The newly funded Mount Sinai NIEHS Core Center announces its first call for Pilot Grant proposals. The Center’s mission is to increase the Environmental Health (EH) research portfolio at Mount Sinai and to bring non-EH researchers into the field through new transdisciplinary collaborations.

**One** $70,000 grant and **five** $25,000 grants will be disbursed to Mount Sinai researchers who are Core Center Members. Applications can be made to either grant program. The budget will determine which program is applicable. Research projects should deal with an issue relevant to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) (e.g. metals, industrial solvents, endocrine disrupting chemicals, air pollution, pesticides etc.) See [http://www.niehs.nih.gov/about/strategicplan/strategicplan2012_508.pdf](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/about/strategicplan/strategicplan2012_508.pdf) for a description of NIEHS research priorities. Both basic research and population science applications are encouraged. Grantees will be expected to briefly report on research progress annually including subsequent extramural funding.

Among the $25,000 grants, applications from Assistant Professors, Associate Professors, and Community engaged research proposals will receive additional funding priority after reviewer scoring. No special priorities are set aside for the $70,000 grant.

Applications focused solely on toxicology/environmental health topics that are the purview of other NIH Institutes are not responsive. These include drugs of abuse (covered by NIDA), and ethanol (covered by NIAAA). However, an application dealing with any of these issues and an environmental toxicant is responsive. (For example, a proposal on the role of neurotoxic metal exposure in drug seeking behaviors; or trichloroethylene as an inhibitor of alcohol dehydrogenase). Likewise, studies on gene-chemical interactions, mixed social environment-chemical interactions or nutrition-chemical interactions are encouraged. For questions on whether a particular proposal idea meets this RFA’s requirements please email Robert Wright MD ([robert.wright@mssm.edu](mailto:robert.wright@mssm.edu)).

**Eligibility**
- PIs must be Mount Sinai Core Center members at the time of submission.
- Non-center members, including researchers outside Mount Sinai, can be co-investigators; outside collaborators who are members of other NIEHS P30 centers are encouraged and such collaborations are considered in the funding decision. A list of centers can be found at: [http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/dert/programs/core/grantees/index.cfm](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/dert/programs/core/grantees/index.cfm).

**P30 Core Usage:** The new P30 Core Center has a number of core resources available to center members including laboratory support for environmental exposures, epigenetic biomarkers, phenotyping and statistical analysis. Please contact Vivian Reccoppa ([vivian.reccoppa@mssm.edu](mailto:vivian.reccoppa@mssm.edu)) for further information. **Usage of P30 core facilities is given added weight in the final funding decision. Usage of extramural services when such services are available intramurally in the Mount Sinai system will not be allowed without prior approval.**

**Award Period:** January 15, 2015 – January 14, 2016. Funding will be announced by January 15. Awards are made for one year with the possibility of up to two additional carry forward years.

**Criteria Used to Assess Awards**
Reviews will be sent to qualified experts within and outside Mount Sinai. Reviews will follow NIH guidelines (i.e. Overall Impact, Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach, Environment). Scoring is scaled 1-9 with 1 being the highest impact score. An overall impact score is the primary criteria for funding decisions. Additional Review Criteria include the potential for future funding in a larger extramural grant (scored on a 1-9 scale) and transdisciplinary research approach (reviewer comments are solicited but not scored)

**Application Instructions:** To apply, the following material must be received in a single PDF file at [NIEHSCoreCenter@mssm.edu](mailto:NIEHSCoreCenter@mssm.edu) by the application deadline Friday, October 24, 2014. Please indicate in subject line “October 2014 Pilot Project Grant Application Submission”.
• Cover Page: (Please use the form attached.)
  o List Title, PI and all co-investigators and affiliations. Place "**" beside names of Center Members
• Abstract Page (300 word max)
• Proposal: (Please use form attached.) Three pages maximum, budgets, biosketches and references are not included in the 3 page limit, may use single-spacing, headings include:
  o Specific Aims and Hypothesis/Aim
  o Significance/Background
  o Innovation
  o Approach
  o How this grant will be leveraged into future funding
• Budget Form: (Please use the NIH PHS Form 398 attached.)
  o No Faculty Salary support is allowed. Salary for research assistants or trainees is allowed.
• Biographical sketch: (Please use the form attached). Include one for each PI and co-Investigator. A mix of Center members and non-members is encouraged. Following NIH format, include past training and academic appointments followed by a short paragraph on research expertise and role in the project. List up to 15 relevant publications. Biosketches may not exceed 2 pages for any investigator.
• References: Literature cited, no limit.

Format Instructions:
Page: 8.5 X 11 inches, Margins 0.5”, Font Size: Arial 11 or Times New Roman 12
Applications not meeting guidelines (in particular length and budget) will be administratively triaged.

Junior Faculty Assistance Program:
To facilitate career development in EH, we will assist Assistant Professors applying for this FOA in 2 ways. First, those who request help in finding environmental health collaborators will be linked to appropriate faculty collaborators within or outside Mount Sinai for a proposed pilot project application. If interested in finding EH scientist collaborators, please contact Dr Robert Wright for assistance (robert.wright@mssm.edu). The second form of assistance is an optional pre-review of the application.

Pre-Submission Review:
If requested by an Assistant Professor PI, faculty from the Center Leadership will pre-review Assistant Professor applications prior to submission and make recommendations for modification in time for the PI to revise. This first-stage pre-review will require that Assistant Professors submit their draft proposals 2 weeks prior to the due date (October 10). Center faculty will return their comments using standard NIH review templates to junior investigators within 14 days. Assistant professors utilizing this program will then have an additional 10 days to revise their proposals. (e.g. If pre-review is submitted by October 10, the due date for applications becomes November 3, 2014).

Center Membership
If interested in joining the center, please send your CV and a brief (<½ page) description of your interest in Environmental Health Research to Vivian Recoppa vivian.reccoppa@mssm.edu. New center memberships will be reviewed on October 13. If approved for membership on that date, applications for this FOA will be accepted.

A list of current Center Members is attached.

For administrative questions:
Contact Vivian Recoppa at 212-824-7044 (phone)
email: vivian.reccoppa@mssm.edu

For scientific questions:
Contact Dr. Robert Wright at robert.wright@mssm.edu