2022 C-COMP PILOT GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

This funding opportunity aims to fund pilot and feasibility studies focused on mechanisms underlying pain associated with musculoskeletal and rheumatic diseases (including - but not limited to - osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis, heritable connective tissue diseases, low back pain, intervertebral disc degeneration, fractures). Successful projects should provide the basis for subsequent applications for independent research support from the NIH and other funding agencies.

Proposals may address a broad range of topics related to mechanisms of musculoskeletal pain, and may use human subjects, human tissues, or animal models. We encourage the following topics:

* Proposals that aim to characterize pain behaviors in existing or new animal models of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.
* Proposals aiming to develop new methods to study mechanisms underlying pain associated with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.
* Proposals that aim to study sensory and sympathetic innervation of joints and of the spine.
* Proposals that explore the phenotype of joint-innervating sensory neurons in the course of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.
* Proposals that aim to identify new targets for the management of pain in rheumatic diseases.
* Proposals that explore the role of sex, age, and co-morbidities on the development and mechanisms of pain in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.
* Proposals that aim to develop models of joint pain based on human stem cell technology.

**It is expected that applicants will interact with C-COMP core facilities as part of the year-long pilot project. This can include participation in educational opportunities such as our seminar series/training, and/or use of core facility services. If use of C-COMP core services is proposed, please consult with the core PI about service options and cost estimates.**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

* Both basic and clinical researchers with an M.D., Ph.D. or equivalent within Rush and Northwestern University are eligible to apply, as well as researchers in other US institutions.
* Before applying, please become a member of C-COMP.
* Investigators need to justify how the proposed studies relate to the broad area of pain in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.
* We encourage interdisciplinary collaborations between musculoskeletal researchers and pain scientists as well as neuroscientists.
* Postdoctoral fellows and PIs at all career stages are welcome to apply. We encourage applications by musculoskeletal researchers who are new to pain research and vice versa.

FUNDING

* Budgets will be approximately $25,000 (total costs) for a maximum 1-year project period.
* Earliest start date is September 1, 2022.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Each proposal should use Arial font, size 11, margins no less than 0.5 inches and contain the following:

* Cover page (1 page)
  + Proposal title
  + List of Principal Investigator(s)
  + Abstract (300 words max)
  + Lay language summary (2-3 sentences)
* Specific aims (1 page)
* Research strategy (significance, innovation, approach); including the following additional information (3-page limit):
  + Expected outcomes and plans for subsequent grant submission
  + Statement of how the project will advance the mission of C-COMP
  + Use of C-COMP Core services and facilities (recommended)

Additional information to accompany the application (but outside the above page limits) should include:

* Investigator biosketch (please use the most recent NIH template and follow NIH style)
* Project timeline
* Budget (1 year)
  + Permitted budget categories include: PI salary support (not to exceed 10% of total direct costs including fringe benefits), supplies, salary support for other personnel (e.g., study coordinator, technician), animal purchase and housing, core service usage. **Please note that no indirect costs will be paid**.
  + Budget categories not permitted: equipment
  + Please use the provided budget template. (https://mskpain.center/pilot-grants/pilot-grant-call-2022)
  + Budget justification (1 page)
* Bibliography

REVIEW AND POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Anticipated award date: September 1, 2022

C-COMP will manage the review process following NIH guidelines. Proposals will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary committee comprised of leading experts in pain and rheumatic diseases.

Awardees must deliver:

* An interim progress report six months after receiving funding (about one page) submitted by email to ccomp@rush.edu;
* A final report describing the study’s findings, related publications, and any other outcomes or subsequent grant submissions within twelve months of the project’s conclusion (two pages);
* Publications and other products from the award must acknowledge the P30 funding.
  + *e.g.* Acknowledgements: We would like to thank NIH/NIAMS P30AR079206 and acknowledge the Chicago Center on Musculoskeletal Pain Research Core Center for support.
* A presentation of findings at the annual C-COMP Symposium after the conclusion of the pilot study.

DEADLINE

Send the full proposal as a single PDF file to [ccomp@rush.edu](mailto:ccomp@rush.edu) with the subject line "FY2023 C-COMP P&F Application" by **July 15th, 2022, 11:59pm.**

Please send questions about the application process to [ccomp@rush.edu](mailto:ccomp@rush.edu)