

Pilot & Pre -Pilot Grants
Calendar Year (CY) 2025
Guidelines for Applicants & Reviewers

[Program Description](#), [Investigator Eligibility](#), [Funding and Award Period](#), [Allowable Expenses](#), [Research Project Criteria](#), [Scoring Criteria](#), & [Review Criteria](#)

Program Description

University of Vermont Cancer Center (UVMCC) Pilot awards support projects that pursue novel ideas in cancer research. For Calendar Year 2025, the UVMCC Pilot Awards program can fund two Pilot projects at up to \$50,000 each, and two to three Pre-Pilot projects at up to \$15,000 each. Pre-Pilot grants may be awarded for proposals describing an innovative idea, with minimal or no preliminary data.

The Pre-Pilot awards provide a limited amount of seed money to generate preliminary data to support a future pilot award or small R03 type grant and are most appropriate for Clinical/Translational and Population Science projects, or any projects aiming to generate preliminary data for an extramural grant application.

All applications must be related to some aspect of cancer, including basic science, behavioral, bench, bi-directional, clinical, clinical trial, computational, data analytic, epidemiological, preventive, and translational studies. Applications should be identified as falling under one of four categories: Basic Science, Clinical/Translational, Open Topic, or Population Science.

Projects not requiring regulatory approvals must be completed within one year; clinical trials or other projects requiring IRB approval may be permitted up to two years for completion.

Emphasis will be on investigations that prepare applicants for success in obtaining [peer-reviewed extramural cancer research funding](#), ideally from NCI. Applicants are required to include in their proposals a

- x Cancer Host and Environment (CHE)
- x Cancer Cell (CC)

Extramural collaborators are not required to be UVMCC members. Proposals from investigators whose [UVMCC Membership](#) is pending can be accepted if the membership application has been submitted in advance of the Pilot Project application.

Applicants who have received pilot awards in the prior two years or those with current awards are ineligible.

If a new extramural award for the same research is received, the UVMCC Pilot Project must be relinquished.

Individual faculty may participate in only one grant submission.

The PI(s) from each of the projects selected for funding will be asked to make a presentation describing their project at the Fall 2024 Cancer Center scientific retreat. In addition, it is expected that awardees will maintain high levels of participation with the UVMCC Pilot Project Program in areas of future pilot review, presentations of study outcomes, and future progress reporting. Pilot award funding should be acknowledged on any resulting publications or abstracts.

Investigators who are delinquent with reports on any previous awards are ineligible for new funding until they have satisfied reporting requirements. F u f

Funding and Award Period

Pilot research projects will be .

Allowable Expense:	Non-Allowable Expense:
<p><u>UVMCC Core Facilities</u> (Biostatistics, Cancer Translational Research Lab (CTRL), Microscopy Imaging (MIC), Vermont Integrative Genomics Resource (VIGR)) <i>Applicants are strongly cautioned to consult with facility heads early in the planning process, not less than four weeks prior to the deadline, in order to obtain the required approvals for facility usage and budget. Facilities cannot guarantee that they will be able accommodate requests beyond this time line.</i></p>	<p>Any external services when the same services are available using UVMCC resources.</p>
<p>Patient Care Costs related to clinical trials (e.g., stipends, procedures, lab tests done solely for research). _____ _____</p>	

Review Criteria

Overall Impact

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following review criteria and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).

Reviewers should consider how this study contributes to establishing a strong scientific foundation to support an extramurally funded research application.

Quality of the Science (50%)

Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is there a strong scientific basis for the project? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Feasibility of extramural funding and peer-reviewed publications on completion (25%)

The project will be evaluated for the likelihood that, if the research is successful, it will lead to [peer-reviewed extramural funding](#) and publications. Applicants are required to include in their proposals a clearly defined path to extramural funding by outlining which agencies and which funding programs they will target in subsequent extramural funding applications.

Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration (25%)

Do the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers represent a stimulating cross-pollination of disciplines? Are diverse [UVMCC Programs](#) represented? Will any [UVMCC Shared Resources](#) be used?

Questions? Contact edward.north@uvm.edu