

**UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OFFICE OF RESEARCH  
EMERGING CHALLENGES in BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH (ECBR)  
COVID-19 Pilot Award Program**

April 3, 2020

**Overview:**

The Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic is a public health emergency that highlights the importance of research for guiding current and future strategies for prevention, containment, and treatment of the virus. In the SOM, many researchers are uniquely positioned to perform this research, and are working tirelessly to provide new insights to combat the current COVID-19 pandemic and future pandemics.

The SOM Office of Research will support these important efforts by our investigators by investing in projects that constitute critical research activity on COVID-19 and that have already received approval from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. The COVID-19 Pilot Award Program will provide between \$10,000-\$50,000 for one year of funding for novel proposals to address the emerging challenge presented by COVID-19.

The intent is to fund 3-4 projects to accelerate knowledge to address the urgency of need in this critical area. Projects can include but are not limited to basic science, clinical research, population health research, data science, and epidemiology. Data from the funded projects should facilitate new NIH or other funding as it becomes available.

**Eligibility and Requirements:**

This funding opportunity is open to faculty with primary appointments in the SOM or faculty whose grants are administered by the SOM. The proposed project should not significantly overlap with the aims of existing funding (external or internal awards) and the lab and CDME personnel must have prior approval from the Vice Chancellor for Research for the research activities\*. The proposal must represent a new project and cannot already have received even partial external or internal funding. Study teams that involve cross-disciplinary collaborations are strongly encouraged.

Applicants are welcome to apply to the NCTraCS COVID-19 RFA in addition to the ECBR and if so can request up to \$75,000 in funding for the project between the two mechanisms. Reviews will be coordinated to prevent duplication in funding.

Applications should include the following components:

- 1. Critical Research Activity form with the COVID-19 project submitted to OVCR.\***
- 2. Proof of email from OVCR approving the COVID-19 research project.\***
- 3. Proof of CDME letter for all personnel involved.\***
- 4. Title Page**
  - Please provide the project title, and the name, title, department/affiliation, and role for each of the key personnel.

5. **Abstract** (1/2 page)
6. **Research Plan** (up to 2 pages; 1.5 line spacing, font Arial 11 pt., and 1-inch margins) which must include the following:
  - Specific Aims
  - Significance and Innovation (include relevance to COVID-19)
  - Approach
  - Timeline and goals for future funding.
7. **Detailed Budget and Justification**
  - Use NIH Budget forms
  - Funds may be allocated to support research staff, supplies, core facility fees, travel directly related to project goals, and small equipment.
  - Salary support for faculty is not an allowable cost. Salary support for trainees, and technicians are permissible. Funds will support direct costs only.
8. **NIH Biosketches** for Key Personnel
  - Include current and pending support and internal as well as external funding sources.

\* For projects that involve research done on campus. Does not apply to research that can be done remotely (e.g. data analysis)

**Applications must be received by 5 PM on April 20, 2020.** All Submissions should be emailed as a single pdf to [oor\\_submissions@med.unc.edu](mailto:oor_submissions@med.unc.edu).

Please email [oor\\_submissions@med.unc.edu](mailto:oor_submissions@med.unc.edu) or [jenbren@med.unc.edu](mailto:jenbren@med.unc.edu) with any questions about the program.