



HSR Center Pilot Grant Funding Opportunity

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION: Pilot grant funding/seed funding for the Department of Surgery Health Services Research related projects for a one-year period, with potential for competitive renewal for a second year. Funding will not exceed \$25,000 per year in direct costs only. Only one grant will be awarded in this cycle.

PURPOSE: Seed grants will fund projects to gather preliminary data which can later be converted to an R-series application or other sponsored funding opportunity with a secondary goal of encouraging collaboration across disciplines.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION: Faculty of all levels are encouraged to apply, but principal investigators must have a faculty appointment in the Department of Surgery to be eligible. A proposal related to health services research would ideally involve multiple disciplines (e.g., clinical expert + methodologist) examining innovative solutions for issues such as healthcare quality, costs, equity/access to care or dissemination research in surgical patients. The focus can be local, regional, national, or international, but must include coinvestigators with appointments from a minimum of two schools.

Salary for faculty or clinical staff would not be an eligible expense for this RFA. Recommended expenses could include fees related to data acquisition, biostatistics support, effort for a research coordinator/project manager, student/trainee support, travel expenses, or publication expenses.

REQUIREMENTS: The goal of this opportunity is to obtain results that will help to secure extramural funding. Thus, at the completion of the 1-year research period, a draft manuscript of results will be required in lieu of a formal progress report. In addition, investigators are required to submit a one-page specific aims document at the completion of the pilot project, and they will receive direct feedback from HSR leadership on their planned future proposal. Investigators will also be required to submit their preliminary results as abstracts to the annual Department of Surgery research day and the Emory Health Services Research Day meetings, and present the results at a HSRC seminar. Investigators will periodically be surveyed to assess progress in manuscripts and grant submissions related to the funding. The HSR Center should be acknowledged in any publications that arise from the funding.

Applicants should email the following to Tracy Obertone (tracy.obertone@emory.edu) with the subject line: HSR Center Pilot Grant Application by 5 pm Monday **August 1, 2022**. Funding is anticipated to begin October 1, 2022. Applications should generally follow NIH guidelines and formatting requirements, and include the following as one PDF document:

- Cover page – title of project, name & affiliations of investigators, co-investigators, and any trainees involved
- Specific Aims (1-page limit)
- Research Strategy (5-page limit, excluding references)
 - o Subheadings: Significance, Innovation, and Approach
 - o Applicants are encouraged to clearly specify the trajectory of the research project, and how this pilot grant would lead to a future research study and grant funding.
- References (no page limit)
- Detailed budget and budget justification
- Biosketches for PI and co-investigators

POTENTIAL BENEFITS: This pilot grants program is expected to assist early stage investigators in gathering preliminary data to support applications for larger external funding and be more competitively scored. We anticipate the pilot grant will assist the department in growing its sponsored research portfolio. Established investigators could equally benefit if they desire to branch out into new areas or a related field but lack preliminary data.

Secondarily, we hope to use this as an opportunity to host study sections for grant review so investigators become more familiar with the NIH grant process. A call for reviewers for this study section will be put forth at a later date.