The PKD Center and the KU Cancer Center are accepting applications for pilot project funding

The NIH-funded P30 Kansas PKD Research and Translation Core Center has partnered with the KU Cancer Center to offer pilot & feasibility grants to investigate the genetics, biochemistry, or cell biology of polycystic kidney disease (PKD) to identify targets for the development of new PKD therapies, recognizing that PKD is a neoplastic disease with many characteristics similar to cancer.

Our goal is to increase interdisciplinary research investigating the relationship between cancer and PKD and to stimulate collaborations between KUCC members and PKD researchers to bring knowledge from the cancer field to better understand PKD and more rapidly bring new therapies to treat the disease.

Proposals should reflect novel, innovative research in cancer-related PKD mechanisms that will be highly competitive for future extramural funding at the national level. One award will be made in the amount of $50,000 for a twelve month period with an opportunity for a second year of funding contingent on progress. The application deadline is April 17, 2019.

ELIGIBILITY
All KU Cancer Center members are eligible to apply. Applicants are required to show collaboration between a Cancer Center member and a PKD Center member and PKD Core service.

ABOUT THE PKD CORE CENTER
The mission of the PKD Center is to promote research leading to a better understanding of PKD through the discovery of new targets for therapy and development of clinical trials to improve patient outcomes. The P30 provides funding to support our PKD Center in developing innovative biomedical research cores and supporting a robust pilot and feasibility program.

PKD CENTER CORES
The pilot project should make use of at least one of the following research cores of the PKD Center.

1. Gene Targeting Core - Will provide expert CRISPR/TALEN gene-editing for the generation of unique PKD animal models and cell lines for the identification of new targets for drug development. The goal of the Core is to assist PKD investigators in the generation of unique animal models and cell lines using TALENS or CRISPRs to help them solve complex PC1/PC2 and PKD signaling questions. Core Director: Chris Ward, MB, ChB, PhD (cward6@kumc.edu)

2. Genomics & Epigenetics Core - Will provide services and reagents to facilitate the efforts of PKD investigators in this new and exciting frontier in PKD science. The goal of the Core is to help PKD researchers understand and investigate the mechanisms by which transcriptional and epigenetic regulation are disrupted in PKD, and to use this information to develop specific and effective therapeutic strategies. Core Directors: Ken Peterson, PhD (kpeterson@kumc.edu) and Robin Maser, PhD (rmaser@kumc.edu)

3. Biomarkers & Biomaterials Core - Will support investigators in the discovery, validation and development of biomarkers for early PKD and will provide human PKD primary cells and other reagents. One long-term goal of the Core is to establish a panel of blood and/or urine biomarkers that provide a minimally invasive approach to predict early PKD progression and to monitor the response to clinical treatment. Core Director: Darren Wallace, PhD (dwallace@kumc.edu)

4. Clinical Research Core - Will facilitate clinical and translational research in PKD, with a focus on investigator-initiated studies that bridge the gap between preclinical studies and early phase clinical trials. This will be achieved through the provision of consultative advice on drug development, a patient registry network for clinical trials recruitment, resources and services for conducting clinical trials, and a searchable integrated clinical data repository for observational research. Core Director: Alan Yu, MB, BChir (ayu@kumc.edu)

More information is available on the PKD Center website at http://www.kumc.edu/pkd. Applicants should contact James Calvet, PhD, P&F Program Director (jcalvet@kumc.edu), and the appropriate Core Director(s) to discuss their project prior to submitting an application. Pilot projects will be eligible for discounted or waived fees for Core resources and services.
REVIEW AND REGULATIONS

All applications will be reviewed through a peer review process. While not required, a Letter of Intent can be forwarded to Lyn Harris by **Friday, March 15, 2019**. The letter should include the title of the project, intent to use any of the PKD Center Cores, name of PKD collaborator(s), and a basic outline of the research plan. The LOI’s help determine the reviewing needs for this round. Please inform Lyn Harris if you choose to NOT submit a full application.

Evaluation criteria include: Scientific merit; relevance to cancer and PKD research; qualifications, experience and productivity of the applicant; collaboration between KU Cancer Center and PKD Center members; project feasibility given facilities, budget, time, and other resources available; and potential for future NIH grants and/or publications. KUCC Leadership Council and external and internal peer reviewers will make recommendations for award funding.

**Grant funds may be budgeted for:** Small equipment (less than $5,000) and supplies; core service expenses; personnel for research assistance; PIs salary up to 5% effort; and other expenses necessary for the successful execution of the proposal. Funds may not be used for travel, subscriptions, memberships, or indirect costs. Projects that include animals or human subjects must be reviewed in accordance with the University of Kansas guidelines; approval can be noted as “pending.” All projects involving animals must be submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Funds will not be released to the recipient until final approvals have been received. A final progress report must be submitted 3 months after the conclusion of the grant period.

**Application Requirements**

A complete application includes the following: NIH grant face page, summary, research proposal, bibliography, budget and justification, letters of support, NIH biosketches with research support, proof of IRB/IACUC submission and/or approval, appendices, and bibliography. NIH forms are at: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html).

**Grant Face Page** – Grant Face Page and Abstract should be presented in standard NIH format. Grant Face Page should be signed by the PI’s department head.

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

**Research Proposal and Bibliography** – Use the NIH format. The research plan for the application should be no longer than five pages (single spaced, Arial 11-point font, 0.5” margins). These pages should follow the NIH outline:

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

**B. Significance**
State the importance and relevance of the research project for advancing our understanding and treatment of polycystic kidney disease and cancer or its complications.

**C. Innovation**
Explain how the application challenges current research. Describe any novel concepts, approaches, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used.

**D. Approach**
Describe the research activities to be carried out under the award. State your research design, and explain how it will allow you to address the questions and hypotheses of the project. Explain potential pitfalls you might encounter and how you plan to overcome them. Preliminary studies can be included but are not required. Describe how you will make use of the PKD Center Core(s) in your research. State succinctly how completion of this study will facilitate the submission of a future proposal for extramural funding and identify any potential funding sources.

**Budget** – The NIH initial budget form should be used to present your two-year budget. The accompanying budget justification should be detailed sufficiently so that reviewers are able to assess if the correct resources have been requested. Funds not to exceed **$50,000 per year** direct costs may be budgeted for: equipment and supplies; personnel for research assistance, including the PIs salary up to 5% effort; and other purposes necessary for the successful execution of the proposed project. Funds may not be used for travel, subscriptions/memberships or indirect costs.

**NIH Biosketches** – Applications should include a five-page NIH biosketch for the PI, Co-Investigators and any other faculty-level key personnel collaborating on the proposal. Use the NIH form that includes your complete list of published work in MyBibliography. Please include current and completed research support on the biosketches.
IRB & IACUC Approvals – Projects involving human subjects through intervention or clinical studies must be submitted and approved by the KUMC Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee (PRMC) before the final award is made. Final approval is not required to submit an application; approval can be noted as “pending.” All projects involving animals must be submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Letters of Support – Include letters of support from collaborators.

Bibliography – The list of citations should not exceed 2 pages.

Appendices – Appendices are limited to three entries and may include any materials the applicant deems necessary and relevant to the research proposal. Letters of support may be included in this section.

Progress Report – The Progress Report is for renewal applications only (one page limit). Applicants requesting a second year of funding are required to describe the progress made on the research project proposed in the original 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 plan for how the proposed work will be used to obtain extramural funding.

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Questions? Contact Lyn Harris at:
913-588-6075 or lharris3@kumc.edu