



BBHI Mini-Grants for Utilization of UNM Domenici Hall Core Facilities

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Issue Date: July 19, 2021

<p>Accepting Applications on a rolling basis through March 31, 2022</p> <p>IRB (for clinical research) and IACUC (for pre-clinical research) on a rolling basis through March 31, 2022</p>	<p>Award Announcement: within two weeks of application submission</p> <p>Earliest start date: July 30, 2021</p> <p>End-date: June 30th, 2022</p>
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Introduction

The Brain and Behavioral Health Institute (BBHI) of the University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center (HSC) is soliciting applications for research projects in the area of brain and behavioral health from all HSC faculty members for mini-grants to help access UNM Core resources in Domenici Hall.

Domenici Hall BRAIN Center is the hub for interdisciplinary brain and behavioral research programs at UNM HSC. Core resources include state-of-the-art facilities and services for rodent behavioral testing, animal PET/MRI, optical and electrophysiology, cell and molecular, image analysis, neuropsychological testing and human subjects' clinical assessment.

All Core services operate on a fee-for-service basis and, while rates are modest, it is appreciated that some users do not have grant or departmental funds available for UNM Core user fees. For this reason, we are allocating BBHI funds through this mini-grant mechanism, **where a minimum 80% of the funds must be used for UNM Domenici Hall Core services. The rest of the funds (maximum 20%) could be used for animal expenses directly related to the Core usage or well-justified reagents/resources proposed in the mini grant, if needed.**

BBHI anticipates awarding up to 8 mini-grants, with a maximum of \$3,750 per award. All awards MUST be spent by June 30, 2022. No extensions will be granted.

Eligibility and Project Requirements

- Principal Investigators for these mini-grants *must* be members of the UNM HSC faculty (tenured/tenure-track, research faculty, or clinician educator) with a minimum 0.5 FTE. Successful projects will exemplify the BBHI research mission of developing basic, clinical or translational research to improve brain and behavioral health of New Mexicans of all ages.
- All investigators selected to receive funding will be expected to submit a short Final Progress Report at the end of the funded project, detailing how the mini-grant advanced progress on their research projects, expenditures, and any submitted publications and grant applications (pending or funded) relating to the mini-grant. Any publications or grants funded based on the work supported by BBHI mini-grant, within the five (5) years after the end of the BBHI mini-grant, must be reported to BBHI administration, which will help keep track of the success of the BBHI mini-grant program.
- If investigators have received a previous BBHI mini-grant, the Final Progress Report must be submitted and approved, before a new mini-grant application will be considered from the same research team.
- For clinical research, proof of the IRB submission in Click-IRB (needs to be submitted at the minimum and in a pre-review status in Click to be eligible) is required prior to the application deadline. For pre-clinical animal research projects, IACUC approval is required.
- Preference is given to early stage investigators and researchers without established NIH track record. However, both junior and senior investigators are eligible.

Evaluation Criteria and Review

Applications will be brief and reviewed with quick turn-around time. All applications will be reviewed for both scientific quality and programmatic relevance.

The following criteria will be used in evaluating these proposals:

1. Scientific quality with focus on brain & behavioral health
2. Potential for pilot data to lead to new extramural funding
3. Utilization of BBHI resources located at Domenici Hall
4. Financial Need (documented lack of grant or departmental support)

Budget Guidelines

Meeting with the BBHI Animal Imaging Core Director, Surojit Paul (spaul@salud.unm.edu) for consultation and planning purposes in the effective use of BBHI Core services utilization for your research proposal is required.

Mini grants can *only* be used to pay for UNM Domenici Hall core user fees (80% of the total budget) and research expenses (20% of the total budget) directly related to the study conducted at the core facility. No other expenses (such as salaries etc.) are permitted from this program.

The following **UNM Domenici Hall Research Cores** are included:

- **Animal MRI Core:** Provides structural and functional MRI in animal models with a 7T 37 cm bore MR scanner. Combined PET/MRI imaging is now also available. Please contact Dr. Surojit Paul (SPaul@salud.unm.edu) for current rates.
- **Clinical Neuropsychology and Stimulation** (Center for Brain Recovery and Repair): Offers advanced neuropsychological testing, transcranial direct current stimulation, EEG, and technical support for functional near-infrared spectroscopy.
- **Image Analysis Core:** Workstations for MRI, histological, MEG analysis
- **Preclinical Assessment Core** (Center for Brain Recovery and Repair): Optical core offers four workstations to measure in vitro and in vivo measurements of cellular activity. Advanced behavioral testing facilities for rodents are also available.
- **Quanterix HD-X Analyzer:** The Simoa HD-X Analyzer™ is the latest model of the fully automated Simoa bead-based immunoassay platform. Reengineered, the platform's ultrasensitivity and dependability empower researchers with 1000x greater sensitivity than traditional immunoassays. HD-X Analyzer can be used to measure biomarkers in human and animal samples (serum, plasma, CSF, and brain lysates). Please contact Dr. Kiran Bhaskar (KBhaskar@salud.unm.edu) for services available.

Costs *not* covered under these awards:

- Faculty salaries
- Postdoctoral salaries
- Non-HSC staff salaries
- Graduate student support (stipends, tuition, etc.)
- Administrative or office supply costs (office supplies, paper, ink, telephone, etc.)
- Meals or hospitality (i.e., no food, beverages, or alcohol)
- Travel (per diem, hotel, rental car, mileage, flights, etc.)
- Equipment >\$5,000 (items <\$5,000 are at the discretion of the committee and can be removed from the budget)
- Computers, laptops, tablets
- Monetary incentives to clinics or providers (e.g. recruitment bonus)
- Other items typically supported by indirect costs (publication costs, printing/duplication costs)

For questions regarding Domenici Hall Cores, please contact Faith Ann Brandt (faithann@salud.unm.edu).

How to Apply

Applications should include, in the following order:

1. A completed **cover sheet form** (the “BBHI Mini-Grant Application” form) including all required signatures. Applicants must obtain a signature from the BBHI Signature Program Administrator (Margaret Hart) prior to submission. Unsigned applications will be considered incomplete and will be returned.
2. A completed **UNM Domenici Hall Core resources requested form**.
3. **Budget justification, and justification that funds can be spent before the project end date** (\leq two pages; budget in a table format, followed by a concise budget justification in narrative form using the **BBHI & CTSC Pilot Budget Worksheet**). See Budget Guidelines section for details.
4. **NIH biographical sketch** for PI, including all sources of current and pending research support (including extramural, institutional and foundations, etc.).
5. **Summary of the research project** (\leq 2 pages, in the following order):
 - a. Project goals
 - b. Scientific need for core(s)
 - c. Financial need for core mini-grant support
 - d. How mini-grant project will support new extramural application(s), or renewal of existing support.
 - e. Bibliography and references cited (not included in the 2-page limit).
6. **Appropriate IACUC or IRB/HRRC approval.**
7. **No appendices are allowed.**

Please contact Faith Ann Brandt (faithann@salud.unm.edu) for all application forms.

Send your completed application via e-mail in **one PDF file** to Faith Ann Brandt (faithann@salud.unm.edu). Applications that do not adhere to the above instructions may not be reviewed. Please call 586-879-8656 with any questions about this RFA or the application process.