**Pilot Grant Program in Environmental and Occupational Health**

The Pilot Grant Program is possible through a joint collaboration between The University of Iowa, University at Buffalo, and Menoufia University. It is funded by U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Fogarty Institute (R01 ES022163-01).

**Objectives**

The objective of the pilot grant program is to provide financial support to post-graduate students and faculty to develop and conduct research with a focus on environmental and occupational health.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Post-graduate students and faculty in the Faculty of Medicine and the Liver Institute at Menoufia University are eligible to submit a proposal. Students who apply for funding need to include a letter from the faculty member supervising their work indicating they have: 1) reviewed the proposal; 2) agree that the student is capable of carrying out the project; and 3) will support these research activities. Preference will be given to projects that include graduate students.

**Funding Availability**

Funding will be available for 3 to 5 research projects with an approximate budget of $ 1,000-2,000 per project. Only projects conducting original research with a focus on environmental and occupational health will be considered for funding.

**Use of Funds**

Funds may be used to support student thesis projects, obtain preliminary data for grant applications, or other research. Specifically, funds can be used to:

* Purchase laboratory equipment or software programs for use in a research project
* Cover research-related travel expenses
* Reimburse study participants, photocopy, and purchase supplies for data collection
* Support a technician or research assistant to assist with data collection and/or analysis

Salary support for students or faculty members is NOT allowed.

**Before Awarding**

* Applicants are required to submit a one-page letter of intent describing their research project by March 1st, 2016 (suggested).
* The letter should indicate how the proposed project will address environmental and occupational health.

**Expectations of Awardees**

* All research involving human participants must be approved by the Ethics Committee at Menoufia University prior to receiving funding.
* Each Pilot Grant Awardees will be assigned an international reviewer. The reviewer will provide feedback on the study design, data collection procedures and analysis, and manuscript preparation.
* All Pilot Grant Awardees must produce a final report and a scientific poster. Posters will be presented at a Research Symposium to be held at Menoufia University.

**Application Instructions**

Applications must include:

1. Specific Aims (1/2 page): Provide a brief overview of the background and significance, state the objectives and central hypothesis of your study.
2. Significance (1 page): Describe the rationale for your study. Tell us why you want to conduct this study and how it will add value to the field of environmental and occupational health science.
3. Research Plan (2-3 pages): Describe how you will conduct the research. Include a description of the study population, recruitment methods, study materials, procedures, and data analysis plan.
4. Timeline: A timeline describing study activities. All activities should be completed within one year.
5. Budget: Detailed listing all project related expenses, including a description/justification of each item.

**Deadlines:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| February 16th, 2016 | Videoconference session about the announcement |
| March 1st , 2016 | Letter of intent (suggested) |
| April 1st , 2016 | Application due |
| May 1st , 2016 | Decision |
| November 1st , 2016 | Progress report |
| May 1st , 2017 | Final report |
| May 15th, 2017 | Conference for awardees |

**Applications should be sent to the following address:**

Prof. Dr. Gaafar M. Abdel-Rasoul

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Faculty of Medicine
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Mobile: (+2)01005036160 – (+2)01019001221
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&

Prof. Dr. Olfat Hendy

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National Lever Institute

Menoufia University

Mobile: (+2)01000217406

Email: Olfat\_hendy@hotmail.com

**Review Criteria for Applications**

Reviewers will score each proposal on 5 criteria. Outlined in greater detail below, they include: Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, and Environment. Each criterion will receive a score from 1 (Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses) to 9 (Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses). Proposals receiving low scores are more likely to be awarded funding.

**Significance**

* Does this study address an important problem?
* How will this study advance science?
* What impact will this study have on the field of environmental and occupational health?

**Investigator(s)**

* Do the investigators have the appropriate skills to carry out this work?

**Innovation**

* Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does the project challenge existing paradigms, address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field?
* Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches or methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

**Approach**

* Are the design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, and appropriate to the aims of the project?
* Are potential problem areas addressed and alternatives considered?

**Environment**

* Does the environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success?
* Does the proposed study benefit from unique features of the scientific environment or subject populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?

**Feed Back to Applicants:**

Applicants will receive a decision regarding their applications within one months of submitting their applications

NIH SCORE DESCRIPTORS FOR USE IN SCORING PILOT GRANT APPLICATIONS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Impact | Score | Descriptor | Additional Guidance  |
| High Impact | 1 | Exceptional | Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses |
| 2 | Outstanding | Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses |
| 3 | Excellent | Very strong with only some minor weaknesses |
| Moderate Impact | 4 | Very Good | Strong but with numerous minor weakness |
| 5 | Good | Strong but with at least one moderate weakness |
| 6 | Satisfactory | Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses |
| Low Impact | 7 | Fair | Some strengths but with at least one major weakness |
| 8 | Marginal | A few strengths and a few major weaknesses |
| 9 | Poor | Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses |

Cover Page

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| --- | --- |
| PI:  |  |
| Graduate Students:  |  |
| Staff on project: |  |
| Title:  |  |
| Department: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Phone:  |  |
| Email: |  |
| Duration of project: Start date  | End date |
| Site for conducting research: |  |
| Human research: Yes  | No |
| Approval of IRB at Menoufia University: Yes  | No  |

**Please attach your CV with the application.**

**Inquiries**

For more information about this program, please contact:

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The University of Iowa

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