

HHDC NOVEL PILOT PROJECT FOR POST DOCS:

The goal of this program is the advancement of highly promising postdoctoral candidates who have the potential to become productive, independent investigators. Those with top quality basic and clinical research in one of 3 areas are encouraged to apply. These including metabolism/diabetes, b cell function, Cancer, and, equally importantly, encouraging productive collaborative interactions between bench scientists and clinicians. This Funding Opportunity Announcement is designed specifically for candidates proposing research that does not involve leading an independent clinical trial, a clinical trial feasibility study, or an ancillary clinical trial, but does allow candidates to propose research experience in a clinical trial led by a sponsor or co-sponsor.

Key Information

Novel Pilot Project for Post Docs \$70,000 per year up to 2 years

Funding Priorities

Applications that address 3 themes of the HHDC will be given higher priority. Each proposal must address one or more of the following themes that describe HHDC funding priorities:

Theme 1: Cancer and Diabetes. Proposals that aim to answer questions about the relationship surrounding obesity, diabetes, and cancer. Some examples include:

- Mechanisms through which obesity and/or diabetes and co-morbidities promote cancer risk, or progression to lethal disease. Successful applications will leverage basic science tools across disease models to address a transdisciplinary problem.
- The impact of cancer therapies or cancer growth on metabolic health in basic, preclinical, or clinical studies. Successful applications will evaluate long term effects of physiologically relevant cancer treatments on issues such as diabetes risk, cachexia, neurodegeneration, or other adverse outcomes.
- Disparities in obesity/diabetes or cancer risk/prognosis that associate with poor health outcomes in one of these areas (e.g. in obesity-associated cancers). Successful applications will explore the social, economic, or individual contributors to those inequalities.

Theme 2: Diabetes and Aging across the lifespan. Proposals that aim to gain basic science and clinical knowledge on the inter-relationship of obesity, diabetes and aging across the lifespan. Some Examples include:

- Genetic, epigenetic, and environmental basis of susceptibility to developing insulin resistance, metabolic dysregulation, inflammation, and macrovascular and microvascular diabetic complications, across the lifespan.
- The impact of obesity and diabetes on organ and cellular mechanisms that contribute to the development of chronic diseases of the elderly including frailty, sarcopenia, cognitive decline, osteopenia, etc.

- Clinical and epidemiological studies that aim to identify risk factors and develop interventions to improve diabetes care in the elderly.

Theme 3: Pancreas and Beta Cell Function. The early stages of obesity/metabolic-related insulin resistance are characterized by hypersecretion of insulin but as the disease progresses, beta cell exhaustion results in insulin insufficiency. In patients with type 1 diabetes autoimmune destruction of insulin production capacity leads to exogenous insulin dependency. We encourage investigators interested in all aspects of pancreatic function in diabetes and associated conditions to submit their research proposals in this area. This includes studies that utilize pancreatic tissue samples, relevant cell culture and animal models, and human-based studies of in-vivo and ex-vivo pancreatic function.

Some examples in this domain include:

- Physiology and mechanisms for insulin and c-peptide production, secretion, or action; modulation of pancreatic function with obesity, diabetes, aging, or related conditions.
- Strategies to modulate, maintain, or restore insulin secretion in the presence of diabetes, pre-diabetes, or during the aging process.
- Genetic, autoimmune, or environmental processes leading to reduction in beta cell mass or function with diabetes, obesity, or aging.
- Studies of the action of pancreatic-derived proteins such as glucagon, somatostatin, or digestive enzymes, especially if the intent is to understand the metabolic causes and consequences of obesity, aging, or diabetes.

If your research could benefit from use of human pancreatic samples, please contact us about opportunities to acquire these tissues locally.

Covid-19 related proposals: [Proposals studying Covid-19 are welcome if they are related to the HHDC mission, e.g. exploring the relationship between diabetes and Covid-19 presentation or outcomes, and there is a plan for follow-on studies by applying for extramural funding.](#)

ELIGIBILITY

M.D. and Ph.D. fellows and who have completed a less than 24 months of a fellowship are eligible in this category. Fellows must have a formal mentor and include a letter of support from their mentor(s) that 1) the proposed project brings advanced skills to a trainee 2) describes the trainee's path to independence; and 3) documents departmental support that will be available to the trainee during the 1-2 year period of the proposed project (please limit letter to 2 pages maximum).

These applicants are required to have a formal mentoring committee, as well as a statement from their post-doctoral mentor that the research proposed represents a line of investigation that the mentee can build upon, and a defined mentoring plan, including plans for career development and transition to independence.

Key Information

Use the current NIH biosketch format for all key personnel. The experimental plan should be limited to five single-spaced pages, using 12-point type. Please submit the entire application as a single PDF file. Novel Pilot Project Salary support for Post-Docs = \$70,000 per year for salary/fringe for up to 2 years.

Application Process

LETTER OF INTENT:

A Letter of intent is due to HHDCGrants@ouhsc.edu by **5PM February 7, 2022**. Applications selected for full application submission will be notified by **February 15, 2022**. The projected start date for the award will be July 1, 2022.

LOI due February 7, 2022, and must include:

- Cover Page ([Template Provided](#))
- One-page Abstract
- Budget
- NIH Biosketch for Key Personnel
- Mentor Support Letter (required for MD and PhD fellows and senior postdoctoral fellows only)

FULL APPLICATION:

The sponsored programs grant routing form and completed application must be received by ORA at least three business days prior to the **March 15, 2022** grant application deadline. You must submit an electronic routing form using SOONERTRACKGRANTS (<https://soonertrackgrants.ouhsc.edu>). A copy of the application must be attached to the SoonerTrack ticket or emailed for review to your Sponsored Program Administrator. Once the review is complete, the Face Page of the grant application must be signed by the ORA Official before the PI submits the final application to HHDC.

SUBMISSION OF FINAL APPLICATION

Send the final application by e-mail to HHDCGrants@ouhsc.edu no later than 5 pm, Tuesday, **March 15, 2022**. Please title the application attached to the e-mail: HHDC Pilot Project Post-Doc Grant-[PI Last Name, First Name]. Please submit the application as a single file in pdf format. Failure to follow these steps could cause your application to be overlooked and not reviewed by the HHDC Grants Review Committee.

QUESTIONS:

For questions or for special exception of the announcement approval, please contact Katie Hoefling at Katie-Hoefling@ouhsc.edu.

FACE PAGE 1

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
HAROLD HAMM DIABETES CENTER – PILOT GRANT PROGRAM - 2022

LETTER OF INTENT

Project Type: Diabetes Related

Award Type: Novel Pilot Project for Post Docs Grant

PI (If Team Science Grant-Team Leader): _____

Faculty Rank: _____

Institution/College/Department: _____

Campus Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

If applicable to the award type, include any additional investigators. Repeat as needed.

Investigator: _____

Faculty Rank: _____

Institution/College/Department: _____

Campus Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FACE PAGE 2

PROJECT TITLE:

PROJECT SUMMARY (layman's terms, no more than 250 words):

Budget Request: \$_____

BUDGET (First Year)

PERSONNEL (For faculty, list % time effort. For non-faculty, list % time effort, salary, fringe benefits, and total):

<u>Name/Position</u>	<u>%Effort</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Fringe Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
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EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES (List separately items such as biochemicals, glassware, and animal purchases):

TRAVEL (Travel will be reimbursed at actual and reasonable expense):

OTHER COSTS (include animal per diem and housing costs, or subawards if applicable):

TOTAL COSTS (Not to exceed \$70,000) \$_____