

# 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 2022

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: Exposomics, 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 at Columbia 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.

### **Goals of the Program:**

- 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 (Irving Institute) 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/Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons/Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NY State Psychiatric Institute faculty appointment at the rank of an Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor.

- Preference will be given to applications from early- and mid-career investigators.
- Applications with an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach involving several departments or schools will be viewed favorably.
- Collaborations between Morningside, Manhattanville, and Irving Medical Center campuses are encouraged.
- Each team is limited to six (6) members.
- Special consideration will be given to applications from Principal Investigators and/ or teams of investigators from underrepresented groups.
- Applicants are eligible to submit only one application as PIs or Co-PIs per award cycle, but they could be listed as co-investigators or consultants on multiple applications. Faculty who have received Precision Medicine pilot award funding from CPMI, HICCC, or the Irving Institute as PIs and/or Co-PIs within the last 3 years are not eligible to apply as PIs and/or Co-PIs in this cycle, but they could be listed as co-investigators or consultants on applications.

**Budget:** \$100,000 per fiscal year.

**Funding:** Each Precision Medicine Pilot Grant program award will provide funding for a one-year pilot grant of up to \$100,000 to cover direct costs 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). While 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 salaries. Funding may not be used towards faculty salary.

**Duration:** 1 year.

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

- Background, significance and Specific Aims – Page 1
- Preliminary Findings and Innovation – Page 2
- Methods – Pages 3 and 4 (1<sup>st</sup> half)
- Future Plans and Direction – Page 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> half)
- Literature citations/References (not included in the 4 page limit)

Provide the following supporting documents:

- List of Investigators;
- Lay Summary; (200 words maximum)
- Abstract;
- List of current and pending sources of relevant research funding for PI/Co-PI;
- NIH-style 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 **Thursday, December 1, 2022**, 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/leadership>

<https://www.irvinginstitute.columbia.edu/about-us/resources-and-cores/administrative-core-and-evaluation>

<https://www.cancer.columbia.edu/about-us/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, though they are not required to do so. Winning applications will be announced in Spring 2023.

PIs whose applications are selected for funding in this cycle of this program will be asked to serve as Precision Medicine pilot grants reviewers in the future.

**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.

**For any questions about the application process, please email [precisionmedicine@columbia.edu](mailto:precisionmedicine@columbia.edu).**

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

*(scientific focus)*

*(key contact)*

Basic/fundamental precision medicine research

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Pre-clinical and clinical precision medicine research

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Cancer precision medicine research

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