Center for Genomic Medicine
30 South 2000 East, # 260
Salt Lake City, UT 84112
385-212-4564

Center for Genomic Medicine Pilot Awards
Request for Proposals

Overview
Philanthropic donations to the Center for Genomic Medicine will support two pilot awards up to $50,000. The mission of the Center for Genomic Medicine is to bring together patients, providers, and researchers to discover the genetic causes of disease and translate these discoveries into better diagnoses, treatments, and prevention strategies.

Timeline
- Deadline for submission is **Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025** midnight local time.
- Decisions will be made by mid-June 2025
- Funding will start July 2025

Research Scope
We invite applications that build upon the mission of Center for Genomic Medicine as stated above. Areas of interest include (but are not limited to):
- Large-scale screens of functional variants in human susceptibility genes
- Therapeutics to solve key problems in diseases with a strong genetic component and/or use of genetic or genomic approaches as part of their therapeutic development
- Implementation of clinical testing for disease-causing genetic variants
- Multi-omic integration in genomic medicine
- Building bioinformatic pipelines focused on understanding genetically admixed populations or integrating electronic health record data with familial relationships
- Studies exploring the variability of penetrance and expressivity of human genetic conditions
- Development of new computational or statistical methods that empower genomic medicine
- Health economics of genetic testing
- Intersection of health disparities with genomic medicine and/or genetic variation

We encourage projects to consider the following:
- Ethical Legal and Social Implications (ELSI)
- Genetic counseling

Eligible Applicants
- Only one research proposal per principal investigator (PI) will be reviewed.
- PI must be a member of the Center for Genomic Medicine. If you are not already a member, you may join by completing a brief survey. Please contact chelsie.smith@hsc.utah.edu if you have any questions.
- PI must be a tenure- or career-track faculty at the University of Utah.
- Project must not have been previously funded by the Center for Genomic Medicine.

Proposal Preferences
Preference will be given to projects that include all four of the following features:

- Have significant scientific merit
- Have a high potential for extramural funding, preferentially from the NIH
- PI/Team is not currently supported by extramural funding
- Represent work from new collaborative teams
- Priority will be given to early career investigator (assistant professor) OR an investigator who has not received R01-level funding associated with genomic medicine (new to this field).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with University resources to build a competitive application.

- Health Sciences and HCI cores and recharge: HSC Cores: Home – HSC Cores Website (utah.edu)
- Center for Genomic Medicine: Researcher Resources | University of Utah Health

Cohort identification, IRBs, coordination, recruitment, UGP's umbrella IRB	Utah Genome Project • Deb Neklason deb.neklason@hci.utah.edu
Genomic/Bioinformatic Analysis and Study Design	Utah Center for Genomic Discovery Core • http://cores.utah.edu/ucgd/ • Carson Holt carson.holt@genetics.utah.edu
Bioinformatic Analysis	High-Throughput Genomics Shared Resources • https://uofuhealth.utah.edu/huntsman/shared-resources/gba/htg/ • David Nix David.nix@hci.utah.edu
Model organisms and functional analysis	Functional Analysis Service • https://uofuhealth.utah.edu/center-genomic-medicine/research/functional-studies.php • Charlie Murtaugh murtaugh@genetics.utah.edu
Genetic Counseling	Genetic Counseling Shared Resource • Genetic Counseling Shared Resource - Huntsman Cancer Institute | University of Utah • Wendy Kohlmann wendy.kohlmann@hci.utah.edu
Statistics	CTSI Study Design and Biostatistics Center • https://medicine.utah.edu/ccts/sdbc/. Cancer Biostatistics Shared Resource • https://uofuhealth.utah.edu/huntsman/shared-resources/cancer-biostatistics/ • Ken Boucher ken.boucher@hci.utah.edu
Sequencing	High Throughput Genomic Analysis Shared Resource • https://uofuhealth.utah.edu/huntsman/shared-resources/gba/htg/ • Brian Dalley brian.dalley@hci.utah.edu DNA Sequencing Core • http://cores.utah.edu/dna-sequencing/ • Derek Warner dwarner@cores.utah.edu

Utah Population Database	UPDB Navigator • https://uofuhealth.utah.edu/huntsman/utah-population-database/ • Dinah Busico Dinah.Busico@hci.utah.edu
Research Ethics	Research Ethics Consultation Service • Joyce Havstad researchintegrity@utah.edu

Application Instructions
Applications and all supporting documents to be submitted via InfoReady (https://utah.infoready4.com/#homePage) by **Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025 as a single PDF.** Font and spacing should be NIH compliant. Plan and budget for all aspects of project including genomic data processing, storage, and analysis. Grant administration is the responsibility of the principal investigator(s).

All applications must include each item in the following order:

1. Lay abstract summarizing the project and its potential impact (150 word max). *This will be shared with donors, so please ensure it is written for the lay audience*
2. Specific aims of the research proposal (1/2 page)
3. Detailed proposal (up to 3 pages, including figures). Please address significance, innovation, approach, timeline, clear deliverables, data sharing plan, and plan for external funding.
4. References (no page limit)
5. Mentoring statement (1/4 page) from an investigator experienced in genomics.
   a. Email Chelsie.smith@hsc.utah.edu for suggestions.
6. Budget and budget justification
7. NIH biographical sketch for investigators (5 pages maximum for each)
8. Current and pending support for all investigators
9. List of investigator's past University of Utah pilot grant funding (title, amount, dates, resulting publications and external grants).

Budget Guidelines
Pilot grant funds may be used for salaries and benefits of non-faculty project personnel, supplies, miscellaneous expenses, and services. Funds *cannot* be used for faculty salaries, travel that is not directly related to project research (e.g., conferences cannot be supported by this grant), consultants, or office equipment, including computers (unless specifically justified). All funds must be spent within one year.

Evaluation and Funding of Proposals
Proposals will be reviewed by the Center for Genomic Medicine Steering Committee to assess innovation, significance, scientific merit, likelihood for success and external funding, and alignment with the mission of the Center for Genomic Medicine. If human subjects or animal research are involved, one copy of the IRB or IACUC approval will be required prior to release of funds.

Progress Reports
The following reports are required from all awarded PIs. Templates will be provided.

6 months	Progress report will be required for review by the research committee to assure adequate scientific progress.

1 year	Progress report describing the results and deliverables of the research, future directions, and plans to secure additional funding.
Up to 3 years	Report of outcomes, diagnoses/clinical impact, publications, or extramural funding stemming from the work.

PIs may also be asked to participate in the following:

- Genome Rounds (seminar series)
- Donor-centered events or participate
- Additional reports to donors

Questions? Please contact: Chelsie Smith at Chelsie.smith@hsc.utah.edu