Columbia Precision Medicine Joint Pilot Grants Program

Request for Proposals

Roy and Diana Vagelos Precision Medicine Basic Science Award
Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research Precision Medicine Award
The Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center Precision Medicine Award

October 2020

Proposals are requested for one-year pilot studies in precision medicine. Studies must be relevant to advancing **precision medicine basic science**, **pre-clinical/clinical approaches** to tailoring medical care (prevention, diagnosis, and/or treatment) to the individual patient, and/or **precision cancer research**.

Example areas include, but are not limited to, disease mechanism studies, stem cell biology, genomic data, biomarkers, aggregated clinical/environmental data and/or patient-reported data to develop personalized medical care, decision support tools, new methods of working with precision medicine data and its integration with electronic health records, and new individualized approaches to effectively educate and communicate with patients.

These pilot grants are intended to support feasibility studies that will establish a basis for applying for further research funding. As such, pilot grants are intended to generate preliminary data required to produce competitive grant applications to outside funders.

Up to five studies in total will be funded.

The Vagelos Precision Medicine Pilot Grant program is made possible by the generous gift of Roy and Diana Vagelos to the Columbia Precision Medicine Initiative (CPMI) and is intended to support ground-breaking basic research in the field of precision medicine. Precision Medicine Resource of the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (IICTR) seeks to facilitate research studies to improve diagnosis and treatment of disease, and ultimately improve maintenance of health through more accurate prediction of disease risk. The Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (HICCC) is dedicated to understanding the biology of cancer and to applying that knowledge to the design of cancer therapies and prevention strategies.

Eligibility: Applicants must have a full-time Columbia University faculty appointment at the rank of an Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor. Preference will be given to proposals from early- and mid-career investigators. Studies may involve more than one department, including collaboration between Morningside, Manhattanville, and Irving Medical Center campuses. Applications with an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach with other departments or schools will be viewed favorably. Each team is limited to six (6) members. Underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Faculty who have received Precision Medicine pilot award funding from CPMI, HICCC, and the Irving Institute as PIs and/or co-PIs within the last 3 years are not eligible to apply.

Budget: $100,000 per fiscal year.

Funding: Each Precision Medicine Pilot Grant program will provide funding for a one-year pilot grant of up $100,000 based on the project's needs. Funding should be directed to specific experimental activities that will establish the basis for applying for further research funding from outside entities, i.e. government, foundations, and industry. We encourage that the majority of funds be utilized for project-specific study experiments, a smaller portion of the funds may be used towards post-doctorate researcher, graduate student, and technician salary. Funding may not be used towards PI salary.

Duration: 1 year.

NOTE: Projects involving human subjects and/or vertebrate animal research are conditionally selected for funding until IRB and/or IACUC approval is received. IRB/IACUC approval is not required at the time of application, but submission for approval must be completed within thirty (30) days of notification of potential funding. NIH-NCATS prior approval might also be required. NIH-NCATS prior approval documentation must be submitted to administrators of co-sponsoring institutions within seventy five (75) days of notification of potential funding.

Application Directions: Prepare detailed project description (4 page maximum excluding references, minimum 11 point Arial font) as follows:

- Background and Specific Aims – Page 1
- Preliminary Findings and Innovation – Page 2
- Methods – Pages 3 and 4 (1st half)
- Future Plans and Direction – Page 4 (2nd half)
- Literature citations/References

Provide the following supporting documents:

- List of Investigators;
- Lay Summary;
- Abstract;
- List of current and pending sources of research funding;
- Budget and detailed budget justification;
- NIH-style biographical sketch for each investigator (5-page limit, including Other Support);
- Statement of Facilities and other Resources.

Submit documents by Friday, **December 1st, 2020**, via this link:
https://columbiaprecisionmed.smapply.io

Co-investigators, grant managers, and other personnel assisting with the application process can be granted access to the application by the Principal Investigator via the "Collaborators" feature on the Application Form page of the SMApply portal.

Senior leadership of the Columbia Precision Medicine Initiative, executive leadership of the Irving Institute and the Cancer Center may be consulted during the preparation of the application, but **they should not be included as co-investigators or consultants on the application**. HICCC associate directors, program leaders and core directors are eligible to apply.

For a list of these individuals please visit:

https://precisionmedicine.columbia.edu/node/7
https://www.irvinginstitute.columbia.edu/about-us/resources-and-cores/administrative-core-and-evaluation
https://cancer.columbia.edu/about-us/our-leadership

Eligible applications submitted by the deadline will be evaluated by confidential peer reviewers and Precision Medicine Executive Committee. Reviewers must remain anonymous but may opt to give feedback to the applicants through the Precision Medicine program, but are not required to do so. Winning applications will be announced in Spring 2021.

For any questions about the application process, please email precisionmedicine@columbia.edu.

For any questions about the scientific content and eligibility, please contact:

(scientific focus)	***(key contact)***
Basic/fundamental precision medicine research	Dr. Melanie Brazil Chief of Staff Columbia Precision Medicine Initiative mb4072@cumc.columbia.edu
Pre-clinical and clinical precision medicine research	Dr. Alex Fedotov Assistant Director Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research avf2117@cumc.columbia.edu

Cancer precision medicine research	Dr. Tanisha Jackson Senior Research Program Manager Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center tj2325@cumc.columbia.edu