

Oklahoma Center of Medical Imaging for Translational Cancer Research  
An NIH P-20 Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)  
**Call for Proposals: 2025 Pilot Project Grant**

The Oklahoma Center of Medical Imaging for Translational Cancer Research (NIH - P20GM135009) invites applications for Pilot Project Grants. The purpose of this program is to provide seed funding to help researchers test new hypotheses and generate preliminary data for future extramural research grant applications. Proposals should align with the central research theme of this COBRE, which focuses on translational biomedical imaging science research aimed at improving cancer detection, diagnosis accuracy, or treatment efficacy. This can be achieved by developing and/or applying novel medical imaging techniques (e.g., new investigative imaging systems/tools or procedures) or quantitative imaging markers (e.g., generated using advanced machine learning or artificial intelligence algorithms). All types of studies using retrospective human subject image data, vertebrate animal models, cancer cell line models, and/or dedicated imaging phantoms are accepted.

If you have any questions regarding this COBRE Pilot Project Program, please contact Dr. Javier Jo ([javierjo@ou.edu](mailto:javierjo@ou.edu)). Thank you.

**Eligibility of Pilot Project Leader (PPL):** Full-time faculty members from any academic unit on the OU Norman and OUHSC campuses are eligible to apply by meeting the following criteria:

- Must be considered an NIH Early-Stage Investigator (ESI: completed terminal research degree or post-graduate clinical training within the past 10 years and has not previously competed successfully for a substantial NIH independent research award; e.g. R01-like) or an NIH New Investigator (NI: never been a PI for a substantial NIH independent research award; e.g. R01-like).
- Must hold an independent, multi-year faculty appointment (or equivalent), including tenure-track and other multi-year appointments, and must be leading an independent research program. Postdocs and others without independent, multi-year appointments are not eligible.
- A PPL cannot receive simultaneous research support as a project lead from any other IDeA parent award (e.g., COBRE, INBRE, IDeA-CTR).
- A PPL is required to devote at least 1 person-month of effort to the Pilot Project.

**Funding Levels:** Pilot Projects will be awarded at a level of \$60,000 in direct cost per year. Each award is for one year (12 months). We anticipate awarding two 2-3 applications.

**Application Submission Deadline:** November 15, 2024.

**Anticipated Project Start Date:** January 1, 2025.

**Application Submission:** Applicants should submit a complete application (see format below) as a single PDF file to Dr. Yuhua Li ([yhli1500@ou.edu](mailto:yhli1500@ou.edu)) with 'Last Name - COBRE Pilot Grant Application - 2025' on the subject line of the email.

**Review:** All proposals will be screened by the internal review committee to determine the investigator's eligibility for COBRE research support. Proposals that pass the initial screening will be evaluated by a review committee composed of COBRE Internal Advisory Committee members and External Review Committee members. The evaluation will be based on the project's relevance to the COBRE central theme,

scientific merit, and the PI's productivity and potential for developing an extramural grant proposal and becoming an independent NIH-funded investigator.

**Proposal Preparation Guideline:**

Applications should be prepared using Arial (11 points), single spaced, minimum 0.5" margins, and should not exceed the page limits indicated below. The submission must be on current NIH PHS 398 forms and follow the PHS 398 instructions: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

Following sections should be included in the application:

1. NIH grant application face page (form page 1 –398\_fp1)
2. Project summary and key personnel (form page 2 – 398\_fp2)
3. Table of contents (form page 3 – 398\_fp3)
4. Detailed budget for initial period (form page 4 – 398\_fp4)
  - a. Include budgets pertaining to any subcontract or sub-recipients (if any)
  - b. Budget justification (on PHS-398 continuation pages)
  - c. Funds may not be requested for clerical support, office supplies, purchase of books and periodicals, or foreign travel. Laboratory equipment equal to or over \$5,000 is not permitted.
5. NIH Biographical sketch for PI and other key personnel of the project. Please use NIH format: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/biosketch>
6. Research Plan that includes the following sections
  - a. Specific Aim Section (1 page)
  - b. Research Strategy (3 pages maximum)
    - i. Significance
    - ii. Innovation
    - iii. Research Approach (including supporting preliminary data, expected outcomes, potential problems and alternate experiments)
    - iv. Relevance (potential impact on translational cancer research)
  - c. Bibliography and references cited (no page limit)
  - d. Protection of Human Subjects (if applicable – no page limit)
  - e. Inclusion of Women and Minorities (if applicable – no page limit)
  - f. Targeted/planned enrollment table (PHS-398 form, if applicable – no page limit)
  - g. Inclusion of children (if applicable – no page limit)
  - h. Vertebrate Animals (if applicable – no page limit)
  - i. Select agent research (if applicable – no page limit)
  - j. Consortium/contractual arrangements (letter of intent to subcontract – if applicable)
  - k. A statement of Work (1 page) – List (1) a detailed timeline for completion of work on the project, (2) future plan to expand the studies and apply for external funding.
    - l. Support letter from a mentor (optional, but it is encouraged for the applicant to have a mentor with track record of major extramural research project awarded by NIH, NSF, DOD, etc.)
7. An IRB or IACUC approval letter is not required at the time of submission. However, funds will not be released until such an approval letter is received. Thus, each applicant is encouraged to apply for an IRB or IACUC approval letter early if it is required in the project.