**Announcement of Pilot Program Funding in Rheumatic Diseases (Due September 15, 2020)**

The Oklahoma Rheumatic Disease Resources Cores Center (ORDRCC) Pilot Project Program provides a $40,000 one year, seed-support for investigators (junior or established with new scientific direction) to accumulate sufficient proof-of-concept data to apply for national funding.  This program works to:

* Identify and fund highly innovative ORDRCC Pilot Grants from junior ORDRCC investigators or established investigators with novel ideas in a new field of investigation.
* Provide career and scientific mentoring to Pilot Project investigators and applicants.
* Evaluate progress of projects and effectiveness of mentors and ensure that this program

continues to provide key resources for outstanding scientific opportunities.

**Who can apply for pilot and feasibility project funding?**

* Junior ORDRCC investigators who have independent research groups and no previous NIH R01
* Established investigators with a completely new direction for their research group

To apply to become a Junior Center Investigator, please visit the following page: <https://ordrcc.omrf.org/center-investigators/>

**Pilot Project Proposal Application requirements:**

A 2-3 page NIH-styled proposal ([using NIH grant application forms](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html)):

1. Specific Aims
2. Research Strategy
* Significance
* Preliminary Data (if available)
* Innovation
* Approach
1. References (does not count against page limits)
* NIH-style 10 month budget and justification
* NIH biosketch
* Human and/or animal subjects sections
* IRB approval or pending application

**Application review:** Scientific review of applications will be coordinated through the Internal Advisory Committee. Applicants are encouraged to plan projects with leverage of the resources within the ORDRCC cores in their proposals. <https://ordrcc.omrf.org/>

Application review is based on:

* Scientific merit
* Degree of innovation
* Potential to affect the field
* Probability of success for future funding and scientific success
* Quality of the proposal
* Current funding status of the applicant

Submit completed applications in PDF format to Mary-Flynn@omrf.org by September 15, 2020.

**Evaluation of projects and effectiveness of mentors:**

A final report will be submitted by each pilot project investigator to the mentoring committee, Internal Advisory Committee, External Advisory Committee, and Program Director. In addition, investigators will be required to submit annual impact information regarding publications, future support and success of the funded research, new jobs created and other information as requested.