**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE**

**PILOT GRANTS PROGRAM (PPP)**

The Mission of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), an NIH Institute, is to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives. To fulfill this mission the NIEHS wants to recruit the best and brightest investigators to perform environmental health science research. The Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center (SWEHSC), a NIEHS funded Center at the University of Arizona, is promoting the mission of NIEHS through the availability of Pilot Project awards of up to $40,000 each.

(<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/about/strategicplan/index.cfm>). Pilot projects are designed to provide support for obtaining preliminary data that can be used in developing major proposals for submission to extramural funding agencies. We, the investigators and administration of the SWEHSC, want you to be successful and are here to help you in the development of your Pilot Project applications.

How can we help in the development of your application?

1. First, you should touch base with Dr. Xinxin Ding, who is administering the Pilot Projects Program. He can ensure that your research is related to the goals of the Center and NIEHS, make some preliminary suggestions on potential collaborators within the SWEHSC and suggest potential facility cores that might be useful in your proposed research.
2. If you are in the College of Science, you should contact Kelly Grimm (grimmk@arizona.edu) prior to submission.
3. Submit your draft application (limited to two pages) to Susanna Herndon (sbrodie@arizona.edu) by 5:00 pm, Friday, December 12, 2023. All State of Arizona faculty are eligible and encouraged to apply.
4. The applicants will be invited to present to the relevant research focus groups (RFGs) and cores to elicit feedback and advice on the draft application (early January).
5. Final, complete application package should be submitted to Susanna Herndon, by 5:00 pm, Monday, January 29, 2024.

The PPP is organized to accomplish the following aims:

1. Provide initial funding to early-career investigators to establish EHS-related research.
2. Support projects that address environmental justice issues in our desert Southwest region.
3. Encourage established investigators from other areas to develop EHS research themes.
4. Enable the pursuit of innovative new EHS research directions.

Junior and clinical faculty, who have not previously performed research in environmental health science but who would be interested in broadening their research to include environmentally related research, are especially invited by the Center to apply. Since a goal of the Pilot Projects is to promote collaborations, projects that provide for interaction with existing SWEHSC investigators are encouraged. Use of Research, Discovery and Innovation Facility Cores (<https://research.arizona.edu/core-facilities>) is encouraged, since fees associated with use of these facilities can be requested in addition to the $40,000 maximum budget. Information about the SWEHSC and its resources can be found at <http://swehsc.pharmacy.arizona.edu/>.

To prioritize projects addressing arid lands and Southwest regional environmental justice issues, one pilot grant is designated to support a meritorious proposal related to unique populations, including rural communities and Native American and Latinx peoples residing in arid lands. The review of proposals addressing environmental justice issues is conducted in cooperation with the Community Engagement Core (CEC).

Because PPP funds are expressly intended to stimulate grant submissions to NIEHS, the program favors proposals addressing NIEHS funding priorities, and supports investigators who need funding to acquire preliminary data for NIEHS funding applications. As part of the application process, the Principal Investigator (PI) must outline how the funds will benefit the proposed application and the anticipated timeline for submission to NIEHS.

Application materials and information concerning budgetary issues can be obtained from Susanna Herndon (sbrodie@arizona.edu, 520-400-1989) or from the SWEHSC website. <http://swehsc.pharmacy.arizona.edu/administration/pilot-projects/application>

Research related questions should be addressed to Dr. Xinxin Ding (xding@pharmacy.arizona.edu).

Questions related to community concerns should be addressed to Dr. Paloma Beamer, Director of CEC (pbeamer@arizona.edu).

Funding decisions will be made by March 31, 2024. IRB and IACUC approval must be in place prior to funding of the award.