Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Early Clinical Data Support for Grant Submissions

Due: November 20, 2014 at 5:00pm EST

Q: Does an IRB protocol have to be fully approved at the time of application?
A: The IRB protocol must be either approved or at the very least submitted (with documentation of it being submitted). In case it is submitted, funds will not be released until IRB approval has been obtained, and the applicant will have two months to get approval and start the experiments for which support is requested. After the two months have passed, the award will be cancelled, but the applicant may reapply for future rounds of funding.

Q: Can funds be requested for generating preliminary data that will be included in a resubmission or only a new submission for NIH K or R funding (or equivalent federal or non-federal peer-reviewed sponsored research)? Are investigators with current K or R awards eligible to apply?
A: Yes, funds can be requested for generating preliminary data that will be included in a resubmission. Please note, however, that priority will be given to junior investigators who are applying for their first award.

Q: If an investigator is not applying for NIH K or R funding, are foundation grants eligible?
A: Multi-year foundation awards are eligible.

Q: Are investigators who do not have a Harvard University appointment, or are based at institutions not affiliated with Harvard, eligible to submit an application?
A: No, the investigator must hold a Harvard University appointment.

Q: Who is eligible to be a principal investigator?
A: All Harvard investigators, irrespective of type of degree or institutional affiliation, who are applying for a peer-reviewed clinical research grant (at the K or R level) are eligible. Priority will be given to junior investigators (e.g. clinical fellows, postdoctoral fellows, instructors, and assistant professors) who need preliminary translational/clinical data for their NIH K or R application (or equivalent federal or non-federal peer reviewed sponsored research).

Q: Can researchers submit more than one application?
A: Researchers may submit only one application for the Early Clinical Data Support for Grant Submission opportunity.

Q: What is the review process?
A: Completed applications submitted by 5:00pm EST on November 20, 2014, with all required endorsements submitted by 5:00pm EST on December 4, 2014, will be administratively reviewed for eligibility. All eligible applications will then be scientifically reviewed solely on the basis of merit of the
planned grant application, feasibility and strength of the rationale for the need of preliminary data. A review panel comprised of Harvard clinical research leaders and Harvard Catalyst leadership will complete the review. Ad hoc reviewers with content expertise will be engaged as needed. Reviewer comments or feedback will not be provided to applicants.

Reviewers will consider the following criteria:

- The importance of the clinical question in the planned grant application.
- A clear plan for utilizing funding received for research on human subjects or human specimens.
- The likelihood that the planned grant application will be successful provided the pilot data are obtained.
- Innovative approaches.
- Collection of the proposed pilot data is feasible and achievable in the funding period.
- The investigators have the requisite skills and experience to carry out the project successfully.

Q: Will there be an interview by the review committee?
A: No, there will not be an interview.

Q: How will feedback be provided on full applications?
A: We will not be providing individual feedback on full applications.

Contact Information

Inquiries relating to the application process, eligibility, and/or scientific research areas should be directed to Amy Webber, Pilot Grants Administrator, Harvard Catalyst (617-384-8976), grants@catalyst.harvard.edu.

Inquiries relating to financial or grants management areas should be directed to Lucy Kolessin, Director of Finance and Research Administration, Harvard Catalyst (617-432-7804), lucy_kolessin@hms.harvard.edu.