

Pilot Funding for Faculty Pursuing Collaborative Research

Ayala School of Biological Sciences and School of Medicine

The Ayala School of Biological Sciences and the School of Medicine have established a pilot-funding program to help faculty initiate innovative research projects in novel areas of investigation. This mechanism seeks to support truly innovative projects that require preliminary data supporting scientific premise with a defined time line and milestones for submitting an extramural funding proposal. Funding can also help investigators seize opportunities and address obstacles to the completion of their projects. Any area of research falling within one of the two Schools will be supported.

Ayala-SOM pilot grants bring together faculty from the two schools to attack a common problem. Projects must have one or more principal investigators from each school, and the same PI can be named on multiple applications. Junior faculty are especially encouraged to apply. Proposals may request up to \$50,000 and last for one year maximum. Anticipated deliverables include writing competitive grant proposals to federal agencies and private foundations. PIs from each project are expected to present on their research twice and submit an interim and final report.

PIs are encouraged to meet with the Research Development contacts for the Ayala School and School of Medicine before submitting an application. For information about this opportunity please contact Melinda Gormley of the Ayala School at mgormley@uci.edu or Tara Massimino of the School of Medicine at tmassimi@uci.edu. Melinda and Tara are available to help with developing grant proposals, discuss budgets, provide research project consultation, and answer application-specific questions. The pilot funding will be administered out of both Schools.

The deadline has been extended to June 12 due to conflicting deadlines and all the interest for the Ayala-SOM pilot grant program. To submit a proposal, please email the following to Melinda Gormley.

- Project description including significance and opportunities for future extramural funding (up to 3 pages)
- Budget and budget justification (up to 1 page)
- Biographical sketches for each PI (in either the NIH or NSF format)

Post-Award Details

Recipients will give presentations and write reports, which are intended to help generate material for external grant applications. At the onset of funding, there will be an information session during which PIs will give a short presentation on their proposed research. An interim report will be due at six months and a year-end report when funding ends. There will be a mini-symposium at the end of the year at which contributors to each project can give a short seminar on the outcomes of the funded research.

In addition to financial support for the project, the Ayala School and SOM provide services and resources to identify external funding sources and help with the development of external grant proposals.