

**The Alabama Drug Discovery Alliance (ADDA)**  
**Pilot Grants in Drug Discovery and Development - Call for Pre-Proposals**

**Deadline Pre-Proposals: Thursday November 2, 2017 - 12 Noon**

The ADDA – a joint initiative between Southern Research, UAB School of Medicine, the Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science – plans to fund up to 2 pilot grants for **\$50,000 per year for up to 2 years**, with funding of Year 2 dependent upon progress made in Year 1.

Funds can be utilized for various aspects of drug discovery and development for any human disease, including - but not limited to - assay development for high-throughput screening, molecular modeling and medicinal chemistry efforts, or proof of concept studies in animals with newly discovered lead molecules.

Only **small molecule**-directed efforts are eligible for funding.

Please note that the following topics are beyond the scope of the solicitation and **will not** be considered:

- Target identification
- Target validation, without an accompanying proposal to discover new therapeutic molecules that manipulate said target
- Development of compounds for which other parties own the Intellectual Property (IP), or for which no IP can be reasonably developed

It is highly recommend that interested PIs discuss their idea with the ADDA Associate Director, Maaïke Everts, PhD; contact her at [maaike@uab.edu](mailto:maaike@uab.edu).

The process by which awardees will be selected consists of two tiers:

- 1) A PI (or multiple PIs) submit(s) a pre-proposal with a maximum of 2 pages (see below) that will be reviewed by a scientific panel with expertise in various aspects of target validation and drug discovery.
- 2) After review, an invitation with instructions for a full proposal (maximum of 9 pages) will be sent to select PIs. Full proposals will be reviewed by a minimum of three scientific experts and the UAB Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship; the ADDA Advisory Board will select the final proposals based on these reviews and the ADDA portfolio.



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**UAB MEDICINE**

Knowledge that will change your world



**UAB COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER**

**Alabama Drug Discovery Alliance**

Office Address:  
309D Children's Harbor Building  
1600 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
205.934.2973  
Fax 205.934.8559

[www.adda.uab.edu](http://www.adda.uab.edu)

[adda@uab.edu](mailto:adda@uab.edu)

Mailing Address:  
CHB 303  
1600 7TH AVE S  
BIRMINGHAM AL 35233-1711

If needed, access to Southern Research's expertise and resources is therefore facilitated (e.g., high-throughput screening, medicinal chemistry, pharmacokinetic evaluation and toxicity studies). Following selection and award, a multi-disciplinary team, consisting of members with relevant expertise, including cell biology, pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, HTS assay development as well as clinical knowledge will be assembled for all projects. This team will help fine tune and finalize a compound progression pathway and guide the project through the drug discovery and development pipeline.

All UAB faculty and Southern Research investigators are eligible to apply, irrespective of affiliation or rank.

Submit your pre-proposal package as a single PDF before the deadline (Thursday November 2 – 12 Noon) to [adda@uab.edu](mailto:adda@uab.edu). The package should include:

1. A cover letter with the name(s) of the PI(s) and affiliation
2. Principal Investigator(s)'s NIH biosketch
3. Answers to the questions listed below, with a maximum of 2 pages

PIs that will be invited for a full proposal will be notified by November 15, with the deadline for a full proposal on January 15, 2018; start date of the award will be April 1, 2018. For any questions, contact the ADDA Associate Director, Maaïke Everts, PhD, at 934-2973 or [maaike@uab.edu](mailto:maaike@uab.edu).

Items to be addressed, **point by point, with a maximum of 2 pages**:

1. Title of the project
2. Identify at what stage your drug discovery/development project is; select:
  - HTS assay development and/or screening
  - Lead optimization/medicinal chemistry
  - Proof of concept in animal models
  - If other, please describe
3. Provide a description of the pathway or protein you propose to target and/or any compounds you have developed. For a target, make sure to describe the validation done to date (e.g. biochemical, cell-based and/or animal data; biomarkers in patient samples, etc); make sure to highlight the significance of your target or compounds. For example, how does it address an unmet medical need? How is this approach different from existing therapies, or competitors' strategies?
4. Summarize a potential research plan to achieve a lead candidate or IND-ready compound;
  - If high-throughput screening is needed, describe the (to be) developed assay;
  - Describe additional independent assays that can be used to confirm activity of identified active compounds, either *in vitro* or *in vivo*;
5. Reference List (not included in the page count)

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