

Lewis Center for Neuroimaging Pilot Funding Program

The LCNI has funds for pilot research using MRI that has potential to lead to external funding requests. The submitter must be a PI (e.g., faculty member). Because of the small amount of funds available we will not consider graduate or postdoctoral work unless supported by a PI who agrees to be responsible. PIs are invited to submit pilot funding proposals on the attached forms. In all cases the PI will be responsible for the proposed research. The proposals can be submitted anytime as long as funds remain.

The LCNI Executive Committee will review the applications as submitted and hope to make funding decisions within a month. Applicants are encouraged to seek feedback from committee members regarding the feasibility of the proposed study and its applicability to the research program prior to submitting the application.

It is the policy of the executive committee of the Lewis Center that applicants for pilot studies disclose all applicable grants when they apply for funds and provide funding from those grants which can be used for scan time and consulting before asking for support from pilot funds.

The scanning fee for internal researchers using human subjects is \$500/hour. We urge you to make use of this resource to collect data necessary for the pursuit of external funding. The purpose of this funding is to allow investigators to collect sufficient data to demonstrate competence in MR acquisition and analysis techniques and feasibility for studies that will be included in subsequent grant proposals. This can typically be accomplished with data from 3-6 subjects. We will also support to the degree possible complete dissertation projects that may be the basis for future grant support by the PI.

If you have any questions regarding this pilot funding program, please do not hesitate to contact the members of the LCNI Executive Committee. If you need additional help to carry out the study we will attempt to make it available to you.

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Lewis Center for NeuroImaging
Application for Subsidized Pilot Study

Purpose: We have a limited pool of resources available to support pilot investigations. It is also imperative that this resource be used efficiently and effectively to: 1) encourage new faculty and graduate student investigators in MRI; 2) support initial pursuit of new research directions; and 3) nurture outstanding projects that have significant potential for future extra-mural support. Consequently, projects fitting into one of these three categories will be given priority.

Please be comprehensive as the information that you provide on this form will be used to: 1) determine whether the proposed research fits the criteria described above; 2) evaluate the feasibility of the proposed experiment; 3) determine relevant funding; and 4) guide efforts to provide quality feedback that will improve your chances of success.

We strongly encourage investigators to evaluate their protocols by collecting behavioral data in advance of this application. Optimally, this will be done using the mock MRI scanner.

SUBMIT FORMS BY E MAIL to Mona Bronson (monabron@uoregon.edu) at LCNI

Title _____

CPHS Approval # _____

Principal Investigator _____

Faculty Supervisor (if student PI) _____

Current funding source and project name (if applicable) _____

Have you completed unfunded pilot work previously at the LCNI? Are you requesting support for an experiment related to that earlier work (if so then please justify)?

Has the current protocol been tested behaviorally to evaluate difficulty, timing, duration, etc.?

How many hours are you requesting? How many subjects will be piloted? (Please justify if you are asking for more than 6 subjects).

How will the results be used to seek extra-mural funding?

Are there specific aspects of this experiment that you would like assistance with (e.g., design, data analysis, visualization)?

What types of scans are needed (structural, functional (BOLD), diffusion tensor, spectroscopy, etc.)?

Background: (in a single paragraph introduce the topic and hypothesis that you will be testing, and predicted results).

Design:

- What type of design are you using (e.g., block, fast event-related, mixed)?
- What are the timing parameters?
- TR length?
- Duration of blocks or single events (fixed or variable)?
- Number of blocks or events per run?
- How many runs/sessions will be collected per subject? How long will each run be in seconds?
- How will stimuli be delivered?
- How will responses be recorded?
- Will you be using the standard bird cage coil? If not please specify:
- Specify details for imaging studies using methods other than functional imaging.

Power: How many measurements (TRs or brain volumes) will be made per subject per experimental condition?

Analysis: How will the data be analyzed (e.g., will you be using commercially available software for data preprocessing, statistical analyses, etc.)?

Present a complete timetable for the expenditure of these funds. Be realistic. Please note that if you hold on to funds and do not meet your timetable, you may be asked to complete the study with a grace period or return the funds.