Promoting Progress in Statistics Award

Overview
MICHR’s Pilot Grant and Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design Programs seek applications for their Promoting Progress in Statistics (ProPS) award. ProPS will provide pilot funding to support the development of applied novel statistical methodology that has high potential for advancing clinical and translational research. The goals of this program are to: 1) enhance the validity, accuracy or efficiency of clinical and translational research, 2) foster faculty and trainees in developing new statistical methods and 3) provide a resource for generating preliminary data as a foundation for extramural applications and publications.

Examples of potential projects include, but are not limited to, developing novel statistical methods to improve the design/analysis of clinical trials, to reduce bias when data are incomplete, and to increase the efficiency in translational study design/analysis. Projects not suitable for this award include using established statistical techniques to analyze experimental datasets and developing new methodologies in the absence of a translational research application.

Award Information
Funding Period: One year
Budget: MICHR will provide a maximum of $15,000 to all awardees. Investigators with appointments in the School of Public Health are eligible for a 1:1 match and may develop grants with budgets up to $30,000.
Eligibility: All active University of Michigan faculty.
Resubmission: A maximum of two resubmissions are allowed.
Due Date: September 16, 2019 at 5:00 pm

Application Submission: Applicants will use the Medical School’s Competition Space and the forms on this site for submission.

Application Components (items 2-10 must be combined into one pdf)

1. Face Page and Project Summary: Complete using the form in Competition Space. Include a project summary (250 words maximum) that can be understood by a non-scientific audience.

2. Rebuttal (cannot exceed one page): This is required for resubmissions. Describe changes made to the application in response to reviewer comments.

3. Specific Aims (cannot exceed one page): Concisely describe the proposed project. Include background information and gap(s) in knowledge, objectives, brief experimental design (if applicable), expected outcomes and potential impact of the statistical methods on clinical or translational research.

4. Research Plan: This is a maximum THREE-page, single-spaced document (Arial 11, minimum of 0.5 inch margins) describing the project concisely and completely. Use the following overall format, noting suggested page limits:

   • **Background and Significance** (0.5 pages): Describe the 1) importance of the clinical/translational research problem or the critical barrier to progress that the proposed project addresses and 2) how development of the proposed statistical methodology will address the research problem/barrier to progress and improve scientific knowledge or technical capability in one or more broad fields of clinical/translational research.

   • **Innovation** (0.25 pages): Describe 1) the novel methodology to be developed and how it offers clear and significant improvement over currently available methods and 2) how the novel methodology will lead to new advances in a specific area/field of clinical/translational research.
• **Approach** (2 pages): Provide a comprehensive and concise overview of 1) preliminary data (not required) and strategies that establish feasibility of the proposed project, 2) the proposed methods and how they will be applied to a dataset or study, 3) if applicable, why the dataset is appropriate to answer the research question 4) potential limitations or difficulties and how they will be overcome and 5) expected results.

• **Impact Statement and Future Plan** (0.25 pages): Explain 1) how the innovative statistical methodology will enhance our ability to conduct, or analyze data from, clinical and translational research studies and 2) how the development of the methodology will lead to future grant funding and dissemination opportunities.

5. **References**: No page limit.

6. **Human Subjects/Regulatory Approval** (as applicable; no page limit): Follow the NIH guidelines when writing this section. The use of de-identified secondary data is preferred to reduce administrative burden on the applicant and to expedite release of funds. Studies requiring IRB approval must be approved by NIH-National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences before funds can be released. We cannot accept applications that propose research being conducted outside of the United States because NIH will not provide prior approval for such studies.

7. **Biographical Sketch**: Include a NIH biosketch for all key personnel. The template can be found in Competition Space.

8. **Budget and Justification**: Investigators with primary appointments outside of SPH may request any amount up to $15,000; investigators with primary appointments within SPH may request any amount up to $30,000. Budget justifications must include all personnel, including their positions, roles on the project, and levels of effort. All other budget items must be justified as supporting the methods development or its application to clinical and translational research. The budget template can be found in Competition Space.

   • Faculty and trainee (graduate student or postdoctoral fellow) salaries are allowable unless trainees are supported by the ACGME program; faculty salaries cannot exceed the PHS salary cap.
   • **Unallowable items**: equipment, cost overruns, retroactive funding, grant preparation costs, travel unrelated to the conduct of research (e.g., conferences), renovations, office supplies, or computers. This list may not be comprehensive, and the MICHR Pilot Grant Program reserves the right to deem costs unallowable. Investigators should seek pre-approval of any costs in question.

9. **Signature Page**: Departmental/college approval must be obtained prior to submission.

10. **Letters of Support**: Collaborators, other than Co-PIs and Co-Is, with significant roles on the project should provide a letter of support outlining their participation.

11. **Current/Pending Support**: Include current and pending support for all key personnel; use the NIH format.

**Review Criteria**: Review criteria mirror that of NIH, with applications being scored on 1) significance, 2) investigator, 3) innovation, 4) approach, 5) environment and 6) overall impact. Additional review criteria include: relevance of the proposed research to clinical and translational science and likelihood of expected outcomes to advance clinical and translational science.

**Awardee Responsibilities**: The duration of the award is one year, by which time all funds must be spent. Awardees are required to provide progress reports, including resultant publications and external grant submissions, upon request.

**For more information, please contact**: MICHR-PilotGrants@umich.edu.

For assistance developing your project, we recommend meeting with MICHR’s Research Development Core.