

UAB Center for Exercise Medicine

2024 Pilot Grant Program REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

UCEM Infrastructure Award

Topic of Interest: Projects to enhance UCEM infrastructure for exercise and skeletal muscle research

Length of Award: 1 year

Award Amount: up to \$30,000

Submission Deadline: June 1, 2024 (5pm)

Award Date: September 1, 2024

Contact: Purnima Janarthanan (kjurni@uab.edu)

The UAB Center for Exercise Medicine (UCEM) is pleased to announce an **RFA to fund infrastructure related requests** that will spur and facilitate **collaborative research** efforts related to exercise and/or skeletal muscle research. Infrastructure related requests could include (but not necessarily be limited to): 1) pilot projects to support data collection for a wide array of investigators, 2) establishment of biobanks or related resources to share with the campus community, or 3) equipment that is necessary to expand UCEM capabilities and ultimately complete for collaborative extramural funding opportunities. Applications must demonstrate how the requested resource will support a wide array of investigator groups and how it will lead to subsequent extramural funding applications. Projects responsive to an upcoming/issued RFA or Program Announcements from NIH will be deemed highly responsive to the RFA. Additional consideration will be given to applicants with **matching institutional support** and is highly encouraged.

If funded, the proposed award date of the pilot grant will be September 1, 2024. A total of \$60K will be allocated to support up to two projects; budgets should not exceed \$30,000. Funds will be awarded based on merit of the applications. Awards are not renewable. Awardees will be required to present at the annual UCEM symposium if requested and to provide a final report on accomplishments relevant to the award.

ELIGIBILITY and EXPECTATIONS

1. Open to all full-time UAB faculty members at the Instructor rank or above.
2. Multi-investigator, team-based proposals – with emphasis on new collaborations – are encouraged.
3. **A statement describing how this infrastructure will impact collaborations and extramural funding applications must be included.**
4. For equipment requests, equipment can be relevant to basic and/or clinical research but must propose to expand capabilities of either the UCEM Exercise Clinical Trials Facility (ECTF) or Pre-clinical Exercise Core (PEC). Requests to enhance individual laboratory capabilities will not be supported. **A statement describing how this equipment will differ from what is currently available through current labs and cores must also be included.**
5. While not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to seek matching funds from other sources.
6. Awardees are expected to submit an extramural NIH or equivalent grant application within 12 months of completion of the award.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

The full application must include, in the following order:

1. Project title and summary describing the potential scientific implications of the equipment and list of all participants, their expertise and likely collaborations regarding the equipment purchase. (**≤ 1 pg.**)
2. NIH bio-sketches for each proposed faculty participant
3. Budget and justification, including description of management of the project.
 - If applicable, the source and extent of any matching funds and other available resources (with support letters)
4. Equipment and/or scientific overview: significance, description, data generation, objectives to be addressed. (**≤ 3 pg.**)
5. Timeline for milestones & deliverables, with a description of the targeted NIH (or other) grant mechanism (**≤ 1/2 pg.**)

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Proposals must be submitted electronically in a single PDF to Purnima Janarthanan at kjurni@uab.edu by 5:00 p.m. (CT) on June 1, 2024 with email title and file name as “Last Name – UCEM Infrastructure Pilot”. Applicants should use NIH PHS 398 forms for the cover page, key personnel, budget, budget justification, and the 5-page NIH bio-sketch for all key personnel. Applications must be in Arial 11-point font with 0.5-inch margins. Faculty salary, travel, or publication costs are not to be included. There are no indirect costs. Applications that are not formatted as described will not be reviewed.

KEY DATES

March 15, 2024: RFA Announcement

June 1, 2024: Submissions Due

August 15, 2024: Notice of Award

September 1, 2024: Funding start date