

**Request for Applications  
Future mPI Pilot Program  
Autophagy, Inflammation, and Metabolism (AIM)  
Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (CoBRE)**

September 17, 2020

**PURPOSE**

The Autophagy, Inflammation, and Metabolism (AIM) CoBRE Center is offering special Pilot Projects to identify and develop future mentored Principal Investigators (mPI) for Phase 2 of the AIM CoBRE. New mPI positions arise regularly as current mPI's graduate through their attaining R01 funding, and these provide significant research and mentorship support for the development of new tenure-track faculty. Unlike our general pilot programs which support collection of preliminary data for extramural applications, this program aims specifically to identify, recruit, and develop future mPIs.

**FUNDING**

It is anticipated that at least one special mPI pilot award will be funded in this cycle (contingent on the availability of funds), with an award date of approximately **December 1, 2020**. Awards will be made for 9 months of support (through **August 31 2021**) for amounts up to **\$40,000** for Direct Costs. Budgets may include lab supplies and salary support for graduate students or other personnel as needed to complete the proposed work. The AIM CoBRE may recoup unspent funds at the end of the award period. A major additional benefit will be recruitment into the mPI selection and development process.

**SCIENTIFIC SCOPE**

For these awards, proposals should incorporate a basic science approach and should address the topics of autophagy, inflammation, and/or metabolism in any disease/health context.

**ELIGIBILITY**

We welcome faculty applicants from UNM Health Sciences Center. To be eligible for funding, applicants must be junior **PI-eligible employees** of the University of New Mexico, defined as individuals already holding the title of (1) Tenure-Track Assistant Professor or (2) Research-Track Assistant Professor with evidence of departmental/division and department Chair support for their near-term promotion to tenure track. Letters of support documenting chair and faculty support and departmental/division commitment for Research Track Applicants are required.

**REQUIRED REGULATORY APPROVALS**

If applicable, IRB and/or IACUC approval must be secured prior to submission of the pilot award application and notice of such approval should be included with the proposal. If no (i) human specimens and/or subjects involved (per NIH definitions) (ii) animal work (per NIH definitions) please explicitly state so at the end of the application.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION**

Deadline for this submission cycle is **5:00PM MST Monday, November 16 2020**. Send materials by this deadline to Graham Timmins PhD at [gtimmins@salud.unm.edu](mailto:gtimmins@salud.unm.edu)

**MENTORING AND THE AIM PILOT PROGRAM**

An important part of AIM is to provide mentoring services to those who feel they need mentoring advice. As part of the AIM pilot award program, each applicant is expected to

name a formal mentor with whom regular mentoring interactions will occur. The mentor may be any qualified senior investigator at UNM HSC, with preference for R01- or equivalent-funded mentors.

### **APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

Applications should be prepared in general accord with the NIH PHS 398 application guidelines (PHS 398 Revised 1/2018) available from <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

Applications must be submitted electronically as a signed pdf document by **5:00PM** on the deadline date. **Applications received after this time will not be reviewed.**

Please include the following sections in your application:

1. Form page 1: Face Page (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp1.pdf>). **YOU DO NOT NEED TO OBTAIN OSP SIGNATURE;**  
*Please include project title and if at all possible have the title clearly reflect AIM center's interest area(s).*
2. Form page 2: Project Summary/Abstract (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp2.pdf>). **FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS CALL, YOU MAY LEAVE THE "RELEVANCE" SECTION BLANK;**
3. Form page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.pdf>).
4. A detailed budget justification
5. A research proposal of no more than SEVEN pages (Specific Aims + 6 additional pages) that contains the following sections. **Each section must be addressed separately with its own heading:**
  - a. Specific AIMS
  - b. Research Strategy
    - i. Significance
    - ii. Innovation
    - iii. Approach
  - c. Literature cited and Statement of Human/Vertebrate subjects (not included in the page limit)
  - d. Additionally, please provide.
    - i) A plan showing how budget will be spent on time.
    - ii) How the project will use AIM core facilities (available at <https://www.autophagy.center/cores>). If core facilities are not relevant to the project, please explain
    - iii) A mentoring plan that lists a formal mentor
    - iv) A listing of all current research support from all sources. For each source listed, please provide the following information: Name of funding source, title of project, project start/end dates, and amount of direct costs available (or available to you if a multi-PI grant), and percent effort.  
If you are a junior faculty member, please include the following details of your startup package in this list: amount initially provided, current unspent balance, and expiration date or other restrictions if any.
    - v) An NIH style biosketch with tailored personal statement

**Please use 11-point Arial font with one-inch margins on all four sides.**

**LOI.**

Letter of intent is not required but we encourage you to submit a brief LOI and especially if you feel you may need some additional guidance in preparing the application, which the AIM center will then organize for you through our mentoring program.

**REVIEW PROCESS**

Given that an important goal of the AIM CoBRE is to enhance the odds of investigators obtaining NIH funding for their project(s), NIH review criteria and procedures will be used. Each proposal will be scored according to the five NIH criteria: Significance, Investigator, Innovation, Approach and Environment. For information on these criteria and procedures see NIH notices [NOT-OD-09-024](#) and [NOT-OD-09-025](#).

It is anticipated that at least two reviewers who will be selected to avoid conflict of interest will review each proposal. Final decisions regarding awards will be made by AIM CoBRE Executive Committee based on the reviews provided with the approval of its Steering Committee and External Advisory Committee. Representatives of NIH/NIGMS must also administratively approve this pilot award proposal prior to funding and commencement.

**CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

IACUC or IRB approvals must be in-hand by the time of proposal submission. Awardees will be required to sign a memorandum of agreement as a condition of project funding. This memorandum will serve to indicate the recipient's willingness to:

1. Cite AIM and NIGMS in any publications stemming from their pilot project,
2. Present their work at local or national meetings as requested, and
3. Submission a Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) NIH style will be required at the completion of the pilot.
4. Attend AIM functions and actively contribute to the scientific interactions within AIM
5. Take advantage of AIM's mentoring and support activities,
6. Participate in annual External Advisory Committee (EAC) meetings and program review,

**QUESTIONS**

All questions on the Future mPI Pilot Program or this announcement should be directed to Shaina Aguirre ([svaguirre@salud.unm.edu](mailto:svaguirre@salud.unm.edu)) in the AIM program office or to Graham Timmins Ph.D. ([gtimmins@salud.unm.edu](mailto:gtimmins@salud.unm.edu)).