



O'Brien Center PIs

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The **George M. O'Brien Centers Cooperative Research Program in Benign Urology (U54)** here request **applications** for the Centers' **Opportunity Pool Program**. This Program seeks to encourage interactions between the O'Brien Urology Centers and the larger research community. A central goal is to increase the capacity of the urology research community by leveraging existing Urology Center resources. Additional goals include supporting the generation of preliminary data that can be used for future grant applications, such as investigator-initiated R01s, and testing of high risk/high reward concepts.

Opportunity pool projects should be integrated within the overall research goals of a current O'Brien Urology Center and where possible make use of existing Biomedical Cores or other resources at the parent Center. Funds to support Opportunity Pool applications are set aside in the NIDDK award for each O'Brien Urology Center. Individual Centers and the broader community are highly encouraged to identify possible collaborations for Opportunity Pool applications.

For additional background information on the O'Brien Urology Centers (U54) Program and Opportunity Pool Program see: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-18-029.html>

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants are limited to early stage investigators (see NIH definition: <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/process/apply/new-early-stage-investigators>), new investigators (per NIH definition), current K Scholars, or established investigators not previously involved in genitourinary research. Interested applicants should contact O'Brien Center leadership to discuss the proposed study and for approval prior to application submission.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Organized using standard NIH application forms (or similar) with the following required sections and page limits:

1. Face Page (standard PHS 398 or similar) (1 page)
2. Specific Aims (1 page)
3. Research Strategy (include Background/Significance, Innovation, Approach, and Preliminary data; 6 pages total)
4. Statement detailing planned collaboration with parent O'Brien Center and utilization of existing Center resources (e.g., Cores or other) and proposed pathway for resulting findings to allow development of future investigator-initiated grant application (e.g., R01) (up to 1 page).
5. Detailed Budget Page for Initial Budget period (1 page)
6. Budget for Entire proposed Budget Period (1 page)
7. Budget Justification (personnel and other, as needed) (unlimited pages)
8. NIH formatted Biographical Sketches for collaborator(s) and applicant (limit to 5 pages total for each Bio)
9. Please include a letter of support from the PI of the O'Brien Center to which you are applying or a signature from the O'Brien Center PI on the statement of collaboration (see step 4)

For any Opportunity Pool application not selected for funding, the NIDDK may provide permissions to submit a revised version. If permission is given, a one page "response to the previous critique" may be included in the revised application.



(U54 George M. O'Brien Opportunity Pool Awards, continued)

AWARD BUDGET

Opportunity Pool projects may request up to \$100,000 Direct Costs each year for a maximum Project Period of two years. Appropriate Indirect Costs may be included to yield a final Total Costs request. An additional year of support may be requested pending exceptional progress during the original Project Period.

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Interested applicants should contact a specific O'Brien Urology Center (U54) to discuss possible collaborations and the availability of Opportunity Pool funds at the Center (see list of current Centers in this announcement). After receiving Center approval, Opportunity Pool applications are submitted electronically through the CAIRIBU log-in portal. Contact CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff (cairibu@urology.wisc.edu) to request access.

Applications will be forwarded to 2-3 individuals with appropriate expertise for an external assessment. The NIDDK will make final decisions on funding using this external assessment and based on scientific merit, availability of funds, and overall potential to advance the goals of the O'Brien Centers Program. Centers will then be notified by the NIDDK whether funds at the sites set aside for the Opportunity Pool Program may be released to support the project.

KEY DATES

Application Receipt Dates: Applications may be submitted at any time. Applications submitted on or before one of the standard due dates will be sent for review shortly after that date. For example, an application submitted in July will be sent for review on or shortly after October 5. Standard due dates are February 5, June 5, and October 5.

BRIEF REVIEW OF STEPS IN APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT, SUBMISSION, AND REVIEW:

- Step 1 **Interested applicant contacts a specific O'Brien Urology Center** to inquire about a possible collaboration and development of an Opportunity Pool application
- Step 2 Applicant uses guidelines to prepare the application package
- Step 3 Applicant requests access to the CAIRIBU log-in portal
- Step 4 Applicant uploads the final, Institutional Business Office countersigned application to the CAIRIBU log-in portal on or before one of the three yearly application receipt dates: Feb 5, June 5, or Oct 5
- Step 5 **Dr. Penniston sends applications out for external assessment** to 2-3 content experts
- Step 6 Using external assessments, the **NIDDK program staff makes a final funding decision based on scientific merit, availability of funds, and likelihood for study to advance the goals of the Program**
- Step 7 **Center is notified by the NIDDK on final application status. If the application is selected for support, the NIDDK provides permissions to the Center to use funds at site to support Opportunity Pool project.**
- Step 8 **Center notifies applicant** about application status
- Step 9 Funded applicant works with Center to initiate and execute project

Request access to CAIRIBU log-in portal by emailing cairibu@urology.wisc.edu