The Kidney Institute Pilot Research Grants 2016-2017
Request for Applications

INTRODUCTION:
The mission of The Kidney Institute at the University of Kansas is to promote research leading to a better understanding of renal disease and the development of therapeutic approaches that improve patient outcomes.

PROGRAM:
The Kidney Institute will provide pilot funds to investigators for the development of new projects in the field of kidney physiology, cell biology and translational research. Both basic science and clinical research projects are eligible for consideration. Investigators working in other areas are particularly encouraged to submit proposals to apply their expertise to problems related to kidney disease. Pilot projects will be funded for one year beginning August 1st, 2016 with a total budget of up to $40,000. Awards are potentially renewable for a second year, contingent on progress. Funds are available to support between one to three projects, including new projects and projects in their second year. Projects of high merit that appear likely to be successful in leading to R01 (or equivalent) funding will be given preference. The deadline for applications is May 31st, 2016.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:
The Kidney Institute is a world-class internationally recognized interdisciplinary research center. Areas of strength include polycystic kidney disease, glomerular diseases, bone and mineral metabolism, kidney transplantation and outcomes research. There is a diverse group of investigators that provide an excellent collaborative environment conducting basic, translational and clinical research on kidney function and disease.

Core resources within the Kidney Institute will be made available to pilot grant investigators. These include a PKD Biomaterials Core providing PKD and normal human kidneys and cells (Darren Wallace, Director), Gene Targeting Core specializing in TALENs-based mouse and cell line generation (Chris Ward, Director), Epigenetics Core providing services for DNA methylation analysis and mice with mutations of epigenetic regulators (Xiaogang Li and Ken Petersen, Directors), PKD Biomarkers Core providing biospecimens from a cohort of patients with early PKD (Darren Wallace, Director), PKD Clinical Research Core providing services for investigator-initiated clinical trials (Alan Yu, Director), and a Rodent Model Drug-Testing Core providing a number of rodent models and services for drug testing (James Calvet, Director).

ELIGIBILITY:
Faculty-level investigators at KUMC and other Kansas City metro area institutions that fall into any one of the following categories are eligible to apply:
1. New investigators without significant peer-reviewed support (<$75,000 annually in direct costs).
2. Established investigators in non-kidney related field, requiring seed funds to apply their expertise to a kidney disease-related problem. Collaboration with established Kidney Institute researcher(s) is strongly encouraged.
3. Established investigators in kidney physiology and disease, requiring pilot funds for a new project in its nascent phase.

ALLOWABLE COSTS:

- Research materials and supplies
- Small equipment (≤ $5,000) required for the proposed research
- Salary support and fringe benefits for Research Assistants/Associates, Postdoctoral fellows, or students.
- Travel and registration for conferences or training courses (≤ $1,500)

Funds cannot be used for the salary of the PI. Awardees have discretion in the budgeting of funds to meet their research needs within the general guidelines of the budget and the terms of the proposal; however, funds may not be transferred to another project.

REVIEW AND AWARD:

Research proposals will be initially reviewed by an external review committee, who will consider the significance and relevance of the proposed research to kidney physiology and disease, the validity and feasibility of the approach, the innovativeness of the project, the expertise of the investigator(s), and the likelihood that it will lead to an extramurally funded research project. Final review and approval will be made by the Director of the Kidney Institute. Applicants will be notified of the amount and conditions of the award in July 2016 and funding will begin on August 1st, 2016.

REPORTING:

Awardees will submit a brief report, including budget expenditures and new external support within 30 days of the termination of the grant year. In addition, awardees will be asked to provide brief reports of publications, grants, and research progress in the two-year period after the grant. Portions of the report may be reprinted or used on the Kidney Institute website to build support for the research program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT:

Any publication arising from work supported by the grant should acknowledge the Kidney Institute at the University of Kansas.
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

General instructions
Applications must be legibly typed in standard type size (11 point or larger) with margins of at least one inch.

1. Cover page
The form below must be filled out, scanned, and attached to the front of the application.

2. Summary (one-half page or less)
Describe the primary objective of the proposed research, the key components of the research design, and its significance in general terms.

3. Budget
Provide a budget explanation on a separate page. Clarify the role of individuals for whom salary support is requested. Explain how travel funds will be used to conduct the research. Equipment, if included, must be well justified. No specific format is required so long as the budget and explanation contain the relevant information.

4. Other Support
On a separate page, list all other sources of active or pending internal and external support for the PI and other key personnel. For each, give the title, sponsor, role of the PI on the project, funding period, annual direct costs, percent effort by the PI, and the goals of the project. Describe the relationship of each to the current proposal. In cases in which existing funds appear to be similar to the proposed project, take special care to explain the differences.

5. Biographical sketch (not to exceed 5 pages)
Provide a biographical sketch for the PI in the latest NIH format. List education, positions and honors, up to 15 peer-reviewed publications, and research support ongoing and completed in the last three years.

6. Progress Report (for renewal applications only, one-half page)
Applicants requesting a second year of funding are required to describe the progress made on the research project proposed in the original K1 pilot grant. List any new grants funded, submitted grant applications and research manuscripts that were supported by the pilot grant. Describe the primary objective of the application and justify why a second-year of funding is necessary. Please include a detailed plan, including timeline, for how the proposed work will be used to obtain extramural funding. This section is not included within page limitations of the Research plan.

7. Research Plan (Up to 5 single-spaced pages for Items A.-D. Proposals may not exceed that length)
Applicants should include the following sections in their proposal:

A. Specific Aims (one-half page recommended)
List the broad, long-term objectives and what the specific research proposed in this application is intended to accomplish.

**B. Background and Significance (2 page limit)**
Briefly sketch the background to the present application and identify the gap(s) of knowledge that the project is intended to fill. State the importance and relevance of the research project for advancing our understanding and treatment of kidney disease and hypertension.

**C. Preliminary Studies**
Preliminary studies are helpful but not required.

**D. Research Design and Methods**
Describe the research activities to be carried out under the award. Explain the research design, and how it will allow you to address the question(s) and test the hypotheses of the project. Explain potential pitfalls and how you plan to overcome them.

No other ancillary text, appendices, etc., will be accepted. All substantive description of the project (including tables, graphics, etc.) must be contained within the proposal itself.

**8. Bibliography (not to exceed 2 pages)**

**APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS**
All proposals must be submitted on or before **May 31st, 2016**.

All materials must be submitted electronically as a single document in Word (.doc or .docx) or Acrobat (.pdf) format to dwallace@kumc.edu.

Inquiries may be directed to:

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The Kidney Institute Pilot Research Grants 2016-2017
Application Cover Page

1. Applicant:
   Name:
   Title/Rank:
   Department/School:
   University Address:
   E-Mail:
   Tel:

2. Title of Proposal: ____________________________________________

3. Amount Requested: $ ____________________

Applicant Agreement:
I agree to abide by the conditions and reporting requirements of the Kidney Institute Pilot Research Grant guidelines.

________________________   _______________________
Applicant’s Signature        Date