



Call for Proposals for Pilot Research Projects, Conferences, or Travel

Coordinated by the Graduate School of Public Health, Office of the Dean, Donald S. Burke, MD

Cura Zika is an international alliance launched by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health to perform much needed research addressing the explosive pandemic of Zika virus infection occurring throughout South America, Central America, and the Caribbean, as well as having the potential to threaten the United States.

Zika is a mosquito-borne and sexually transmitted virus that causes microcephaly in infants born to mothers infected with it. It is also associated with increased risk of Guillain-Barre syndrome and other neurological disorders in people who contract it.

Cura Zika Scientific Advisory Board

Fernando Bozza
Donald Burke (Program Director)
Lee Harrison
Cecelia Lo
Ernesto T. A. Marques (Scientific Director)
Celina Martelli
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Cura Zika builds on Pitt Public Health's long-standing collaboration with FIOCRUZ, the Brazilian Ministry of Health's Fundação Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, the most prominent science and technology health institution in Latin America. **Cura Zika** – which means "**Cure Zika**" in both Portuguese and Spanish – will provide quick access to funding for scientists performing time-sensitive research on the virus. This support is designed to move early-stage innovative research ideas into larger studies in an accelerated manner.

Applications are sought for pilot research projects, conferences, and travel to coordinate research and care for persons afflicted with Zika or to attend a conference related to Zika.

- **Pilot research projects** will be funded up to \$40,000 for one year. Projects must address Zika and/or related arboviruses in Brazil or elsewhere in the Americas. A full range of topics will be considered, from molecular pathogenesis studies to field epidemiological studies. Applications proposing research to identify public health strategies to control viral spread, including vaccine platforms, will also be considered. **Cura Zika** also places priority on the social determinants of viral spread and the societal impact of these arboviruses.
- **Scientific meetings and conferences** will be funded up to \$20,000 in one year. Conference topics should be similar to those for the pilot research grants.
- **Travel Awards** will be funded up to \$4,000 per person per year.

Eligibility

Faculty members or post-doctoral scholars with a full-time (at least 50%) appointment at the University of Pittsburgh or the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz Foundation may apply. We encourage broad outreach to faculty from diverse disciplines.

Process

Applications must include a completed cover sheet and should be sent to CuraZika@pitt.edu (Subject line: Proposal) by close of business on **Friday, July 1, 2016**. The cover sheet is available at www.CuraZika.pitt.edu.

1. Pilot Grant Application

- a. Abstract (½ page maximum, single spaced, ½ inch margins, 11pt Arial or 12pt Times New Roman font)
 - i. Specific aims
 - ii. Brief background
 - iii. Summary of methods
 - iv. Future use of the data
- b. Proposal (3 pages maximum, single spaced, ½ inch margins, 11pt Arial or 12pt Times New Roman font)

- i. Specific aims
 - ii. Background and significance
 - iii. Innovation
 - iv. Preliminary data (not required)
 - v. Experimental design and methods
 - vi. Expected outcomes and scientific future plans
 - c. Bibliography
 - d. Budget and justification (1 page maximum ½ inch margins, 11pt Arial or 12pt Times New Roman font) Note that salary will not be supported.
 - e. Facilities and other resources
 - f. Equipment
 - g. NIH format biosketch for principal investigator and all co-investigators
- 2. Scientific Meetings and Conference Grants**
- a. Abstract (½ page maximum, single spaced, ½ inch margins, 11pt Arial or 12pt Times New Roman font)
 - b. Conference Plan (5 pages maximum, single spaced, ½ inch margins, 11pt Arial or 12pt Times New Roman font)
 - i. Target audience
 - ii. Objectives, specific program (including topics and proposed speakers), and expected outcomes
 - iii. Identify recent conferences and describe how the proposed conference is different
 - iv. Describe logistics (date, location, lodging, etc.) and strategies for publicizing conference
 - c. Budget and Budget Justification (1 page maximum ½ inch margins, 11pt Arial or 12pt Times New Roman font) Note that salary will not be supported.
 - d. NIH format biosketch for principal investigator and all co-investigators
- 3. Travel Grants**
- a. Destination and rationale for travel (2 pages maximum, single spaced. ½ inch margins 11pt Arial or 12pt Times New Roman font)
 - b. Budget and justification (1 page maximum ½ inch margins, 11pt Arial or 12pt Times New Roman font) Note that salary will not be supported.
 - c. NIH format biosketch for principal investigator and all co-investigators

Review and Notification

Applications will be reviewed by the ***Cura Zika*** Advisory Board and scored for scientific merit. Scoring will be used to determine funding. All applicants will be notified of the funding decision via e-mail on or before August 8, 2016.

Final Report and Presentation

Funded applicants must submit a final report no later than **September 1, 2017**. Instructions for the final report will be included in the letter of award. In addition, each pilot grant awardee must present their results (15 minute talk; 5 minute questions) at a Pitt Public Health Grand Round event. Awardees must acknowledge financial support from the *Cura Zika* Pilot Grant Program in any publication, presentation or press release related to this research.

Key Dates

- Call for proposals released on **May 18, 2016**.
- Proposals due by **close of business on Friday, July 1, 2016**. Submit to CuraZika@pitt.edu, subject line: **Proposal**.
- Final decisions will be made by **August 1, 2016**.
- All applicants will be notified of funding decision via email **on or before August 8, 2016**.

Questions

Questions should be sent to CuraZika@pitt.edu, subject line: Pilot Grant Question.