THE FOOTBALL PLAYERS HEALTH STUDY
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Research Funding Opportunity

Request for Applications: Remote Clinical Studies to Improve the Health and Safety of Football Players

Applications Due: October 13, 2017 at 5:00pm EDT

I. Key Dates
RFA Announcement: September 1, 2017
Applications Due: October 13, 2017 at 5:00pm EDT
Funding Decisions Announced: Late November 2017
Anticipated Funding Start Date: March 1, 2018

* All applications **must be submitted online** at the following URL:
https://footballplayershealth.harvard.edu/research/funding-opportunities/

II. Award Amount
Pilot grant awards will be funded up to $150,000 for one (1) year. This amount is inclusive of 15% Indirect Costs. The final amount awarded will be determined at the time of the award.

III. Overview and Goals
The Football Players Health Study seeks to support innovative research studies that have substantial potential to impact the health and wellbeing of future, current, or former football players. To date, we have solicited data from thousands of former football players, from all over the country, regarding the conditions that affect them most. Amongst these conditions are pain, arthritis, high blood pressure, and sleep apnea. Proposals related to these topics, in addition to others that address common diagnoses observed in professional football players, will be considered.

Since our target population is dispersed across the country, we are committed to supporting interventions and/or assessments that could be performed remotely. Applications should contribute to our understanding of risk factors, prevention strategies, and potentially interventions to mitigate injury or disease that may affect professional football players.

IV. Eligibility
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 application.

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

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details), and will be involved in the study throughout the funding year. Co-Is can be from any institution, however if you are a 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.

Researchers may submit only one application as PI, however may be listed as a Co-I on multiple applications.

V. Allowable and Unallowable Costs
Funding may not commence until all applicable human subject protocols have been approved and copies with approval letters have been sent to Liz Carew, Pilot Studies Project Manager, at pilotstudies@footballplayershealth.harvard.edu.

Allowable and Unallowable Costs
- Requests may not exceed $150,000. Award amount will be determined at the time of award.
- Award amount must be inclusive of 15% Indirect Costs.
- Faculty salary support: Applicants may request faculty salary support. There is no minimum or maximum effort commitment requirement beyond any minimums or maximums which may be imposed by the effort policies of your school/institution.
- Other personnel support: Salary and fringe benefits are allowed for other participatory personnel such as research fellows, research assistants, clinical coordinators, research nurses, etc. However, salary support for ancillary personnel, such as mentors, administrative, or grant management staff is not allowed.
- Non-personnel research expenses: All expenses must be directly related to the proposed research and part of the approved budget. Some examples of allowable expenses are supplies, equipment (under limited circumstances; strong justification must be included with the proposal), travel to research meetings, study subject stipends, study subject transportation costs, and statistical and computational services including personnel and computer time.
- Unallowable costs: General office supplies and equipment, computers and laptops (unless specifically requested and justified), membership dues and fees, subscription costs, mailing costs, rent, and other costs generally identified as facilities and administrative are not allowed.
- Facilities and administrative costs: This grant will allow for up to 15% to bespent on indirect costs. This amount must be factored into the total award, which must not exceed $150,000.
- Subcontracts: A separate budget page should be submitted from all sites that are to share the grant funds. Subsequently, Football Players Health Study at Harvard University will directly subcontract to all sites.

VI. Application 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 the "Forgot your PIN / Password?" on the login page. If you do not have either of these, please contact Liz Carew at pilotstudies@footballplayershealth.harvard.edu for assistance.

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

PART 1: Application and Supporting Documentation
- Full name of the submitter
- Email address of the submitter
- Principal Investigator (PI) Information

- o Full name of PI (edit if not the same as submitter)
- o Email address of the PI (edit if not the same as submitter)
- o Degree(s), faculty rank/position, institution, department, division (optional), and phone number
- o Gender, ethnicity, race (all optional)
- o Sponsored Program Administrator's email address
- o Optional administrative contact name, phone number, and email address

- Team information
  - o Co-Investigator(s) (Co-I): A Co-I is not required, nor is there a limit to the number of Co-Is that may be listed on an application.
    - Full name of Co-I
    - Email address of Co-I
    - Degree(s), faculty rank/position, institution, department, division (optional), and phone number
    - Gender, ethnicity, race (all optional)

- Administrative Questions
  - o Does your study require IRB approval? If so, do you have it?
  - o Does your study require IACUC approval? If so, do you have it?
  - o Have you ever applied for funding or published with any of your Co-Is? If so, please describe.

- Supporting Documentation
  - o **Administrative Documents** (to be uploaded as a PDF)
    - For each institution that will receive funds, the following forms must be completed:
      - PHS 398 Face Page, to be signed by institutional official. One Face Page per site requesting funds. Please remember that each site requesting funds will receive a separate award agreement to provide the funding; pass-through subawards are not allowed.
      - PHS 398 Form Page 4: Detailed budget for one year. Refer to **Section V** for allowable and unallowable costs. If more than one site will share the budget, the combined total should not exceed $150,000 and each site is required to submit a separate budget page.
      - Narrative Budget Justification from each site requesting funds.
      - Statement of Work: A brief statement describing the work to be performed at each institution (2-3 sentences per institution).
    - If IRB and/or IACUC approval is required and has not been obtained, please indicate the status of, and the plans for, obtaining approval. Funds will not be released without the necessary approvals. The strength of the plan for obtaining the necessary approvals will be assessed as part of the review process.
    - NIH-style biographical sketches for the principal investigator, Co-Is and significant collaborators.
    - Letter of support from the principal investigator's division director or department chair confirming departmental support, the investigator's appointment title, and status.

  - o **Scientific Proposal** (uploaded as a separate PDF file) is limited to 5 pages, not including references. Use an Arial font, size of 11 points only. Applications should be single-spaced, with 0.5 inch margins. All figures and tables must be included in the body of the application, and count toward page limits. Appendix material will not be accepted.

1. **Project Title and Narrative in lay language (No more than 3 sentences [please use narrative entered in form]).** Clearly state your aim or question addressed in this proposal and its importance to the overall health and wellbeing of football players. Use English- avoid medical jargon. Define terms with appropriate abbreviations in parenthesis. Use abbreviation thereafter.

2. **Project Abstract (1/2 page)**. Description of work aims, long-term objective, significance to health of football players. Preliminary Results (if available) should also be included.

3. **Overview and Background (1 page)**. The overview should summarize why the project is important and innovative, and the limitation of current knowledge. Briefly state the work previously done, why it is inadequate, and how the proposed research will advance knowledge beyond the current condition. The overview must clearly state the aims of the proposal and the feasibility of completion within the one-year grant period. Include sufficient background information to provide context for grant reviewers.

4. **Project Details (2 ½ to 3 pages)**. Provide specific detailed information about the work to be carried out regarding the assumptions the research is based on, the hypothesis to be tested, the method being used, the means of evaluating the data or conclusions, the resource requirements, and timing for the various research steps and overall project completion.

5. **Future Plans (½ to 1 page)**. Briefly state future aims beyond the scope of this two-year grant that you would undertake if this grant proposal was successful and additional resources were available. Limit future plans to an additional 2-year period. Briefly outline what additional resources would be required to address these aims. Include plans on how future funding for this work might be obtained.

6. **References (limit to 1 additional page)**

PART 2: Confirmation
There will be a confirmation page displaying all information 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 **5:00 PM on October 13, 2017.**

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

Application Review:
Completed applications submitted by **5:00 PM on October 13, 2017** will first undergo an administrative review. Applications that do not fully comply with application requirements will not be accepted. Applications not submitted by the due date and time will not be accepted. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the

application during the submission process by the due date.

Applications deemed responsive to this RFA will be put forward for review for full scientific review. All applicants will be notified of the funding decisions in March 2018. Feedback will not be provided to applicants.

Reviewers are Harvard faculty specializing in a range of health specialties. Completed applications will be reviewed for scientific merit, feasibility, and relevance to the health and wellbeing of football players. Reviewers will evaluate the proposals on the following criteria:

- Significance
- Innovation
- Approach
- Investigator(s)
- Environment

Applicants selected for funding will also benefit from project management expertise provided by the Football Players Health Study. Funding will not commence until: i) all applicable human and animal protocols have been approved and approval notifications emailed to Liz Carew, Pilot Studies Project Manager, at pilotstudies@footballplayershealth.harvard.edu; and ii) a detailed project plan has been developed in consultation with the assigned project manager.

VII. Requirements if funded:
Award recipients must provide a 250-word lay abstract at the time of funding. This abstract should be geared towards players to help inform them of how their funds have helped support research that will directly impact them. Recipients will clearly state the aim or question addressed in the proposal and its importance to the overall health and wellbeing of football players. Use English- avoid medical jargon. Define terms with appropriate abbreviations in parenthesis. Use abbreviation thereafter.

Recipients will also be required to submit a year 1 progress report to determine year 2 funding, including a 500-word lay abstract of results and findings.

VIII. Contact Information
All inquiries related to the application process, eligibility, and/or scientific research areas should be directed to Liz Carew, Pilot Studies Project Manager, Football Players Health Study at Harvard University (617-384-5411); pilotstudies@footballplayershealth.harvard.edu.

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