

# Neurodegeneration Creativity Hub - Pilot Project Funding Opportunity

## *Request for Applications*

**Background:** The UAMS Neurodegeneration Creativity Hub (NDCH) is currently seeking applications for new pilot projects. NDCH is an intramural facilitator of multidisciplinary research on neurodegenerative conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke, and related disorders. The primary goal of the hub is to support the development of collaborative, interdisciplinary research on these disorders within the UAMS campus, particularly projects with potential to secure extramural funding; one means to this end is the sharing of research expertise, tools, and models. In addition, the hub seeks to promote career development of trainees and entry-level faculty, particularly emphasizing the inclusive enrichment of our campus with investigators from diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds. In partial fulfillment of these goals, the center seeks to support up to four new pilot projects in 2022 with a maximum budget per pilot of \$20,000.

**PI Eligibility:** All UAMS faculty who seek to work in the field of neurodegeneration are encouraged to apply. Established investigators who propose a collaborative, multidisciplinary project will be given priority. Early-career investigators in the Basic Scientist or Clinician Scientist tenure tracks with no current extramural grant funding are encouraged to team-up with an established investigator. Pilot applicants are encouraged to contact the hub directors (below) with questions regarding PI eligibility.

**Project Eligibility:** Pilot projects must be devoted to one or more neurodegenerative condition. Projects that reside at any point along the translational scale from basic laboratory science to clinical research with human subjects will be considered.

**Pilot Project Application Process:** Applicants should submit an application packet as a single consolidated PDF that includes: *i*) a Face Page; *ii*) a Specific Aims page with project title; *iii*) a Research Strategy section (5 pages maximum) that highlights the project's significance, innovation, approach, and future plans for expanded scope and extramural funding; *iv*) a proposed Budget with justification and *v*) NIH-style Biosketches for all key personnel. The Face Page and a Budget template will be provided upon request.

Please write to Pam Free ([freepamelaa@uams.edu](mailto:freepamelaa@uams.edu)) to request the Face Page and Budget template. Finalized applications will be due by **5 PM, Monday, May 30, 2022**. The NDCH directors will receive application packets and assign them to 2-3 reviewers. Top ranked applications will then undergo final review and selection by the directors.

**Budget and Duration:** Pilot projects will be supported for 1 year. The annual maximum budget request per pilot is \$20K (direct costs) and salary support for personnel other than the PI(s) is an eligible expense.

### **Important Dates:**

Application deadline: **5 PM, May 30, 2022**

Reviews: June 6–20, 2022

Anticipated award start date: **July 1, 2022**

## **Contacts**

Neurodegeneration Hub Directors: Steve Barger ([bargerstevenw@uams.edu](mailto:bargerstevenw@uams.edu)), and Paul Drew ([drewpauld@uams.edu](mailto:drewpauld@uams.edu))

Hub administrative assistant, Pam Free ([freepamelaa@uams.edu](mailto:freepamelaa@uams.edu))