

**The University of Tennessee Obesity Research
Center (UTORC) Call for Pilot and Feasibility (P&F)
Proposals in Interdisciplinary Obesity Research (2009-10)**



UTORC was established in summer 2007 to coordinate multidisciplinary obesity research. The funding was provided from four sources: UT Office of Research; College of Education, Health and Human Sciences; TN Agricultural Experiment Station and UT Extension.

Purpose: The purpose of this P & F program is to provide, through the UTORC, research seed funds and/or release time for faculty to develop multidisciplinary and multi-PI obesity research proposals. The goal is to better position UTORC members to compete for external grant applications to NIH, USDA and other foundations, to conduct research in the field of obesity. Research proposals funded via this mechanism are expected to lead to grant applications submitted through UTORC. Please note that this is not for professional development or travel, unless clearly justified to benefit grant applications. There are other programs at the departmental, college and University levels for such needs.

Procedure: Interested investigators should submit no more than a 3-page proposal (with short background, aims, approaches, timeline, and plans for external grant applications) to one of the UTORC co-directors (moustaid@utk.edu or dbassett@utk.edu). Applications will be reviewed throughout the year and the number of funded applications will depend primarily on the merit of application and potential for external funding as well as on the amount of funding available. Priority will be given to those applications involving three or more investigators from two or more different units. Funding for a given project is limited to one year and the amount will vary between \$5,000 and \$20,000 depending on the project. Announcements for these proposals will be made through the UTORC listserv, or other UT listservs and will be posted at the UTORC web site (<http://obesity.tennessee.edu/>) then click on the “funding opportunities” tab. Other external funding is also listed there.

Eligibility: Both new and established faculty can apply, so long as the projects are multidisciplinary, involve multiple investigators, and address a high impact, and “fundable” area of research.

Proposal Guidelines:

1. Cover page with name, degree(s), title, affiliation, proposal title and requested budget.
2. Abstract, not to exceed 250 words and signatures.
3. Research Plan (not to exceed 3 pages): include statement of hypothesis, specific aims, background, significance, rationale, preliminary data when applicable, research design and brief description of the methods.
4. Budget and budget justification (no indirect costs allowed).
5. Biosketch for the Principal Investigator and all collaborators on standard NIH PHS398 forms (include summary of funding for the past 3 years).
6. Letters of support from collaborating investigators.
7. References (no page limit)

Review of applications:

The co-directors will assign review of the proposals to an expert panel of the UTORC steering committee or as needed to external experts in the field. The proposals will be scored following the NIH proposal scoring system: 1.0-1.5 Outstanding ; 1.5-2.0 Excellent ; 2.0-2.5 Very Good; 2.5-3.5 Good; 3.5-5.0 Acceptable. The expert panel will make recommendations to the co-directors, and a funding decision will then be made.

Expectations from funded investigators:

PIs will be asked to submit a progress report; present their findings at one of the UTORC meetings and present their plans for submitting external applications.

Cover Sheet

UTORC Pilot and Feasibility Grants

2009-2010

Name _____ Title _____

Department _____ Email _____

Budget Account Number _____

Title of Proposal _____

Amount Requested _____

Current matching support contributed from other university or external sources

Source	Amount	Title
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Proposals for matching funding under consideration by other university or external sources

Source	Amount Requested
_____	_____
_____	_____

Signatures:

	Name	Signature	Date
PI	-----	-----	-----
Department Head	-----	-----	-----

Attachments:

1. This Cover page
2. Abstract, not to exceed 250 words.
3. Research Plan (not to exceed 3 pages): include statement of hypothesis, specific aims, background, significance, rationale, preliminary data when applicable, research design and a brief description of the methods.
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Submit completed applications electronically to one of the co-directors (moustaid@utk.edu or dbassett@utk.edu)