

Long School of Medicine
Office for Research
South Texas Diabetes Research Center Pilot Project Applications

Due date: Full proposals are due Monday, July 6, 2026 and should be submitted to SOMResearch@uthscsa.edu in a single PDF formatted document.

Goal: In preparation for submission of an NIH P30 Diabetes Research Center application, the School of Medicine will support several innovative pilot projects that generate preliminary data for future extramural funding, including NIH R01, R21, and K-series applications. Pilot funding will be available for up to one year with the expectation that awardees will submit an extramural grant within 12–18 months of funding. Projects should advance multi-organ metabolic discovery to improve precision health outcomes in diabetes, obesity and their comorbidities.

Eligibility: Applicants must have a primary faculty appointment at UT Health San Antonio or an affiliated institution. Priority will be given to early-stage investigators (i.e. Instructor or Assistant Professor, non-tenure track or tenure track) without substantial extramural support. Multidisciplinary collaboration is encouraged, and investigators who are new to diabetes, obesity, or metabolism research are encouraged to apply.

Funding Amount: Awards of up to \$75,000 for one year. Multiple awards are anticipated.

Funding Information: Research proposals should focus on innovative, high-impact projects addressing one or more of the following areas:

- Multi-organ insulin resistance and metabolic crosstalk
- β -cell dysfunction and incretin biology
- Metabolic heterogeneity and prediction of treatment response
- Translational studies linking mechanism to intervention
- Diabetes and obesity in high-risk populations

Projects must demonstrate strong integration across disciplines and leverage capabilities in interventional and mechanistic human studies at UTHSA and the Texas Diabetes Institute. Proposals should identify well-integrated collaborative teams, subject matter expertise, and a pathway toward extramural funding, including NIH mechanisms.

Application Materials:

1. Specific Aims (1 page)
2. Research Strategy (2 page; significance, innovation, approach)
3. Plan for extramural funding (1 page; mechanism and timeline)
4. NIH-format budget
5. Literature citations (up to 2 pages)
6. NIH Biosketch (Up to 5 pages per investigator).

Applicants are responsible for submission of all materials and must follow the NIH guidelines.

Budget and Financial Policies: No F&A (indirect costs) are allowed. Faculty PIs/co-investigators' salary is not permitted. Salary support is allowed for postdoctoral fellows, research scientists, and technical staff. Allowable costs include consumable, core facility fees, animal purchase and per diem, human subject research costs, data analysis and software, publication and presentation costs, and essential equipment (maximum \$5,000 with justification). All other costs must be justified as essential. No-cost extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for project delays related to IRB and/or IACUC review and approval processes.

Project Development Assistance: Applicants may utilize institutionally supported project development services via [IIMS/CTSA resources](#)

Review Committee: Applications will be reviewed by faculty with strong extramural funding and peer-review experience from basic and clinical research. Review will emphasize scientific merit, innovation, feasibility, multi-disciplinary integration, and potential for future extramural funding.

Award Process: Awards will be made by the end of August 2026 or the beginning of September 2026. Progress reports are required at 6 and 12 months to evaluate progress and readiness for extramural submission. Awardees must comply with all institutional policies, including conflict of interest disclosures.

Contact for Questions: Chris Valdez, PhD, LSOM Office for Research, Associate Director for Research Operations, valdezc10@uthscsa.edu, 210-567-0300