The VCKD has funds for use in supporting pilot studies commencing **July 1st, 2015**. The deadline for submission is **March 30th, 2015**. Grants will be reviewed by a committee with internal members.

**GUIDELINES RELATING TO PILOT AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES:**

Pilot studies in any aspect of renal disease research are supported by the VCKD. Such funds must be used for young investigators, investigators from other fields willing to bring their research expertise to nephrology, or for investigators currently in the nephrology area whose proposed research would constitute a totally new direction. Pilot support is not intended for established investigators with ongoing research, but is intended to provide support allowing an investigator the opportunity to develop preliminary data sufficient to provide the basis for an application for independent research support through conventional granting mechanisms.

New pilot studies are limited to a maximum of **1 year** support. Second year funding award might be available contingent on satisfactory progress in year one. An investigator is eligible for such support only once unless the additional proposed pilot study constitutes a real departure from his/her ongoing research. Awards are up to **$40,000/year** in direct costs; funding periods are **July 1st 2015-June 30th, 2016**.

To be eligible for a pilot and feasibility study an individual must be a faculty member (rank of Instructor or above) and must fit within the NIH Guidelines for eligibility. Some examples may be helpful.

1) A study proposed by an established investigator who has experience in areas other than nephrology and who wants to test his/her ability to contribute to the nephrology field.

2) A study proposed by a young investigator with an interest in a career in research in nephrology before he/she has yet developed to the point of being able to obtain individual grant support.

3) A study by an established investigator in nephrology who wants to pursue a question in a totally different area from their current research field.

**FORMAT**

Pilot and feasibility studies should present a testable hypothesis and clearly delineate the question being asked, detail procedures to be followed, and discuss how the data will be analyzed. The application must include:

--NIH Face Page (form page 1)
--NIH Description, Performance Site and Key Personnel (form page 2)
--NIH Table of Contents (form page 3)
--NIH Budget & Justification Pages (form pages 4 & 5)
--NIH Biographical Sketch (maximum 4 pages)
--NIH Formatted Other Support
--NIH Resources
--Research proposal (no more than 5 pages, Arial 11 and 0.5 inches margins)

If necessary, additional materials can be submitted as an appendix. If your research project involves human or animal subjects please contact the appropriate office for the necessary forms to obtain Committee approval.

**SUBMISSION**

The completed application should be consolidated into one **PDF document and submitted via e-mail** to **ambra.pozzi@vanderbilt.edu** by **March 30th, 2015**.

**QUESTIONS**

Feel free to contact Drs. Ray Harris or Ambra Pozzi (ray.harris@vanderbilt.edu or ambra.pozzi@vanderbilt.edu) prior to grant submission for clarification.