine."

Application Instructions:

- All submissions must be made online at: <https://www.med.unc.edu/corefacilities/core-voucher-program/>
- **Applications are due by: September 23, 2024 at 11:59 PM**
- While you may save and return to your online form prior to submission, a template is provided for your convenience in drafting your application
- The description of the project can follow the format of a typical specific aims page for an NIH grant and should include study design and expected outcomes
- Provide a detailed budget for the core services you plan to utilize. If you intend to use multiple cores, please list a budget for each core facility.
- Provide current Other Support document and brief statement regarding how the data will be used
- Consultation with the core director/manager(s) is required prior to submission of the application. The attached attestation page must be signed by each participating core facility director or manager acknowledging that the project and budget were discussed and adheres to the core facility's standard of rigor, reproducibility, and transparency in research.
- Applicants must sign the attestation page agreeing to acknowledge the contributions of core facilities used in any publications arising from this funding.

Review Criteria: Successful applications will satisfy the project requirements listed above and will be assessed by CFAC for appropriate scope within the funding window, innovation, significance and approach. If additional expert input is needed CFAC may utilize *ad hoc* reviewers. The 9-point NIH rating scale will be used (1 = exceptional; 9 = poor).

Questions? Please contact the Office of Research Technologies at corefacilities@med.unc.edu

ELIGIBLE UNC CORE FACILITIES

(In alphabetical order. If you are interested in using a core not on this list contact ORT at corefacilities@med.unc.edu to confirm eligibility)

- Abacus Evaluation
- Advanced Analytics Core
- Animal Clinical Chemistry Core
- Animal Models Core
- Bioinformatics and Research Collaborative (BARC)
- Biomedical Research Imaging Center Cores (Small Animal Imaging, Small Animal MRI, Human Imaging, Radiochemistry, and Image Storage and Analysis)
- Biomolecular NMR Core
- BioSpecimen Processing Facility
- BRAIN Initiative Viral Vector Core
- Cardiovascular Physiology and Phenotyping Core
- CFAR Cores (Social and Behavioral, HIV/STD Laboratory, Clinical Pharmacology and Analytical Chemistry)
- CHAI Core: Interventions
- Clinical Genomic Analysis (GENYSIS) Core
- Cryo-EM Core Facility
- Flow Cytometry Core Facility
- Functional Genomics Core
- High-Throughput Genomic Sequencing Facility
- High-Throughput Modified Peptide Library & Arrayer Facility
- Histology Research Core Facility
- Hooker Imaging Core
- Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Core
- IDDRC Clinical Translational Core
- Lenti shRNA Core
- Macromolecular Crystallography Core Facility
- Macromolecular Interactions Facility
- Mammalian Genotyping Core
- Marsico Tissue Procurement and Cell Culture Core
- Mass Cytometry Core Facility
- Metabolomics and Proteomics (MAP) Core
- Microbiome Core
- Microscopy Services Laboratory
- Mouse Behavioral Phenotyping Core
- National Gnotobiotic Rodent Resource Center
- NC TraCS
- Neuroscience Microscopy Core
- Pathology Services Core
- Patient-Reported Outcomes (PRO) Core
- Preclinical Research Unit
- Respiratory TRACTS Core
- R.L. Juliano Structural Bioinformatics Core
- Systems Genetics Core
- Tissue Culture Facility
- Tissue Procurement Facility
- Translational Genomics Lab
- Vector Core
- Vironomics Core