

### **Introduction:**

The Center for Environmental Genetics (**CEG**) is a research and community-outreach program funded by the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (**NIEHS**). Our overall mission is to study to genetic and epigenetic differences that contribute to variation in the response by different individuals to the same dose of any environmental agent. Further information—about the CEG, its mission, and its programs—can be obtained by visiting our website at <http://www.eh.uc.edu/ceg/>.

To achieve our mission, the CEG provides Pilot Projects Program (**PPP**) grants to support synergistic, innovative, high-risk/high-reward research with a multidisciplinary foundation plus the use of CEG Facilities and Services (F&S) Cores.

**Funding Information:** Applications must be received by **4:30 pm, February 13, 2009**. Pilot Projects using the Mentee-Mentor Partnership, the Innovator, and the New-to-EHS award mechanisms can be funded up to **\$30,000** for one year. To investigators applying for the Affinity Group awards, the funding can be up to **\$50,000** for one year.

**Eligibility criteria:** Appointment at the rank of Research Scientist or higher. Postdoctoral Fellows, Graduate Assistants, and Research Assistants are not allowed to be Principal Investigators on these awards.

We anticipate that four to six projects will be funded. Funding and account numbers will be provided by April 15, 2009 and **must be completely spent by 31 March 2010**. **Any unused funds, at that time, will be returned to the CEG.**

**Award mechanisms** - There will be **four specific award mechanisms** of PPP proposals:

- 1) **Mentee-Mentor partnership awards** are limited to CEG Next-Generation Biomedical Investigators and CEG Masters of Science in Clinical Research Awardees.
- 2) **New-to-EHS awards** for investigators at any level who have no prior experience in environmental sciences/medicine research, but are venturing into the field. They must identify an EHS scientist as a co-Investigator.
- 3) **Innovator awards** for existing environmental health scientists who wish to develop research in a new direction—using a new technology/concept, or establishing new collaborations.
- 4) **Affinity Group awards** for multiple investigators from different disciplines submitting a highly integrated and novel transdisciplinary application.

Proposals will be given preference if they show a strong translational component or clinical relevance and have a significant impact on some area of environmental health research related to gene-environment interactions. Use of **CEG Facilities and Services (F&S) Cores** is highly encouraged.



**Award mechanisms**

**To Apply:**

The **proposal narrative is five typed single-spaced pages** (arial font 11; 1-inch margins), and the application is expected to include:

1. Hypothesis and Specific Aims
2. Background information leading to the research hypothesis, question, or rationale
3. Methods to be used
4. Relationship of the project to the goals of the Center
5. **CEG F&S Cores to be used**

**Mandatory** supplemental material to be included with the proposal includes:

1. Title Page (see attached) with Department Chair signature.
2. Biographical sketches of the Principal Investigator (**PI**) and all key personnel (NIH format)
3. Other support (for all investigators listed on the proposal)
4. Bibliographic references (not included in the five-page limit)
5. Budget and justification (not included in the five-page limit). Budgets may NOT include faculty salaries. **Budgets that include the use of CEG F&S Cores will be viewed favorably.**
6. **When submitting a proposal that involves human subjects or biospecimens, the PI must document consultation with the Integrative Health Services Core (Dr. Susan Pinney, Director). Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval of the proposed work will be requested by the PPP if the proposal is funded, and no PPP fund account will be set up without this document.**
7. When submitting a proposal that involves use of animals, the PI must attach a current or pending animal protocol approved or submitted to the institution's IACUC committee. If the proposal is funded, an approved protocol will have to be submitted to the PPP before funding is released for use in research.
8. List of prior CEG support and products (if any), including:
  - Previous pilot project grants and matching funds
  - Publications, abstracts, or presentations supported by CEG
  - Grant applications arising from data generated with CEG support

Electronic proposals may be submitted to [Koprasej@uc.edu](mailto:Koprasej@uc.edu), or a paper copy to the CEG office (Room 112, Kettering Lab; ML 0056) **by 4:30 pm, February 13, 2009.**

**The PPP Peer-Review Evaluation Criteria** - All proposals reviewed by this peer-review Committee will be scored, according to current NIH criteria and guidelines. Critical elements of the review include scientific merit, innovation, significance to human health, relevance to the aims and goals of the CEG, qualification of principal investigator and collaborators/mentors, research environment, and the integrative and creative utilization of the **CEG F&S Cores**.

Overall, the review favors proposals that contain features of high-risk/high-reward, new directions, integration of new technologies and concepts into the research, synergism that complements the existing research base of the CEG, strong potential for clinical/human health translation, and relatedness of the proposal to gene–environment interactions. Only environmental health sciences proposals will be considered.

Please note that investigators who received funding from the PPP during the previous project period (4/1/2007-3/31/2008), can be eligible again for this program in a second (but not third) year.

**The Committee:** The Pilot Projects Program Review Committee (**PPPRC**) will consist of members from UC departments and CCHRF divisions that are currently participating in the CEG, as well as CEG External Advisory Board members. Copies of all proposals will be distributed and reviewed by the PPPRC plus the CEG External Advisory Board, during the remainder of February/March 2009.

**Evaluation Process:** It is a condition of the receipt of a CEG PPP Award that **PI's** will be expected to **keep the CEG informed of their progress**, and to respond efficiently to queries regarding publications, grant applications, etc. that have arisen from their PPP funding.

Upon acceptance of the award, Awardees will submit a brief abstract appropriate for the CEG website, and will agree to provide the CEG with updates on publications, grant applications, and other products resulting from CEG support (using **P30 ES06096** as the acknowledgment).

Awardees will give an oral presentation of the results obtained during the PPP award period (tentatively scheduled for November 2010) at a Mini-Symposium of the PPP awardees, to which all CEG members, new PPP awardees, and other interested individuals will be invited. This Mini-Symposium provides the investigator an opportunity to present the approaches used and results obtained during the award period, and discuss future plans with regard to their research, publications and grant proposals that might flow from this PPP support.

Manuscript publications, abstracts, presentations, and other activities resulting from your PPP project (**Funding from the CEG** on all abstracts, publications or reports **must be acknowledged**. The grant number to cite is: **NIH P30 ES06096**)

If you have any administrative questions, please contact Elizabeth Kopras in the CEG office at 558-3625 or [Koprasej@uc.edu](mailto:Koprasej@uc.edu). All other questions should be directed to **Dr. Daniel W Nebert** at 821-4664 or [dan.nebert@uc.edu](mailto:dan.nebert@uc.edu).

*Our 5-year Center proposal did not include a Community Outreach & Education Program, because COEP is no longer mandated. However, we will consider COEP proposals for PPP grants and, if such a proposal is sufficiently outstanding that the PPPRC would recommend funding, the CEG would consider adding a COEP component to next year's CEG budget.*

## **CEG FACILITIES AND SERVICES (F&S) CORES**

### **Facility Core 1: Integrative Technologies Support Core**

#### **Component Heads:**

Shuk-mei Ho:	Genomic and Microarray Laboratory (GML)
Jerry Lingrel:	Transgenic and Knockout Mice
Ranjan Deka:	Genotyping Facility
Ken Greis:	Proteomics and Metabolomics Analyses
Jing-Huei Lee:	High-Field Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy
Alvaro Puga:	Flow Cytometry Facility
Joseph Caruso:	Analytical Services and Mass Spectrometry (of large and small molecules as well as heavy metals)

### **Facility Core 2: Integrative Health Sciences**

**Component Head:** Susan Pinney

### **Facility Core 3: Bioinformatics Support Core**

**Component Head:** Mario Medvedovic



**Center for Environmental Genetics  
Pilot Projects Grant Program  
2008-2009**

**Title Page**

Project Title:	
Principle Investigator Name:	
Position/Title:	Mailing Address:
Department:	
Telephone Number:	Email Address:
Performance Sites:	Human Subjects ___ Yes ___ No Animal Subjects ___ Yes ___ No
Total budget requested:	
APPROVAL:	
Department Chair (signature and date):	
Applicant (signature and date):	

Additional Investigators:

Please check if this proposal is:

- 1) Mentee-Mentor partnership awards**, limited to CEG Next Generation Biomedical Investigators and CEG Masters of Science in Clinical Research Awardees.
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- 4) Affinity Group Awards** for multiple investigators from different disciplines submitting a highly integrated and novel transdisciplinary application.

*This document may be scanned to PDF with signatures for electronic submission.*