



**Cure CF Columbus Research & Development Program (C3RDP)  
Pilot & Feasibility Award  
Request for Applications  
Spring 2021**

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## **C3RDP Overview**

Cure CF Columbus (C3) Research Development Program (RDP) supports and promotes groundbreaking research and clinical cystic fibrosis-related activities with individuals located at The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital, and subsequently applies this knowledge for the development of new therapeutic strategies to better arm host defense that combat infection.

### **Mission Statement:**

Excessive inflammation and recurrent infections are a hallmark of Cystic Fibrosis pathophysiology. The C3RDP mission is to develop treatments that prevent this pathophysiology. The C3RDP will pursue its mission through investigation of the cellular and molecular mechanisms that underlie inflammation and infection in Cystic Fibrosis patients.

Our goals for the C3RDP are:

1. To facilitate new collaborations among CF researchers
2. To foster a strong network of CF and non-CF researchers worldwide
3. To expand the C3 RDP community through recruitment of new investigators and trainees/future investigators

The values of diversity, equity and inclusion are integral to the success of the C3 community. The C3RDP commits to fostering diversity in research by recruiting investigators of different scientific disciplines but also of diverse social backgrounds.

## **C3RDP Pilot and Feasibility Program**

C3 is committed to support CF investigators and provide Pilot & Feasibility (P&F) grants to encourage robust cystic fibrosis clinical and basic science research. While our focus area is on the impact of immune dysfunction on infection in CF, topics broadly related to CF are also of interest.

Our goal is to utilize RDP funds to support young or established investigators from diverse basic or clinical science disciplines who plan to apply their expertise to the problems of CF. Investigators should use P&F funding to obtain the preliminary data that is needed to successfully compete for longer-term, more substantial funding from agencies such as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation or National Institutes of Health (NIH).

P&F grant applications must focus on basic and/or translational research questions that: 1) are relevant to the CFF and C3 research missions; and 2) address existing or emerging C3 focus areas. The proposed research must utilize at least two of the three C3 Research Cores (see attachment). The P&F applications will be reviewed and the applicants may be invited to submit a revised P&F applications. All P&F applications will be reviewed by the C3 Internal Advisory Board.

## **Funding**

*Basic Science P&F Projects:* Funding of individual basic science P&F studies cannot extend beyond two years. Year 1 funding (**\$40,000**) will be provided by C3 after completion of the review process. Appointed awardees may apply for a second year. However, second year applications will be reviewed alongside with those submitting new proposals. The second year of funding (\$40,000) is contingent upon submission and approval of a renewal progress report and the availability of funds. No indirect costs will be provided.

*Translational P&F Projects:* These projects seek to apply basic scientific knowledge to a clinical problem, acquire basic knowledge from clinical specimens, or examine the feasibility of a therapeutic approach in an appropriate animal model or with appropriate clinical specimens. Translational P&F projects may receive funding for up to two years. Year 1 funding (**\$60,000**) will be provided by C3 after completion of the review process. Appointed awardees may apply for a second year. However, second year applications will be reviewed alongside with those submitting new proposals. Year 2 funding (\$60,000) is contingent upon submission and approval of a renewal progress report, and the availability of funds. . No indirect costs will be provided.

Translational P&F projects may not subject human volunteers to experimental medicines, devices or techniques; obtain clinical specimens prospectively unless such specimens are collected as a part of routine patient care; or make use of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act-protected confidential patient information.

*Direct costs may be requested for:*

- Salary support
- Research supplies
- Equipment
- Research-related subject costs
- Consultant costs
- Support for multidisciplinary collaborations, including travel
- Travel costs for scientific/technical meeting(s)

## **Eligibility**

**The following applicants are eligible for P&F funding:**

1. New investigators who have not previously received a CFF research grant
2. Established non-CF investigators who are applying their knowledge and expertise to a CF-related question
3. Established CF investigators who are addressing novel and innovative concepts not currently being pursued by current and past researchers.

**General eligibility criteria:**

1. United States residents and applicants outside of the United States are welcome to apply.
2. Applicants must be independent investigators. An independent investigator is an individual who is out of fellowship training and whose institution allows them to submit applications for research funding as a Principal Investigator.
3. Applicants cannot hold multiple P&F awards.
4. International applicants and institutions are required to submit additional information in accordance with U.S. anti-terrorist restrictions.
5. Institutional protections including Animal Care and Use, and Institutional Review Board protocols must be in place at the time that the full RDP Grant application is submitted.

## Current C3RDP Research Interests

### *C3 Established Focus Areas:*

- Studies on CF innate immune cell dysfunction
- Microbial pathogenesis in CF (*Pseudomonas*, *Burkholderia*, *Staphylococcus*, *Haemophilus*, NTM and respiratory viruses including rhinovirus, RSV, influenza)
- Interactions at the interface of macrophage and neutrophils with CF pathogens
- Defects in CF airway epithelial cell defenses that predispose to infection

### *Emerging Focus Areas and Opportunities for Expansion:*

- Immune function and dysfunction in T and B cells
- Effects of CFTR modifiers on immune cell function
- Progenitor cell biology and therapy
- Critical factors that support CFTR channel activity in immune and epithelial cells
- Development of new therapeutics aimed at managing infection and inflammation
- Airway epithelial innate immune cell responses to bacterial and viral infections

## Key Dates

RFA Release date	February 3, 2021
Grant Application Deadline	April 1, 2021 at 5 pm EDT
Award Notifications	May-June, 2021
Earliest Project Start Date	July 1, 2021
Award Period	July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022

## Application Guidelines

1. Application components
  - a. The grant application is to be submitted as a single PDF. All application attachments (links) are below and can be found on our website. The pages must be in the following order:
    - i. Face page
    - ii. NIH Biosketch: Maximum 5 pages/biosketch, include a biosketch for all key personnel.
    - iii. Detailed budget
    - iv. Budget justification
    - v. Research plan: Page limit of 6 pages. Describe the aims, preliminary data, approach, and outcomes/alternatives. Indicate how the anticipated results will support the RDP mission and the C3RDP cores to be utilized. Also include a brief description of plans for future funding.
    - vi. References are not counted in the 6-page limit
  - b. NIH formatting must be followed.
  - c. Appendices are not allowed.
  - d. [Application attachments](#) and the [descriptions of the C3RDP Cores](#) can be found on our C3 website.
  - e. Applicants planning on getting specimens through the Translational Core should submit a [Specimen Request Form](#) by **April 1, 2021**
  - f. Grant applications must be submitted as a single PDF file due on **April 1, 2021** to [PulmonaryGrants@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:PulmonaryGrants@nationwidechildrens.org).

## Grant Review Process

1. Review will be conducted by members of the C3 Research Internal Advisory Board.
2. Each reviewer will submit a written review
3. Each grant reviewer will provide 3 scores:
  - i. Applicant
  - ii. Scientific Merit
  - iii. Relevance to the CFF and C3 missions
2. Grants needing clarification or improvement will be returned to the applicant and revisions will be due by **May 17, 2021**. Revisions, if needed, must be submitted via email to [PulmonaryGrants@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:PulmonaryGrants@nationwidechildrens.org).
4. Grant awards will be announced between May and June, 2021

## Full Application Checklist

Please use provided templates/attachments to complete the full application:

- Face Page
- NIH Biographical Sketch for key personnel
- Detailed Budget
- Budget Justification
- Research Plan

## Contact Information and Other Resources

Title	Name	Phone #	Email
P&F Program Director	Dan Wozniak	614-247-7629	<a href="mailto:Daniel.wozniak@osumc.edu">Daniel.wozniak@osumc.edu</a>
C3 Administrator	Hanh Pham	614-722-5122	<a href="mailto:Hanh.Pham@nationwidechildrens.org">Hanh.Pham@nationwidechildrens.org</a>

Please visit our Cure CF Columbus website for more information and resources: <http://www.curecfcolumbus.org/>