Request for Applications:

Joint Announcement for Environmental Health and Toxicology Pilot Awards from the UNM College of Pharmacy

- NM-INSPIRES P30
- Center for Metals in Biology and Medicine (CMBM) P20
- Environmental Health Signature Program (EHSP)
- UNM Superfund Research Program (SRP) P42
- Center for Native Environmental Health Equity Research P50

7-10 pilot project grants with budgets ranging from $25K-$50k will be awarded to **start in approximately July 2023 for 9-12-month studies** that build upon the key areas of research focus of the participating centers. Details on individual center focuses are included on Page 3 of this RFA.

Applications will be reviewed for innovation, thematic relevance to the environmental health programs, team science, and potential for new extramural funding. The funds may be used for the purchase of laboratory supplies, animals, UNM core facility fees, and/or technician salary (not faculty salaries). The purchase of equipment is generally discouraged, but may be discussed with the center contacts listed on Page 3 of this RFA. End dates differ based on the source of funding and may be discussed with center contacts.

Applications are encouraged from all UNM investigators with an emphasis on projects building towards extramural proposal submissions. Postdoctoral fellows are encouraged to lead applications, but must have a faculty sponsor for mentoring and administrative reasons.

Projects meeting criteria below will be considered priorities for funding:

- Projects utilizing the Integrative Molecular Analysis Core/ Bioanalytical Chemistry Core. This facility provides expertise and tools for a variety of modern molecular analyses, including ICP-MS, LC-MS, GC-MS, EPR spin-trapping, and quantitative mass spectrometry. Beyond providing access to the advanced analytical instrumentation in the facility, the Core provides in-house analyses, supports innovative protocol development, and provides training to students, fellows, and faculty in the integrated applications associated with the instrumentation.
    - Applicants are encouraged to contact Jim Feng (cfeng@unm.edu) for additional information.
- Proposals emphasizing multidisciplinary research and team science
- Proposals from Early Stage Investigators (ESI)

Applications will be judged based on the scientific merit of the proposal, the appropriateness of the project to the overall mission of the environmental health program funding the work, and the likelihood the research will lead to new extramural funding.

All applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with the appropriate contact(s) before submission to ensure that research aligns with the pilot funding objectives and funding sources.

Projects funded by the NM-INSPIRES P30 should utilize one or more of the P30 Cores. A consult with the appropriate Core director before proposal submission is highly recommended for guidance on Core capabilities and budgeting. Those interested in NM-INSPIRES funding should email the contacts listed on Page 3 (Laurie Hudson and Sarah Blossom) for additional information.

Submission Instructions

Application Deadline: 5 PM on Friday, May 19th, 2023

Prospective applicants must submit all required application materials (below) as a single PDF to mrritz@salud.unm.edu by **5 PM on Friday, May 19th, 2023**:

- Face Sheet (**Page 4** of this RFA)
- Biosketches for the PI and any additional major investigators (NIH format. Template on **Page 5** of this RFA)
- Budget Form (**Page 6** of this RFA)
- Project Summary (limit 1 page)
- Research Proposal (Guidelines on **Page 7** of this RFA) (limit 4 pages)
- References cited
- Brief statement on how the pilot funding will support future grant applications (limit 0.5 page)
- For projects utilizing vertebrate animals:
    - IACUC Approval Letter
    - Vertebrate Animal Section
- For projects requesting equipment >$5000 (discouraged): justification stating the need for the equipment to accomplish the project goals (limit 1 page)

Prospective applicants are *strongly encouraged* to send an Intent to Submit email to mrritz@salud.unm.edu as soon as possible to optimize funding distribution. In this email, please include:

- The general topic of your planned study
- The funding entity you think is most appropriate (NM-INSPIRES, CMBM, EHSP, SRP, CNEHER). You may include multiple options if you're unsure of the best fit.
- An approximate amount requested ($25k or $50k are recommended)

If you are proposing a project involving human or animal research, please ensure that the appropriate approvals are in place before submission. Applications with human subjects may be better suited for CTSC pilot projects - please contact Dr. Matt Campen (mcampen@salud.unm.edu) about research involving human studies well ahead of the deadline to ensure compliance and avoid delays or disqualification.

Send the application as a single PDF email attachment to:
Michaela Ritz, College of Pharmacy (mrritz@salud.unm.edu)

Questions may be directed to:
Michaela Ritz, College of Pharmacy (mrritz@salud.unm.edu)

Funding Source	Focus	Maximum Budget per Project	Contact(s)	Contact Email(s)
NM-INSPIRES P30	Broadly applicable to the areas of focus: cancer, immunology, cardiopulmonary toxicology and environmental health.	$50k	Laurie Hudson Sarah Blossom	lhudson@salud.unm.edu sblossom@salud.unm.edu Projects should utilize one or more of the P30 Cores. Interested applicants should contact the above to schedule consults.
Center for Metals in Biology and Medicine P20	Study of the role of metals in health and disease.	$50k	Matt Campen Jim Feng	mcampen@salud.unm.edu cfeng@unm.edu
Environmental Health Signature Program (EHSP)	Wide ranging environmental and toxicological studies. Basic and translational research on regionally relevant environmental public health issues that address the overall health needs of unique Southwestern communities, while contributing to our understanding of global environmental health issues.	$25k	Matt Campen	mcampen@salud.unm.edu
UNM Superfund Research Program P42	Studies related to legacy hardrock mining and exposures to heavy metals, with an emphasis on cancer or cancer-related health disparities in affected tribal communities, or cancer risk assessment.	$25k	Jose Cerrato Matt Campen	jcerrato@unm.edu mcampen@salud.unm.edu
Center for Native Environmental Health Equity Research P50	Addressing scientific, policy and/or community needs that advance Native American environmental health equity from early stage investigators (includes tenure-track, postdocs, junior faculty or other research focused positions). Priority will be given to applications that include individuals from health disparity populations and address the interrelationships between exposure (micro plastics/chemicals/metals) and health disparities.	$25k-$50k	Debra MacKenzie	dmackenzie@salud.unm.edu

Environmental Health and Toxicology Pilot Project Application

Title of Project			
Principal Investigator/ Program Director:			
If Needed - Faculty Sponsor:			
Name (Last, First, Middle):		eRA Commons Username:	
Degree(s):		Position Title:	
Department, Laboratory, or Equivalent:		Major Subdivision (If Applicable):	
Telephone:		Email:	
Mailing Address			
Human Subjects Research? (Y/N):		Research Exempt? (Y/N):	
If Exempt: Exemption Number:		If Not Exempt, Federal-Wide Assurance Number:	
Vertebrate Animals Research? (Y/N):		If “Yes”, Animal Welfare Assurance number:	
Total Costs Requested ($):			

KEY PERSONNEL (add rows as needed)

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ROLE ON PROJECT

* Please include any letters of support from key collaborators as a separate attachment *

PI BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME	POSITION TITLE

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, and include postdoctoral training.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Concluding with present position, list, in chronological order, previous employment, experience, and honors. Include present membership on any Federal Government public advisory committee. List, in chronological order, the titles, all authors, and complete references to all publications during the past three years and to representative earlier publications pertinent to this application. If the list of publications in the last three years exceeds two pages, select the most pertinent publications. **DO NOT EXCEED 5 PAGES, PER CURRENT NIH GUIDELINES**.

BUDGET FORM

SUPPLIES (Itemize by category)	
SALARY (Technicians only)	
OTHER EXPENSES (Itemize by category. If major equipment is requested, include quote)	
TOTAL COSTS FOR PROJECT	

RESEARCH PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Please do not exceed 4 pages in length. Use Arial font 11-point or larger, single-spaced with margins 0.5 inch or larger.

Please organize the research proposal to include the following sections:

1. Hypothesis and Specific Aims

2. Significance: Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that the proposed project addresses. Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.

3. Innovation: Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or intervention(s). Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

4. Approach: Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results.

Include preliminary data if available/ appropriate.