



THE FOOTBALL PLAYERS HEALTH STUDY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Pilot Funding Opportunity

Request for Applications: Improving the Health and Safety of Football Players

Letter of Intent (LOI) Due: October 30, 2015, 5:00pm EDT

I. Key Dates

LOI RFA Announcement:	October 1, 2015
LOI Due:	October 30, 2015 at 5:00pm EDT
LOI Decision Announcement:	Early December 2015
Full Applications Due:	Mid-January 2016
Funding Decisions Announced:	Late February 2016
Anticipated Funding Start Date:	May 2016

All applications [must be submitted online](#).

II. Award Amount

Pilot grant awards will awarded between \$10,000 and \$150,000 per grant, with a total pool of \$750,000. The grant period is one year. The final amount awarded will be determined at the time of the award.

III. Overview and Goals

The Football Players Health Study Pilot Grant Program supports innovative pilot studies that have substantial potential to impact the health and wellbeing of future, current, or former football players. For this funding opportunity, we solicited data from thousands of former football players regarding the conditions that affect them most. Investigators from across Harvard University are encouraged to submit proposals that are likely to contribute to the discovery of new risk factors, prevention strategies, and advanced therapies that have the potential to affect the health and wellbeing of future, current, or former football players in one of the three following areas:

- A. Arthritis, including but not limited to studies in epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and management of osteoarthritis.
- B. Sleep Apnea, including but not limited to studies in epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and management of the long-term effects of sleep apnea.
- C. Headache, including but not limited to studies in epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and management of sport-related headaches, chronic headaches, and migraines.

Special weight will be given to those applications that are particularly relevant to former athletes. Applications in only these three areas will be considered, but there is no guarantee that funding will be awarded in each category. We are soliciting research grant applications that include high-impact projects likely to yield findings and actionable results within one year.

IV. Eligibility

This is a two-part, limited submission competition. The first phase will include the submission of a one-page Letter of Intent (LOI). This will be followed by a full application phase that will include submission of a longer proposal, as well as standard administrative grant application documents. Only selected applicants will be invited to submit the full application.

This request for LOIs encourages applications from investigators at all levels.

Principal Investigator (PI) Eligibility

Any faculty member who holds a Harvard University appointment, such as research scientist/associate, lecturer, instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor, irrespective of degree or institutional affiliation, is eligible to be the PI.

Note that investigators are eligible to apply as a PI if approved by and with the support of their division director or department chair. Documentation of departmental support, the investigator's appointment title, and status at Harvard will require a letter from the division director or department chair to be submitted with the full application (not with the LOI).

Co-Investigator (Co-I) Eligibility

A Co-I is a substantial contributor who helps conceive of the experimental idea, contributes to the intellectual development of the project, and/or designs the study or part thereof (scientific or technical details), and will be involved in the study throughout the funding year. Co-Is can be from any institution, however if you are working with a Co-I from an outside institution, please provide justification of how the external expertise adds to the project. While trainees (e.g. students, clinical trainees, post-doctoral fellows, clinical fellows) cannot serve as the PI on an application, they may serve as Co-Is if they make a substantial contribution to the project.

A Co-I is not required, nor is there a limit to the number of Co-Is that may be listed on an application.

For the LOI round, researchers may submit more than one application as PI, and may be listed as a Co-I on multiple applications.

For questions regarding eligibility, see contact information below (section VII).

V. Letter of Intent Submission Information

The online application form in Apply Hub requires login via Harvard Medical School eCommons username and password, or via Harvard University ID (HUID) number and PIN (<http://catalyst.harvard.edu/services/loginfaq.html>). If you have forgotten either of these, click on "Forgot your PIN / Password?" on the login page. If you do not have either of these, please contact pilotstudies@footballplayershealth.harvard.edu for assistance.

If you have not used Apply Hub before, you will be asked to register on a "My Account" page with your name and your e-mail address.

The online application itself is a two-part form. Please provide the following information.

Part 1 – The LOI and Supporting Documents

- Full name of the submitter
- E-mail address of the submitter
- Principal Investigator (PI information):
 - Full name (if different from the submitter)
 - E-mail address (if different from the submitter)
 - Degree(s), faculty rank/position, institution, department, division (optional), and phone number
 - Gender, ethnicity, race (all optional)
 - Optional administrative contact name, phone number, and e-mail address

- Team information:
 - Co-Investigator(s) (Co-I information)
 - Full name
 - E-mail address
 - Degree(s), faculty rank/position, institution, department, division (optional), phone number
 - Gender, ethnicity, race (all optional)

Note: A Co-I is not required, nor is there a limit to the number of Co-Is that may be listed on an application.
- Administrative questions:
 - Does your study require IRB approval? If so, do you have it?
 - Does your study require IACUC approval? If so, do you have it?
 - Have you ever applied for funding or published with any of your Co-Is? If so, please describe.
 - Which research category does this LOI relate to? (see section III)
- Supporting documents:
 - PI's NIH Biosketch (to be uploaded as a PDF)
 - Scientific LOI (to be uploaded as a separate PDF): Use Arial font, 11-point size only. The **one-page** LOI (covering items 1–3 below) should be single-spaced, with 0.5-inch margins. LOI text beyond one page will not be read by reviewers. Include the following:
 1. Title of project
 2. PI's name and institution
 3. Scientific rationale and significance:
 - a. The background and significance of the proposed research
 - b. How the results of the proposed research will impact the health and wellbeing of future, current, or former football players
 - c. How the proposed research is important to the goals of the Football Players Health Study (<https://footballplayershealth.harvard.edu/>)
 4. References: Please list references cited on a separate page, and keep the length of the reference list to one page only.

Part 2 – Confirmation

A confirmation page will display all the information you have entered. You will then be able to submit the application. All application materials can be reopened and resubmitted before the deadline.

Paper copies of the application or any other accompanying documentation will not be accepted. All application materials must be submitted no later than 5:00pm EDT on October 30, 2015.

Successful submissions will result in an automated e-mail response sent to the submitter and the PI of the application. This e-mail acknowledgement will contain an application ID number that should be used in all future correspondence regarding the LOI. It will also include a URL that allows the submitter to access the application within Apply Hub.

VI. Review Process and Criteria

Completed LOIs submitted by **5:00pm EDT October 30, 2015**, will undergo an administrative review. Those deemed responsive to this RFA will be put forward for review for scientific merit, feasibility, and relevance to the health and wellbeing of future, current, or former football players by the Football Players Health Study Leadership Team. Selected applicants will be invited to submit full applications. Feedback will not be provided to applicants. Reviewers will evaluate the proposals on the following considerations:

- Is the project feasible and achievable in the funding period?
- Do the investigators have the requisite skills and experience to execute the project within the funding period?

- Is the proposed research innovative?
- Is there something specific about this project that makes it particularly relevant to future, current, or former football players?

All applicants will be notified of the results in early December. Selected applicants will be invited to submit full applications.

VII. Contact Information

All inquiries related to the application process, eligibility, and/or scientific research areas should be directed to 617-384-5411 or pilotstudies@footballplayershealth.harvard.edu.

Inquiries relating to financial or grants management areas should be directed to Lucy Kolessin, Director of Finance and Research Administration, Football Players Health Study at Harvard University (617-432-7804); lucy_kolessin@hms.harvard.edu.