The Yale Center for Clinical Investigation (YCCI) is pleased to announce a new pilot grant mechanism to support junior and early career faculty use of core resources. Recognizing that K and other early career awards provide limited funding to get young researchers off to a good start, YCCI is introducing a new pilot program aimed at increasing first R01s awarded to early-stage investigators by expanding core resource funding. YCCI’s pilot program is a funding venue for conducting small-scale research projects to generate data that potentially could lead to further research and funding opportunities.

The funding is designed to accelerate research by providing rapid, targeted core resource funding to address small but critical gaps in clinical and translational research work with high potential, especially by junior faculty. Examples include, but are not limited to, projects involving critical steps in the device and drug development pathway and projects that address a critical need in translational science that are too small or too preliminary to be suitable for conventional funding. Due to funding constraints, preference will be given to those meritorious projects that can be completed in nine to twelve-months.

Scope: The Just-In-Time Early Career Core Usage Funding Program is designed to provide quick access to funding for junior faculty to use any eligible institutional core for research advancing medical knowledge that can improve human health. A statement of support from the Director of the Core that will provide the requested service(s) is an essential part of the application and must corroborate the service(s) to be provided and the interaction the investigator has had with the Core in determining the relevant services. This support can only be used to pay for designated core resources. The goal is to provide funds that will support the development and submission of extramural proposals by expanding the likelihood of success.

Eligibility requirements: This award is intended to support junior and early career faculty for use of core resources. Only junior faculty who are at an early stage of their careers are eligible to apply. The applicant must have been a faculty member for no more than 10 years by the anticipated start date of the award. This 10-year period is cumulative and includes all appointments as associate/assistant professor, associate research scientist, or similar faculty track at any institution (any part time appointments and leaves of absence should be described and will be considered in calculating the total time at a faculty rank). Since this is a mechanism to partially support only the core resource portion of a research project, applicants must already have funding from another source for the primary project to apply for this pilot. Funding can include an independent K career award, internal pilot, or equivalent support. Faculty with a departmental start-up package with substantial protected time are also eligible to apply; the start-up support must be documented by the applicant’s department.

Award amount: Applicants may request up to $20,000 research support for up to 1 year. These awards are a partnership between YCCI and the applicant’s home department and require a one-to-one match. For example, YCCI will provide $10,000 of support and the department will match with a $10,000 cost share commitment for applications that request $20,000 in support. As the departmental match is a requirement for application, all applicants must include a statement of commitment from the home department or center director. The matching funding must come from institutional or other sources, as federal awards cannot be used. The awards are not renewable or transferable. The number of awards to be made will depend upon the number of proposals received and the caliber of projects submitted. These
funds are designed to provide the pilot data needed for the preliminary results section of a proposal for extramural funding or to complete an initial, internally funded study.

**Eligible Core List:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CyTOF Core Facility</td>
<td>Ruth Montgomery</td>
<td>medicine.yale.edu/intmed/research/cytof/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immune Monitoring Core Facility</td>
<td>Lesley Devine</td>
<td>medicine.yale.edu/labmed/research/imcf/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.M. Keck Biotechnology Resource Laboratory</td>
<td>Shrikant Mane</td>
<td>medicine.yale.edu/keck/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale Center for Analytical Sciences</td>
<td>James Dziura</td>
<td>publichealth.yale.edu/ycas/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale Center for Clinical Investigation Joint Data Analytics Team</td>
<td>Richard Hintz</td>
<td>medicine.yale.edu/ycci/researchspectrum/informatics/epicjdat/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale Center for Genome Analysis</td>
<td>Shrikant Mane</td>
<td>medicine.yale.edu/keck/ycga/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale Center for Molecular Discovery</td>
<td>Yulia Surovtseva</td>
<td>ycmd.yale.edu/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale Flow Cytometry Facility</td>
<td>Ann Haberman</td>
<td>medicine.yale.edu/immuno/flowcore/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale Magnetic Resonance Research Center</td>
<td>Jitendra Bhawnani</td>
<td>medicine.yale.edu/mrrcc/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale Pathology Tissue Services</td>
<td>John Sinard</td>
<td>medicine.yale.edu/pathology/ypts/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale Positron Emission Tomography Research Center</td>
<td>Jitendra Bhawnani</td>
<td>medicine.yale.edu/pet/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale Translational Research Imaging Center</td>
<td>Albert Sinusas</td>
<td>medicine.yale.edu/intmed/cardio/ytric/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Donna McMahon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants whose projects would use a Core not on this list may still be eligible for funding. Please complete the application form to request that core be considered as an eligible core.

**Application Deadlines (Targeted Funding Start Date):**

- October 15, 2019  (November 30, 2019)
- December 15, 2019 (January 30, 2019)
- May 1, 2020       (June 15, 2020)

**For questions, please contact:**

Helen A. Seow, PhD  
helen.seow@yale.edu or 203-737-4512

Nicholas Licht, MBA  
nicholas.licht@yale.edu or 203-785-7467
Applications must be submitted using the templates which will be available online at the YCCI website.

All full applications must be submitted by the respective deadline with no exceptions. Copies of the application templates can be downloaded from the YCCI website at http://ycci.yale.edu under the Pilot Programs heading.

Review Process:
Important elements in the review process will be:

• Significance: Does this study address an important problem in clinical and/or translational research? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field?
• Scientific merit: Does the proposed research explore creative, original and potentially transformative concepts? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches or methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?
• Approach: Are study design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential pitfalls and consider alternative strategies? Does the applicant identify the next steps in research or clinical endeavor to move the concept forward?
• Outcomes/Funding: Has the applicant provided a plan or set of criteria by which to judge whether the proposal has been successful? If this project is successful, would it likely lead to external peer-reviewed funding? Could the research be accomplished without funds from this RFA?
• Budget: Can this project be completed with the funds requested? Does this project provide cost sharing approaches?

Selection criteria and process:
Applications will undergo a rigorous review by a multi-disciplinary committee patterned after an NIH study section peer review process to ensure that all pilot projects are of high methodological quality and can answer the scientific question proposed. Criteria for selection include significance, approach, innovation, recognition of clinical opportunities, strong project design, good basic science behind a truly interdisciplinary project, and ultimate translation to the community to benefit human beings, environment, and investigators. Pilot studies should have a clear path forward along with criteria for go/no go decisions, next steps if the pilot is successful, and a plan for reporting negative results if not successful. Pilot project metrics may include the generalizable translational solutions developed; demonstration of feasibility accomplished; enumeration of pilot projects funded, along with a rationale of methodological quality of trial design when applicable and performance, measured for instance by power calculations; measures to minimize bias; measurement of impact, not only in publication or further funding obtained but also impact on one or more extant translational roadblocks; and plans for implementation or dissemination. The number of awards to be made will depend upon the number of proposals received and the caliber of projects submitted.
• **Awards are not renewable or transferable. No cost extensions will not be permitted.**
• The abstracts and the names of all investigators funded through the Pilot and Collaborative Studies Program will be posted on the YCCI site and may be posted or submitted to the national CTSA website. In addition, a full progress report will be required at least annually with updates requested as needed for our grant renewal reporting and evaluation functions.
• Investigators must acknowledge the Yale Clinical and Translational Science Award (Award Number: UL1 TR000142 from the National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in any publications or patents resulting from the supported studies.
• Awardees must obtain all regulatory approvals (e.g. IRB, IACUC, or Radiation Safety) and meet all compliance requirements prior to receiving funds and maintain approvals during the entire length of the award. Projects that involve human subjects research or live vertebrate animals will also need to be approved by the NIH before we can release funds for the research component of the proposal.
• Awards do not include indirect costs.
• Applicants may submit applications for multiple projects for a single mechanism provided that each project is different. Applicants may not submit identical projects to multiple pilot funding mechanisms.
• Cost sharing is allowed.
• Foreign subcontracts are unallowable under this mechanism, and research at foreign sites will require approval by NCATS prior to an award.
• Applicants may not request salary support for themselves or Co-PIs, or research staff. Funding is to be used of core resource only.
• Applicants can only submit one application
• Applicants can request to use multiple cores but must remain under the $20,000 limit.