New Funding Opportunity - USR Core Pilot Grants

**Background**
Campus PIs depend on cores not only for services for existing projects, but also to provide evidence that the university has the appropriate scientific resources and capabilities to compete successfully for future grants. Artificially imposed price ceilings on cores impose challenges to cores’ financial sustainability. In fact, most cores do not recover their entire costs in a year through recharges, making up the revenue through departmental, centralized, or other support and investments. At the same time, cores must have state-of-the-art facilities to keep up with the variety of campus investigators’ needs. Likewise, core directors and their staff are expected to maintain top-level knowledge and expertise. The University Shared Resources program (USR) supports cores’ operations in a variety of ways, including offering pilot fund grants.

**Purpose of Grants**
The University Shared Resources (USR) program and Vice President for Research office will offer a number of grants for pre-award or pilot data generated in the cores. Each grant will be up to $10,000. The USR maintains that support for strategic development of core functionality, as well as quality pre-award data for new grant submissions will increase the use and visibility of cores, and support them through both technology development and cost recovery. Such support will also benefit PIs by offering funds to explore approaches that will strengthen grant applications, increase grant funding, and provide opportunity to pursue novel science.

**Mechanism**
Funds are available to help cover the cost of utilizing a research core for pre-award consulting and pilot data. Eligible costs are normally for core services associated with the development and submission of new grants. However, in some cases they could be for the development of a specific strategic scientific capability. The support covered by these funds may include core costs such as consultation time, reagents, supplies and technical staff time for pilot studies required for assisting investigators.

**Eligibility**
- All OHSU cores are eligible to receive pilot grant money, but preference is given to USR cores. Cores must receive all money. If a portion of the job must be subcontracted, sub-contracts must be arranged by the primary on the project.
- OHSU PIs and senior postdoctoral fellows are eligible to apply.
Eligibility assessment is based on the application meeting the goal of the program – to support the gathering of pre-award data for the submission of a new grant application and/or develop new technology that supports core operations.

**Timeline**

The application is due on November 30, 2015. Applications will be reviewed by the USR Pilot Fund Committee. If the request is approved, the USR will fund the core expenses directly from a USR account. Awards will be announced by December 15, 2015. Wherever possible, funds should be spent by the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2016). If not spent, funding in the coming year will be reviewed by the USR committee to determine if/how the project rolls over to the following year. Funding cannot be banked for future projects.

**Application Process**

The application must be completed online at OHSU’s [Competitive Application Portal](#) (CAP). Simply login using your OHSU credentials and click on "University Shared Resources Pilot Funding" under Open Internal Funding Opportunities. A form must be filled out which includes several applicant acknowledgements that must be read and accepted before the application can be submitted. The following supporting documents must also be uploaded:

*Provide following information in a 1 page PDF:*

- Description of the project
- Description of scientific impact to the core(s) used
- Description of what you will do with the info and project goal(s), **specifically if this is to be used to generate data for future grant funding**, but also for the development of new technology, new methods, other?

*Additionally, provide following information (in a single pdf):*

- Project timeline
- Project budget
- Letter of Support/statement by the core director outlining the benefits of the project to the core, and ability of core to fulfill goals and timelines on the proposed budget.
- PI's NIH formatted biosketch.
- Specific Aims and Summary Statement of previous grant submission if core request is in response to a need for additional preliminary data.

**Please note:** Applicants must consult with the director of the core(s) prior to application submission to confirm that the pilot data can be generated and analyzed prior to the
grant submission deadline. A letter of support from the core director is required - applications submitted without this letter will not be reviewed.

For questions about this program, please contact Andy Chitty. For questions about the submission process on CAP, please contact funding@ohsu.edu.