

Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility (CEHS)

Rapid Response Seed Funding Program 2020-2021

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS

The theme of the UNC Center on Environmental Health and Susceptibility (CEHS) is translating interdisciplinary research on environmental health threats to improve public health in North Carolina. CEHS facilitates research collaborations by funding university infrastructure to support scientific equipment, facilities, and other resources that can be shared among environmental health researchers. The CEHS also seeks to provide direct support to researchers to advance impactful scientific research. To this end, the CEHS announces availability of **rapid response seed funding**.



PURPOSE: The purpose of CEHS rapid response seed funding is to provide financial and technical assistance quickly to eligible investigators needing short term and specific assistance generating preliminary data that will lead to new R-series NIH grant proposals. Applications will be received on an on-going basis as long as funds are available. Regardless of project start date, **all projects must be completed by March 31, 2021.**

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible PIs must hold a UNC faculty appointment or other appointment authorized to serve as PI on an externally sponsored research project. Traditionally the pilot project PIs are assistant or associate professors who are able to grow their pilot project into a full NIEHS application. Limit one application per PI per cycle. Investigators granted CEHS pilot funds within the past 3 years are not eligible to apply.

CEHS RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

ALL responsive applications will focus on one of the CEHS disease focus areas: cardiopulmonary disease, developmental disease, or environmental cancer. Investigators are encouraged to identify critical windows of susceptibility, study combined exposures, develop new ways to measure personal environmental exposures over time, or focus on engaged scholarship or community outreach and education. Competitive applications will be relevant to the CEHS' mission, clearly addressing a topic that leads to a better understanding of the interactions between unintentional environmental threat exposure and the pathogenesis of human disease and will detail specific plans for future application for National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences funding.

GENERATING ADDITIONAL GRANT PROPOSALS

CEHS Rapid Response Seed Funds are designed to be a small grant to support specific experiments needed to quickly advance a project. Applications from PIs with recently reviewed external applications are particularly encouraged to apply. It is expected that ALL rapid response seed fund projects will generate preliminary data that will lead to new grant proposals, especially proposals to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. All successful applications will clearly articulate specific plans for extramural funding applications. Funding for CEHS pilot grants is made possible by support from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS): P30ES010126.

USE AND SUPPORT FROM CEHS CORE FACILITIES:

Applicants are **required** to use one or more of the CEHS Facility Cores or Sub-Cores (<http://sph.unc.edu/cehs/facility-cores/>). The CEHS Facility Cores include:

1. Integrative Health Sciences
2. Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
3. Molecular Analysis
4. Community Outreach and Engagement

The applicant must make an initial contact with the IHSFC Director to be referred to the most appropriate CEHS Facility Core. The proposal must include a letter of support from the corresponding Core Director.

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA:

An expedited scientific review will occur as follows:

- (1) The application will be submitted to the appropriate CEHS Research Theme leader to coordinate scientific review [Environmental Cancer, Cyrus Vaziri; Developmental Disease, Stephanie Engel; Cardiopulmonary Disease, Ilona Jaspers].
- (2) Applications will be reviewed for public health impact and for their ability to support an externally funded NIEHS-relevant grant application.
- (3) Projects selected for funding will be notified within 2-4 weeks of their submission.**

APPLICATION FORMAT AND SUBMISSION:

The PI should submit:

- Application Cover Page
- Title and Abstract – *one page*
 - Abstract should address; Impact and Significance, Innovation, Scientific Approach, and next steps in future NIEHS funding
- Aims – *one page*
- Budget
- Budget justification – *one page*
- Support letter from CEHS Facility Core
- PI biosketch

Applicants should submit a single file (MS Word, as email attachment) to Michael Sanderson, Michael_Sanderson@unc.edu. **Please write, “CEHS Rapid Response Seed Grant Application” in the subject line.**

FUNDING, ALLOWABLE ITEMS, AND BUDGET:

The budget and budget justification must be detailed and should follow the format of the current NIH Budget and Budget Justification pages. Funding will be permitted for personnel, supplies, and some types of equipment. For personnel, the appropriate cost for fringe benefits should be included – [UNC current fringe rates](#). Health insurance for permanent staff and Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) should also be included (current health insurance rates apply; please check with the business office of the corresponding department to confirm the appropriate rates in effect at the time of this submission). If a GRA is hired, the PI should decide if the tuition award cost will be included in the budget (and is consistent with the PI’s departmental guidelines). Funds to support students should be limited to no more than 50% of your total budget. Funds may not be used for faculty salaries, equipment such as computers, tablets or AV equipment, stipends, travel or publication or page charges. The Center does not fund clinical trial research, so proposals involving clinical trials should not be submitted. For funded proposals, budget changes must be requested in writing. Any deviations from these budget guidelines require approval prior to submission. All projects must be completed by March 31, 2020. PI requests for carryover funds are discouraged.

CEHS Contacts:

For more information on programmatic fit and funding priorities for the CEHS, please contact, Michael Sanderson, Michael_Sanderson@unc.edu.



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APPLICATION COVER PAGE

Rapid Response Seed Grant 2020-2021

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Open Application - Projects must be completed by March 31, 2021

Project Type	Circle One: Single Investigator or Team Science
Primary Focus Area	Circle One: Cardiopulmonary disease, Developmental disease, Environmental cancer

Project Title	
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Principal Investigator <i>(Last name, First name)</i>	
Title	
Department/School	
E-mail address	

Names and Departments of Co-Investigators - (Last name, First name, Department)

Are Human Subjects Involved?*	Yes or No <i>(circle one)</i>
Are Vertebrate Animals Used?*	Yes or No <i>(circle one)</i>

Provide a brief description of your project and project collaborators

Please identify three potential reviewers: (Last name, first name, agency, email address, phone number)

*If yes, all appropriate IRB or IACUC approvals must be in place prior to award funding.

