The Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience Pilot Program for 2022

The Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience (Del Monte) is pleased to announce the availability of up to 20 pilot project awards (maximum budget of $50,000 per award) to support novel basic, clinical and translational projects in the neurosciences. These awards will be supported under five programs for 2022 and are open to all faculty members across both the Medical School and the Undergraduate Campus. Funds available for this year's program are over $675,000. Del Monte supports the following programs:

The *Schmitt Program in Integrative Neuroscience (SPIN)* supports pilot and feasibility awards (up to $50,000 per award) for basic science and translational projects that advance our understanding of both normal and abnormal brain functioning (up to 5 awards available).

The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation (MF) offers pilot and feasibility awards (up to $50,000 per award) for basic, clinical and translational projects that specifically support research on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (1 award available).

Friends of the Del Monte Funds support pilot and feasibility awards (up to $50,000 per award) for novel basic, clinical and translational projects in the neurosciences **limited to Assistant Professors and Research Assistant Professors**. Funds for one award are provided by generous philanthropic gifts of many individuals who support the mission and vision of the Del Monte Institute (1 award available).

Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience Research Pilot and Feasibility Program supports pilot and feasibility awards (up to $50,000 per award) for basic science and translational and clinical projects that advance our understanding of both normal and abnormal brain functioning (5-6 awards available).

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC) seed grant award (up to $10,000) supports new and established IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) investigators to generate preliminary data on a wide array of basic and translational IDD research (5-7 awards available).

Schmitt Program in Integrative Neuroscience (SPIN)

The awarded funds are intended to enable both new and established investigators to generate preliminary data that will lead to competitive applications for extramural funding. The SPIN program encourages interdisciplinary collaborative approaches to novel research questions that leverage skillsets and techniques across research laboratories and traditional institutional boundaries. However, individual investigator applications will also be considered. In 2022, SPIN will accomplish its goals through the support of new research projects in the neurosciences and neuromedicine broadly defined, from cognitive and systems to cellular and molecular approaches. Exciting proposals from any branch of neuroscience will be given full consideration. The SPIN program, which has consistently supported innovative brain research at the University of Rochester for 34 years, is supported by the Killian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Foundation.

The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation Autism Research Pilot and Feasibility Program (MF)

The Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience is pleased to continue the ***Autism Research Pilot and Feasibility Program*** for new and established investigators. This Request for Applications (RFA) is intended to provide funding for investigators conducting bold, creative and rigorous research into the underlying neurobiology, causes and treatment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The program supports projects that employ innovative approaches to explore untested hypotheses and develop preliminary data necessary to expand Autism research.

The program supports basic, translational, and clinical research for biomedical and behavioral studies. These awards are intended for investigators who are requesting support for small-scale projects or early-stage experiments that will build on preliminary data or a prior track record and lead to competitive applications for funding. This program is very generously supported by The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation.

Seed funding through the IDDRC is also available to supplement the Autism Pilot and Feasibility Program. IDDRC seed grants promote research related to IDD and help to defray some of the investigator cost burden related to services of the IDDRC cores.

Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience Research Pilot and Feasibility Program

The awarded funds are intended to enable both new and established investigators to generate preliminary data that will lead to competitive applications for extramural funding. This program encourages interdisciplinary collaborative approaches to novel research questions that leverage skillsets and techniques across research laboratories and traditional institutional boundaries. Exciting proposals from any branch of neuroscience will be given full consideration.

Friends of the Del Monte Institute Research Pilot and Feasibility Program

The awarded funds are intended to enable **only Assistant Professors (both tenure track and research track faculty)** to generate preliminary date that will lead to competitive applications for extramural funding. Exciting proposals from any branch of neuroscience will be given full consideration. Funds to support this program are provided by the generous donations of many friends of the Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience.

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC)

The IDDRC provides seed grant funding to eligible researchers to promote research related to IDD and to defray some of the cost burden related to equipment and services of the core. Seed grant funds are available for IDD specific research utilizing IDDRC cores: Cell and Molecular Imaging (CMI) and Translational Neuroimaging and Neurophysiology (TNN). The CMI core comprises confocal, multiphoton and super resolution imaging along with image analysis in the support of in vitro and in vivo study of phenomena at the subcellular, cellular, tissue, and whole animal scale. The TNN core provides investigators with access to fully modernized high-quality multimodality human and small animal neuroimaging and neurophysiological recording facilities, such as MRI's or EEGs and MoBI (Mobile Brain Body Imaging) with a primary emphasis on specialized resources to accommodate measurements in difficult-to-test vulnerable pediatric IDD populations. The awarded funds are intended to enable both new and established investigators to generate preliminary data that will lead to competitive applications for extramural funding.

The Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience Pilot Application Process

Application Process

The programs support research in the neurosciences. Applications may request **up to $50,000** (funds depend on the specific program). Principal investigators must be faculty members (with or without tenure) within the neuroscience community at the University of Rochester. PIs must also be members of the Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience. A short membership application is available on the Del Monte website or by **clicking here**.

Applications will be submitted online (www.DMINPilot.urmc.edu) with a short informational online page and **a single pdf application file**.

A) The online component includes:

- Title, submitting PI information, co-PI information
- List of major collaborators (past 3 years)
- Technical abstract (300 words): This will be used to assign reviewers, and should include overall goal, specific aims, and techniques used.
- Lay abstract (300 words): this will be used to convey information to the public, and should be easily understandable to the non-scientist. This will be public, and so should not contain proprietary information.

B) The written application is modeled after a short NIH research proposal (e.g. R03, R21), and should include:

- **Cover letter** with title, investigators, and description that indicates how the SPIN, MF, Del Monte, or Del Monte Friends mechanism would extend research objectives that will lead to a competitive extramural grant application [one page limit]. You may indicate more than one choice if relevant.
- **Select** which program you are applying for: SPIN, Mangurian Foundation, Del Monte, or Del Monte Friends.
- **Research description** (limited to *6 pages*) including Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Studies, Research Design and Methods.
- **Supporting materials** (Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, and Literature Cited) can follow on additional pages.
- **Budget** (detailed, *not* modular) with justification (faculty salary support is specifically excluded)
- **Bio-sketches** of all Co-Investigators and key personnel.
- **Other Support**
- **Resources and Environment**

Review criteria will include but are not limited to:

- The ***likelihood of a subsequently successful application for extramural support*** (e.g. new NIH RO1).
- The ***significance*** and ***innovation*** of the proposed project.
- The ***relevance*** of the project to the strategic plan of the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience.
- Where relevant, the ***interdisciplinary/collaborative*** character of the project (across faculty and laboratories).

Reporting - Following receipt of an award, investigators will be contacted to update their reported data annually for ten years.

Application Submission Deadlines

The application deadline is **5:00 pm** on Monday, May 23, 2022. Applications will be submitted online at www.DMINPilot.urmc.edu. Open Date (Earliest Submission Date) is April 11, 2022.

Address all questions about applications to: Ian_Dickerson@urmc.rochester.edu

An internal review committee will work with a panel of independent external reviewers to determine the most competitive projects for support. The Program is administered through the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience.

Funding is scheduled to begin August 1, 2022. Funds are available for a maximum of a one-year term.

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC) Seed Fund Application Process

Seed Grant Funding Purpose

To provide funds towards the use of IDDRC core equipment, services and technical staff. Applicants may request **up to $10,000** (funds depend on the specific program); once approved, must be spent within 12 months.

Application Process

For CMI application click here. For TNN application click here. Completed applications should be emailed to sherry_mentor@urmc.rochester.edu.

Review Process

- Each proposal will be evaluated by the respective Core Director and they will make subsequent funding decisions based on evaluations and project feasibility.
- Core director's will rapidly review requests, advise users on experimental design, and interface with the directors of each Core component to design the best possible approach and alert staff members to upcoming studies and the training/assistance required.

Application Submission Deadlines for IDDRC seed grant funding applications deadline is **5:00 pm** on Monday, May 23, 2022. Open Date (Earliest Submission Date) is April 15, 2022. Applications should be emailed to sherry_mentor@urmc.rochester.edu. **Funding to begin July 1, 2022**. Funds are available for a maximum of a one-year term.

Address all questions about IDDRC applications to: sherry_mentor@urmc.rochester.edu.