



THE FOOTBALL PLAYERS HEALTH STUDY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Pilot Funding Opportunity

Frequently Asked Questions: Remote Clinical Studies to Improve the Health and Safety of Football Players

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

Q. If I do not have a Harvard University PIN or a Harvard Medical School eCommons ID, how can I obtain one?

A: Please contact pilotstudies@footballplayershealth.harvard.edu for a temporary login.

Q. What are the Pilot Studies and how do they relate to the Football Players Health Study?

A: The Football Players Health Study focuses on the integrated health of football players, not solely one concern or condition. The Pilot Studies team works to identify and support innovative research that have the potential to impact the health of current, former, and future NFL players. This could be anything from prevention techniques, to diagnostics and treatment strategies for the most common and severe conditions affecting professional football players.

Q. Are applicants required to include remote assessments and/or interventions in their proposal?

A: Yes. Since our target population is dispersed across the country, we are committed to supporting interventions and/or assessments that could be performed remotely.

Q. Will applications that target the Players Studies cohort and/or the data collected from this population be considered?

A: Yes. These applications will be considered, but are not required to use this cohort.

Q. If the applicant submits a proposal that plans to recruit former players, how many participants are likely available?

A: There are approximately 10,000* former players for whom we currently have a reachable email or home address. Of those 10K, over 3,500 have participated by completing our initial questionnaire (Q1). (**This number is an estimate and always fluctuating due to new deaths, retirements, updated lists of contact information, etc.*)

Q. The FAQs make reference to the Players Study Cohort and the data collected – is there a list of the variables that might be available from this data to use in a future study?

A: The data collected on this cohort in our initial questionnaire includes information on demographics, anxiety and depression, physical activity, pain, applied cognition, past concussion symptoms, active player year injuries, past surgical procedures, prescribed or recommended medications, diagnoses and health outcomes, and play history (pro seasons, lifetime years, age of start). This data may not be available to use in the designing/planning stages of your application, but awarded applicants may have access to this data if deemed necessary to complete their study.

Q. Are there results available from Q1 that may help in planning grant applications?

A: The Football Players Health Study team has released two results return communications that contained some results and aggregate data from Q1. These can be viewed at the following links: [Results Return 1](#) and [Results Return 2](#). This is the only information available to applicants at this time.

Q: What is the expected length of the application?

A: The Scientific Proposal 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.

Q: Projects may be awarded up to \$150K; does this include indirect costs (IDC)?

A: Awards of up to \$150K will be made. The award amount must be inclusive of 15% Indirect Costs.

Q: I am submitting an application on behalf of the principal investigator; will he/she be notified?

A: All email notifications will be sent to the person submitting the notification. All access to the application in Apply Hub is limited to the submitter. The submitter will need to work with the applicant to keep him/her apprised of the status.

Q: Are investigators who do not have a Harvard University appointment, or are based at institutions not affiliated with Harvard, eligible to submit a pre-proposal?

A: Not as principal investigator. The principal investigator must hold a Harvard University appointment (see next FAQ for details). However, co-investigators can be from any institution. If you are a Harvard principal investigator working with a co-investigator from an outside institution, please justify how the external expertise adds value to the project.

Q: Who is eligible to be a principal investigator?

A: Investigators with a Harvard University appointment are eligible to be a principal investigator if they meet the following criteria:

- They must hold an appointment as lecturer, instructor, research scientist/associate, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor.
- All PIs must provide a letter of support from their department chair.

Trainees (e.g. students, clinical trainees, post-doctoral fellows, clinical fellows) cannot serve as the principal investigator of an application, but may serve as co-investigators, provided they make a substantial contribution to the project. A substantial contributor is one who helped conceive of the experimental idea, contributed to the intellectual development of the project; and/or designed the study or part thereof (scientific or technical details), and will be involved with the study throughout the funding year. Co-I's can be from any institution. However, if a co-I is from a non-Harvard affiliated institution, the PI must justify how their external expertise adds value to the project.

If you have questions about whether you are eligible to apply, please contact us via email at pilotstudies@footballplayershealth.harvard.edu or at 617-384-5411.

Q: What information must be included in the letter of support from my department chair?

A: The letter of support from the principal investigator's department chair must confirm departmental support, the investigator's appointment title, and status. Letters can be addressed to the Football Players Health Study Review Panel.

Q: Is there an optimal number of co-investigators that should be involved with a project?

A: A co-investigator is not required nor is there a limit to the number of co-investigators that may be listed. If your project involves co-investigators, please be sure to

include them in the data form when submitting your online application.

Q: Can this project build on work that I'm already doing?

A: Yes, we welcome proposals from investigators who have ongoing research projects and want to build on existing work using this funding opportunity. In addition, proposals investigating novel approaches and ideas are encouraged.

Q: Can researchers submit more than one application?

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

Q: Who are the reviewers and what purpose do they serve?

A: 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

Q: How will feedback be provided on applications?

A: We will not be providing individual feedback on applications.

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, Football Players Health Study at Harvard University (617-432-7804); lucy_kolessin@hms.harvard.edu.