



Arizona Center for the
Biology of Complex Diseases

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Request for Applications

ABCD Pilot Project Grants in Complex Diseases

The Arizona Center for the Biology of Complex Diseases (ABCD) invites applications for 1-year Pilot Project Grants in line with its mission of fostering trans-disciplinary research on complex diseases at The University of Arizona (UA).

BACKGROUND Human complex diseases (e.g., asthma, cancer, cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, neurodegenerative and neurodevelopmental diseases) are major biomedical challenges, because they are common but difficult to decipher. The complexity of these diseases likely reflects intricate interactions among genetic, environmental and developmental factors that modify disease susceptibility and severity.

Understanding complex diseases is urgent, because these conditions impose a burden on society. Yet, this goal cannot be achieved by isolated research disciplines. Rather, it requires a novel paradigm that successfully integrates research across multiple fields. The ABCD was launched to implement such a paradigm and support the creation of a UA community of basic and translational scientists interested in complex diseases.

GOAL The ABCD Pilot Project Grants in Complex Diseases will provide one year of support (up to \$30,000/each) for projects aimed at performing cutting-edge, trans-disciplinary research on complex disease-related themes. Funding will be provided for a maximum of two grants.

ELIGIBILITY Eligible applicants should:

- be independent UA investigators with a strong record of scientific accomplishment
- propose a trans-disciplinary project relevant to human complex diseases

APPLICATION PROCEDURE Applications should include:

- A two-page description of the project that explicitly characterizes its relevance to the complex disease theme
- Curriculum vitae of the applicant (NIH or NSF format)
- Budget

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA Proposals will be ranked by the ABCD Executive Committee based on:

- Significance, innovation, originality and relevance to the complex disease theme
- Trans-disciplinary nature of the project. Priority will be given to projects involving more than one Principal Investigator.
- Record of accomplishment of the applicant
- Clear evidence that the award would likely yield data critical for the success of an RO1-type application

DEADLINE AND AWARD NOTIFICATION Proposals should be submitted as a single pdf file through the ABCD website (abcc.arl.arizona.edu) by 9/15/12. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of December 2012.

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

- At the end of the funding period, ABCD-supported investigators will present their results to the ABCD community.
- Recipients of ABCD Pilot Project Grants will be or become members of the ABCD.
- ABCD will be acknowledged on all publications supported by ABCD Pilot Project Grants.
- ABCD-supported investigators will promptly inform the ABCD Director and Executive Committee of any award facilitated by an ABCD Pilot Project Grant.

For questions about this initiative, please contact Donata Vercelli, M.D. (donata@email.arizona.edu).