



MOTOR NEURON CENTER

www.columbiamnc.org

Core Facilities Grants

Applications are invited for funding to develop and/or run core facilities that will be made available for the use of members of the Motor Neuron Center (MNC).

Requests can be made for up to three years subject to annual review

The aim of the core facilities will be to provide MNC investigators with rapid access to high-level technical support. This will achieve two complementary objectives: (a) achieve more rapid progress in ongoing projects related to MNC objectives; (b) facilitate involvement of new research groups with relevant biological expertise but no direct experience with motor neuron biology or disease studies.

Core facilities or resources must be of three main types:

- Resources specifically devoted to SMA and/or ALS research, e.g. colonies of model mice.
- Resources specifically devoted to motor neuron research, e.g. motor neuron screening facility.
- Core facilities not specific to motor neuron research but which will accelerate progress toward MNC objectives.

Core Facility/Technical Resource applications must:

- Demonstrate relevance to SMA and/or ALS.
- Provide convincing arguments that the proposed facility responds to needs of multiple MNC investigators (or their Outreach Collaborators) and provides benefits in terms of cost or speed.

Eligibility, Terms and Conditions

- All faculty at assistant professor level (or equivalent) or above at Columbia are eligible, however at least one of the co-PIs on the application must be an MNC member.
- Grantees must attend monthly MNC meetings; failure to do so will result in cessation of funding.
- Grantees receiving funds for SMA research will be required to agree to and observe the terms of an agreement in place that covers intellectual property (IP), research tool availability and revenue sharing. This document is available upon request. Other research in investigators' laboratories will not be subject to these requirements.

Use of Funds and reporting requirements

- Funds may be used for support of research supplies, equipment and technical staff support.
- Funds may not be used for indirect costs, investigator salary, travel, subscriptions, conference or meeting registration or publishing costs.
- Investigators will be required to submit a brief written scientific report every 6 months and reconciled fiscal reports for the funds used.
- In the case of continued support for a core resource, investigators will be asked to present an annual oral progress report to the review committee prior to renewal of funding each year. After the first two years, usage by MNC members and/or collaborators will be a major criterion for continued support.

Application Procedure

STEP 1

Investigators should submit a proposal (up to 10 pages) that describes in detail the proposed core facility or resource, its relevance to the MNC goals and the value it will provide to MNC investigators. Letters of interest from MNC faculty may be included with the proposal. Explicit procedures for prioritizing research projects should be provided.

The budget should explicitly outline:

- Costs for the start-up period (max 2 years)
 - equipment
 - technical staff
 - supplies
- Fees (if any) to be charged to MNC members and non-MNC users:
 - During start-up period and for exploratory projects
 - During regular function as a core facility
- Milestones and measures of success

STEP 2

Proposals will be reviewed by the Internal Review Committee.

Dates

Proposals can be submitted at any time during the year. Review will typically take no longer than 4-6 weeks.

Submit via email to dgl2102@columbia.org