To: UNC Faculty Members

From: Steven H. Zeisel, MD, PhD
S. Raza Shaikh, PhD
Co-Directors, Pilot & Feasibility Program, UNC Nutrition Obesity Research Center

Re: Request for Pre-Proposals: 2020-2021 Pilot & Feasibility Grant Program

Deadline: Friday, October 25, 2019

The UNC Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) is currently accepting pre-proposals for 1-2 year grants of $40,000 total direct costs (maximum) for Pilot & Feasibility (P&F) projects in nutrition or obesity research. The actual amount of the award and number of awards made will depend upon the quality of the proposals received and the availability of funding.

P&F projects may be biomedical, epidemiological, or clinical. They may include laboratory or non-laboratory research projects that focus either on human nutrition, animal work that could be translated to human nutrition, or basic research related to nutrition or obesity. Human nutrition projects may focus on inpatient or outpatient studies or on epidemiological or community-based research that is social or behavioral in nature.

The UNC NORC is organized around five interdisciplinary approaches to solving problems in nutrition/obesity research:

• Basic Science and Fundamentals of Nutrition and Metabolism
• The Causes and Prevention of Obesity
• Nutrition and Chronic Diseases in Populations
• Precision Nutrition: Metabolic Responses, Metabolic Variation, and Requirements for Nutrients
• Understanding and Changing Diet- and Obesity-Related Behavior

We are interested in funding interdisciplinary projects that align with these approaches and will benefit from the services offered by our four cores: the Animal Metabolism Phenotyping Core, the Clinical and Community Human Assessment and Intervention Core, the Metabolism and Metabolomics Core, and the Nutritional Genomics and Microbiome Core.

Eligibility: All applicants must be faculty members at UNC-CH (postdoctoral fellows are not eligible). In addition, investigators eligible for P&F funding must fall into one of the following three categories:

1. Applicants must be new investigators without current or past NIH research support (R01, P01 or R24) as a PD/PI. Current or past K01 awards are acceptable.
   OR
2. Applicants must be established, funded investigators with no previous work in nutritional sciences and/or obesity and who wish to test the applicability of their expertise to a nutritional science and/or obesity-related problem
   OR
3. Applicants must be established investigators in nutrition/obesity research who propose testing innovative ideas that represent a clear departure from their ongoing research interests.

How to Apply: To apply for funding, please submit a pre-proposal application form and an NIH-style biosketch by the close of business on Friday, October 25, 2019. The pre-proposal should exactly follow the format of the application form. Pre-proposals are limited to one page in Arial 11 point font. Please send the requested documentation to Dr. John Easterbrook. The review committee will evaluate the pre-proposal applications and notify the selected investigators no later than Monday, December 2, 2019. Selected applicants will then be asked to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be due on Friday, January 24, 2020. Funding for successful applications will begin on April 1, 2020. For more information about the P&F program, please feel free to contact Dr. Steven H. Zeisel or Dr. S. Raza Shaikh.