

CENTER FOR PERINATAL DISCOVERY (CPD) PILOT PROJECTS

CPD Pilot Projects are clinical and translational research projects designed to promote transdisciplinary collaborations aimed at understanding the effects of maternal health on fertility and pregnancy, and the effects of pregnancy exposures and outcomes on the health of mothers and their children, across diverse populations throughout the lifespan. Pilot Project Grants are one-year competitive awards (up to \$10,000) that provide funding for early-stage projects. Pilot Projects are available to all CPD members with faculty appointments; funding priority is given to early-career faculty and to projects that leverage CPD resources, including the Perinatal Biorepository.

Application Information

Application Release Date: February 15, 2021

Application Submission Deadline: March 31, 2021

Notice of Awards: Early May

Funding Period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



Application Format

1. 2-page proposal (NIH font and page layout) including:
 - Specific Aims
 - Background and significance
 - Preliminary studies (optional)
 - Research design and methods

Timeline (not included in the 2-page limit)

Literature cited (not included in the 2-page limit)

2. If IRB approval is required for the project, evidence of approved or pending IRB submission (i.e. UCSD IRB#)
3. Budget (please itemize with short justification)
 - a. Allowable expenses: Personnel, supplies, study subject compensation.
 - b. Non-allowable expenses: Equipment (\$5000 or higher), travel.
4. 5-page NIH-style biosketch for key personnel (PIs, Co-PIs, and key Co-Is/collaborators)
5. Please combine the documents from 1-4 into a single pdf and email to:
 - perinataldiscovery@health.ucsd.edu

Award Information

Funding limit: \$10,000 per award.

Funds must be spent between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. All funds not spent by June 30, 2022 will be returned to the CPD. No extensions will be granted. No funds will be disbursed until appropriate IRB approval is obtained.

CPD Pilot Projects may request access to CPD resources, such as specimens from the Perinatal Biorepository or clinical research coordinator effort, at no cost. The Biorepository includes maternal, paternal, and umbilical cord samples (serum, plasma, whole blood, and Paxgene tubes), maternal and paternal urine samples, placental tissue samples (snap-frozen, RNA-later-preserved, and FFPE blocks), and umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cells. All such requests should be appropriate for the scale and timeframe of the project. Investigators are encouraged to discuss potential projects before submission with CPD leadership.

Eligibility and Project Requirements

Principal Investigators must be full-time faculty members at UC San Diego.

Principal Investigators for these pilot awards must be members of the CPD. Applicants may join the CPD shortly before submission and still be eligible. To join the CPD, please email your full name, title and department, research interests, and picture to Dr. Mana Parast (mparast@health.ucsd.edu).

Priority will be given to junior full-time faculty proposing collaborative projects.

A given investigator can participate in no more than one funded award per cycle.

Previous awardees are not eligible to reapply for two years.

Full professors are NOT eligible to be Principal Investigators unless they are entering a new line of research. Proposals cannot overlap with or be a logical extension of ongoing research. In general, proposals from full professors will receive lower priority.

All investigators selected for funding will be required to submit a six-month progress report and a one-year Final Progress Report at the end of the funded project (including an in-person presentation if requested). An additional report one year later will also be required. This report will consist of a detailed description of progress to date and a listing of all submitted publications and grant applications (pending or funded), meeting abstracts and seminars relating to the pilot project.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications should be well-written, precise, and succinct. Applications will be subject to both scientific and programmatic review. The following criteria will be used in evaluating these proposals:

Significance of the research and its clinical/translational relevance to perinatal health.

Scientific quality.

Feasibility to complete the project in one year.

Probability that the work will yield important new knowledge and/or technology.

Potential for future extramural funding.

Qualifications of the Principal Investigator and collaborators and inclusion of multidisciplinary team members.

All publications, grants, and presentations resulting from research funded by the CPD or using CPD resources must cite the CPD as a contributing source of support. If a project is required to be registered at [Clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov), the Principal Investigator is responsible for doing so before beginning the research.

For any questions, please contact:

- llorent@health.ucsd.edu
- mparast@health.ucsd.edu