

2021 COBRE Pilot Project Funding Opportunity

Request for Applications



Background: The UK [Center of Biomedical Research Excellence \(COBRE\) in Pharmaceutical Research and Innovation \(CPRI\)](#) is **currently seeking**

applications for new COBRE pilot projects. CPRI is a comprehensive multidisciplinary center focused on translational chemical biology. The overarching goals of the center are to support **junior faculty career development**; advance impactful translational chemical biology research, tools and infrastructure; and stimulate transdisciplinary collaboration, research innovation and early translation. Within this context, the center seeks to support up to two new COBRE pilot projects in 2021 with a maximum budget per pilot of \$50K (direct costs). For more general COBRE information, see the [NIGMS COBRE program](#).

PI Eligibility: **Priority will be given to junior faculty** in the tenure track (or equivalent) with no current or prior major external, peer-reviewed research project grant funding. Established investigators that seek to pursue a completely new research direction from projects with existing or prior major extramural support are also eligible to apply. Pilot applicants are encouraged to contact Tonya Vance (tonya.vance@uky.edu) with questions regarding PI eligibility.

Project Eligibility: Pilot projects **must align with the theme of translational chemical biology**; the nexus of chemical biology (the application of chemical biology principles to develop validated probe/models to advance our understanding of biology) and pharmaceutical science (the application of pharmaceutical principles to advance leads/materials/devices that address unmet clinical needs). Pilot projects **must also demonstrate need for use of at least one of the three CPRI COBRE-affiliated cores** ([Computational](#), [Synthesis](#) and [Translational](#)). Pilot applicants are encouraged to contact Tonya Vance (tonya.vance@uky.edu) with questions regarding thematic alignment.

COBRE Pilot Project Application Process: Applicants should submit an application packet as a single consolidated pdf that includes: i) an NIH face page (template provided); ii) a specific aims page with project title; iii) a brief research strategy section (3 pages maximum length that highlights the project significance, innovation, general approach and anticipated COBRE-affiliated core use); iv) a proposed budget with justification and v) a current NIH-style biosketch to Tonya Vance (tonya.vance@uky.edu) by **5 PM, Friday February 19, 2021**. The CPRI Executive Committee (EC) will review application packets and select a subset to advance to in-person interviews with a panel comprised of the CPRI Executive Committee (EC) and 1-2 additional peer reviewers. During the interview, the selected applicants will be expected to present a 15-20 minute overview of their proposed pilot project. Top ranked applications will then be advanced to the CPRI External Advisory Committee (EAC) for final review.

Budget and Duration: Pilot projects will be supported for ~10 months, with the potential to compete for an additional year of support depending on semi-annual progress evaluations. The annual maximum budget request per pilot is \$50K (direct costs) and junior faculty salary support is an eligible expense. COBRE-supported investigators will be expected to acknowledge COBRE support (**NIH P20 GM130456**) on all publications/presentations/disclosures.

Important Dates:

Application deadline: **5 PM, Friday February 19, 2021**

Interviews: late mid-March (to be scheduled)

Anticipated award start date: **April 1, 2021**

Contacts: COBRE Pilot Program Director, Linda Dwoskin (ldwoskin@uky.edu); COBRE administrator, Tonya Vance (tonya.vance@uky.edu)