



Northwestern University Skin Disease Research Center

Request for Proposals

The NIH-funded multidisciplinary Northwestern University **Skin Disease Research Center (SDRC)** announces a competition for **Pilot and Feasibility** grant funding for proposals that involve **keratinocyte research**. The ultimate goal of the SDRC is that these funded studies will lead to new collaborations and ultimately an RO1 or R21 skin-related proposal. The Pilot and Feasibility studies are funded at a level of \$25,000/year for 1 year with a possible 2nd year renewal pending a progress report and renewal of the parent award grant. Four proposals will be funded.

At the current time, we are soliciting applications from: a) established, federally funded investigators with no previous work in skin biology who may apply their expertise to a skin disease-related problem; and b) junior faculty members who choose to investigate some novel aspect of keratinocyte biology. Investigators from outside of the Dermatology Department are encouraged to apply. Given our interest in diversity, at least one of these funded proposals will focus on either **(1) Biological differences between keratinocytes from males vs. females or (2) Differences between keratinocytes from skin of Caucasians and individuals with skin of color (e.g., African-American, Hispanic)**. These diversity applications are encouraged. Of note, cultured keratinocytes and tissue from different sexes and ethnic/racial group will be available through the SDRC Core banks.

The format of the application is a **2 page document** which should describe: (1) the nature of the pilot and feasibility project, (2) the proposed use of the SDRC Cores. We are also requesting: (3) a CV or Biosketch of the PI, (4) a list of his/her current funding, and (5) a gross budget category breakdown (personnel, Cores, supplies, etc..). Applications should be sent to PI, Amy S. Paller, MD (apaller@northwestern.edu) and co-I Robert M. Lavker, PhD (r-lavker@northwestern.edu) via **email no later than Friday, March 1, 2013**. The projects will be evaluated by our Pilot and Feasibility Committee and funding decisions will be made by Monday, April 1, 2013. These awards will run from July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014.

The SDRC currently supports 3 service cores which facilitate the completion of projects funded by the Pilot and Feasibility study mechanism. The Keratinocyte Core provides human and mouse keratinocyte cell cultures, 3-dimensional raft cultures, a keratinocyte immortalization service, UVB irradiation of keratinocytes, live cell imaging and, shortly, grafting of human skin equivalents to mice. The Pathology Core performs histopathology and immuno-histochemical staining, mouse phenotyping, laser capture micro-dissection, FISH analysis, Franz cells for testing drug delivery, and provides access to a tissue repository. The DNA/RNA Delivery Core provides lenti- and retroviral constructs for the delivery of siRNA and shRNA. **Projects which strongly utilize Core services will be favored.**

Thank you for disseminating this information as quickly as possible and encouraging your faculty to participate. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at apaller@northwestern.edu, r-lavker@northwestern.edu or e-cutcher@northwestern.edu.

Recipients of Pilot and Feasibility Grants this past year:

Investigator	Position and Department	Project Title
Melissa Brown, PhD	Professor of Microbiology-Immunology and Pathology	Mechanisms Underlying Adverse Cutaneous Effects of the Anti-Cancer Drug, Bortezomib
Brian Mitchell, PhD	Assistant Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology	The Regulation of Cell Migration and Intercalation Through Keratinocytes
William J. Muller, MD, PhD	Assistant Professor of Pediatrics	Keratinocyte Innate Immune Responses After Herpes Simplex Virus Infection
Christian Stehlik, PhD	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Rheumatology Division	Innate Immune Host Defense Function of Keratinocytes