



## Vanderbilt Center for Musculoskeletal Research Research Grant Guidelines

The mission of the **Center for Musculoskeletal Research** is to develop, implement, and disseminate innovative research initiatives in order to change clinical practice and improve the quality of life of individuals with musculoskeletal conditions. The Center for Musculoskeletal Research supports scientific investigation and clinical dissemination in the area of musculoskeletal research through annual pilot grant funding. Musculoskeletal research is a broad field that includes acute injuries and persistent disorders that affect muscles, bones, joints, and associated injuries.

The **Center for Musculoskeletal Research** will support the development, implementation, and evaluation of research projects that involve clinical and translational work in patients with musculoskeletal conditions. The goal of the pilot grants is to foster additional musculoskeletal research at Vanderbilt that will ultimately benefit patient management of musculoskeletal problems and outcomes.

The **Center for Musculoskeletal Research** will fund up to 3 clinical research projects in the area of musculoskeletal research. Funding for each project will be up to \$10,000. One of these projects will be funded in collaboration with the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine and will need to focus on the area of mind and body practices (e.g. acupuncture, meditation, spinal manipulation, yoga, tai chi) or natural products (e.g. herbs, botanicals) used in complementary health.

The guidelines below describe the application process and eligibility criteria.

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Description: **Center for Musculoskeletal Research Grants** are intended to support discrete clinical or translational research projects involving humans that can be completed in a 12-month timeframe, by June 30, 2021. Projects may be prospective or retrospective and include qualitative and/or quantitative data. These grants are not intended to supplement already funded research projects, unless it is to add a new element related to musculoskeletal research. IRB approval must be confirmed prior to release of funds. Obtaining preliminary data for an extramural grant application is encouraged.

Funding up to \$10,000 may be used for research staff, subject compensation, production of materials, equipment, supplies, and consulting services. Travel to conduct research methods is allowed, with a limit of \$1,200. Faculty effort, travel to conferences, and publication costs are not allowable expenses. All funded projects must be completed within 12 months of award, by June 30, 2021.

**All faculty and staff that are affiliated with the Vanderbilt Center for Musculoskeletal Research are eligible to apply.** Trainees and students may apply if the faculty mentor is affiliated with the Center. For a list of affiliated faculty and staff, please see our website: <https://www.vumc.org/musculoskeletal-research/>

The submission deadline is **midnight CT April 3, 2020.**

**Review criteria** will include significance of the research topic, scientific rigor of the approach, innovation, potential impact of the project, and feasibility. **Applicants will be notified by May 15, 2020.**

How to apply:

There are **3 parts** to the submission process:

- 1) Complete a short **REDCap form** at this link: <https://redcap.link/MSK2020>
- 2) Prepare a **1-page budget** and attach it to the REDCap form
- 3) Prepare a **research proposal** and attach it to the REDCap form

**REDCap form:** Asks for the name of the primary investigator (PI) and email address, mentor (if applicable), and co-investigators, as well as a biosketch of the PI and mentor (if applicable) and title of the project.

**Budget:** Itemize using the 1-page form provided and include a very brief description or justification for each item. This form should be submitted as a pdf document.

**Proposal:** Include the sections detailed below. The proposal should not exceed 4 pages (excluding references) in 11 or 12 point type, single spaced. The proposal should be submitted as a pdf document.

If funds are requested for additional work on projects already funded by VICTR or other sources, please justify additional funds in the methods section and budget justification.

**Proposal format:**

1. **Title of Project**
2. **Project plan (4 pages)**
  - a. **Significance**
  - b. **Aims and hypotheses**
  - c. **Innovation**
  - d. **Methods** – Include study design, setting, description of study participants, intervention (if applicable), outcome measures, and analysis plan
  - e. **Anticipated outcome(s)** – What will the project accomplish if successful? Will it lead to future research, programs, or patient benefit?
  - f. **Timeline** - Include IRB approval
3. **References**

**Other responsibilities of the PI:**

A PI may submit only one proposal. At the beginning of the project, the PI is required to participate in a kick-off meeting. Core faculty members of the Center for Musculoskeletal Research will serve as panel members to provide additional input on the project, design, and implementation.

A final report is due at the end of the funding period and should include a description of future plans relevant to the proposal. The PI will be invited to present findings at the Center's seminar series or research forum. The PI should also submit a research abstract to a relevant national conference after the completion of the project.

For any questions, please email the Program Manager at [carol.e.brannon@vumc.org](mailto:carol.e.brannon@vumc.org) or call Carol at 615-343-6432.

To become affiliated with the Vanderbilt Center for Musculoskeletal Research, please email Kristin Archer, PhD at [kristin.archer@vumc.org](mailto:kristin.archer@vumc.org).