



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Indiana Center for Musculoskeletal Health

# **ICMH CRC FY23 Funding Program**

AN INITIATIVE FUNDED BY  
**Indiana Center for Musculoskeletal Health – Clinical Research Center**

Application Deadline: **March 1, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.**

Contact **Cody Altherr** [caalther@iu.edu](mailto:caalther@iu.edu) with RFA questions.

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

### GENERAL

The goal of the Indiana Center for Musculoskeletal Health (ICMH) Clinical Research Center (CRC) Pilot Funding Program is to promote the use of technologies and expertise afforded by the ICMH CRC to facilitate new research initiatives and encourage collaboration and cooperation between clinical researchers in musculoskeletal health. Details about ICMH CRC, its cores, and their services can be found at this link: <https://medicine.iu.edu/research-centers/musculoskeletal/clinical-service-cores>.

This funding opportunity announcement invites applications holding a faculty position. The program is particularly directed at new investigators seeking funds or for any investigator obtaining critical preliminary and/or feasibility data for a grant application or conducting pilot experiments to test a new idea. Cooperation between basic and clinical researchers and interdisciplinary collaborations are encouraged.

Proposals with high potential of generating extramural funding and outstanding scientific merit will be judged highly. Applications must describe how an award will contribute to securing future extramural funding and specify the anticipated scope and sources of funding of the resulting proposals.

Applications to this grant mechanism may not exceed \$30,000 proposed budget. Funded proposals are expected to generate new extramural grants or grant renewals to include the use of the ICMH CRC's (FIT Core, MIM Core).

### ELIGIBILITY

All members holding a faculty position, regardless of tenure status, are eligible to apply. This includes faculty having primary appointment as Assistant Professor and above. Early career investigators are particularly encouraged to apply.

This mechanism is not open to postdoctoral fellows or visiting faculty.

### RESTRICTIONS

1. Facilities and administrative costs, or indirect costs, are not allowed.
2. Institutional support must be indicated by completion of all signatures on the application pages. Facsimile or electronic signatures are appropriate.

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. A portion of the funding must be utilized for ICMH CRC use. Information about the cores is available at <https://medicine.iu.edu/research-centers/musculoskeletal/clinical-service-cores>. Please contact Cody Altherr with any budgeting questions: [caaltherr@iu.edu](mailto:caaltherr@iu.edu).
2. The maximum allowable budget per proposal is \$30,000. Please provide a breakdown for personnel, supplies, and Core usage.
3. Submissions may not exceed three single spaced 8.5 x 11 pages with at least 1/2 inch margins on all sides. Font must be Arial 11 points or larger. Successful applications will clearly describe how pilot funding from this mechanism will aid in starting a new project or strengthening a planned or pending grant submission, and how the Core services will be utilized in both the proposed study and the planned extramural grant submission.
4. A references section should be included, but is not counted in the 3-page limit.
5. Proposal title should not exceed 80 characters including spaces.
6. Biosketches from the PI and Key Personnel must be provided in newly published NIH format (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>), limited to 5 pages in length, and should include a personal statement relative to this proposal, positions, honors, contribution to science, active grants, and selected research projects that are most relevant to the proposed project.
7. The Core Director must agree with the suitability of the project and the cost involved. A thorough line of communication must be established via email that includes written confirmation from the Core Directors at the time of submission. Please contact Dr. Stuart Warden for the FIT Core ([stwarden@iu.edu](mailto:stwarden@iu.edu)) and Dr. Erik Imel for the MIM Core ([eimel@iu.edu](mailto:eimel@iu.edu)).
8. Proposals are due by March 1, 2024 and are to be submitted via the ICMH Administrative Core webpage <https://medicine.iu.edu/research-centers/musculoskeletal/clinical-service-cores/administrative>. The number, size, and scope of the final Pilot Funding Awards will be determined by the ICMH CRC leadership team.
9. Projects should have a start date no earlier than April 15, 2024 and requested project period may not exceed 12 months.

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications should include a Project Summary, a Research Plan, and supporting documents.

**Project Summary:** This should be a brief (300 word maximum) abstract in layman's terms. If an award is made, this will be published on the publicly accessible ICMH website. Do not include proprietary information in the summary.

Research Plan: Describe the scope of the overall project and justify how the funding requested will aid in either strengthening a planned submission or initiate a new project with a high potential of generating extramural funding.

Describe the rationale behind the proposed approach and how the preliminary data generated from the Core will be used. Briefly describe any preliminary work that led to this proposal. Clearly state the experiments and the role of the Core in the study.

Include 1-2 sentences at the end of the proposal that indicate future directions.

The Research Plan must not exceed the 3-page limit.

Include a References section at the end of the Research Plan. This section is not included in the 3-page limit.

Supporting Documents: These documents are required and must be submitted together with you application.

- Budget (very brief) – List cost of Core services as agreed with the Core Director and any other cost pertinent to the application. Facilities and administrative costs, or indirect costs, are not allowed.
- Biosketch – Include a biographical sketch of the principal investigator and key personnel in new published NIH format including personal statement relative to the proposed project (5-page maximum). A template can be found at this link: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.
- Email confirmation from the Core Director with written support for the proposed project
- Supporting Information - Attach as an addendum any supporting materials as deemed necessary in aiding in the proposal review.

For any questions, please, contact: Cody Altherr [caalther@iu.edu](mailto:caalther@iu.edu).

## **APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by a scientific peer review committee composed of the ICMH leadership. As part of the scientific peer review, all applications will receive a written critique.

The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review.
- Availability of funds.
- Relevance of the proposed project to program priorities.

Following initial review by the ICMH leadership, successful applications will receive a second level of review by the Indiana CTSI Project Development Teams (PDTs). PIs of recommended applications must present their project to the PDTs. The PDTs may make suggestions and request adjustments to the proposed projects. PIs must comply with all PDTs requests in order to be awarded pilot funding.

A formal notification in the form of an email will be provided to the applicant for successful applications.

A Notice of Award will be provided to successful applicants once all PDTs requests have been satisfied.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDEES

All award recipients must agree to comply with ICMH internal award funding reporting requirements as described below.

1. At time of award, provide all ICMH required investigator and study information.
2. Semi-annual progress reporting during the life of the award.
3. Semi-annual follow up for 3 years after the expiration date of the funding period, to provide publications, grants submitted, grants funded that used data generated by core, and intellectual property. This information will assist the ICMH in their grant renewal.
4. By accepting this award, grant recipients agree to have their names and project titles publicly posted on the ICMH website.
5. By accepting this award recipients agree to notify the ICMH in writing at [caalther@iu.edu](mailto:caalther@iu.edu) if leaving the university prior to the closure of this project. The ICMH must approve all transfers to a new PI.
6. Grant recipients are required to acknowledge receipt of ICMH and CTSI support in any presentation or publication of work funded by a Pilot Funding Award as follows:

*"This [publication was made possible / project was supported] by the Indiana Center for Musculoskeletal Health, funded in part by grant # P30 AR072581-01 from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, and by the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, funded in part by grant # UL1 TR001108 from the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, Clinical and Translational Sciences Award. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health."*