

***The Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Cardiovascular Health
Request For Pilot Project Proposals***

UD's Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Cardiovascular Health supports interdisciplinary research aimed toward understanding the mechanisms underlying the causes and consequences of poor cardiovascular health and/or function and developing effective interventions for these conditions.

The COBRE in Cardiovascular Health is pleased to announce a call for pilot research project proposals to expand and enhance the scientific goals of the center. Pilot projects will be awarded for 1 year, have a budget of up to \$75,000 in direct costs and have an estimated start date of July 1, 2026 (pending funding availability and NIH approval).

Pilot Project Goals

We are seeking proposals that advance cardiovascular health in the broadest sense. Investigators may study a wide range of cardiovascular-related topics through technology development, basic, translational, clinical, or community-engaged research approaches, spanning from cellular to the community level.

Eligibility

- NIH defined Early Stage and New Investigators are eligible to apply and are required to have a mentor.
- Faculty who have previously been awarded NIH funding may also apply (mentor not required).
- For NIH investigator definitions, see: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-stage/index.htm>

Anticipated Timeline

Call Released	February 16, 2026
Deadline for intention to submit a proposal submission form	March 15, 2026
Submission Deadline	5pm EST, April 16, 2026
Review Period	April 20 – May 11, 2026
Decision Announcements	~May 15, 2026
Proposals sent to NIH for Approval	~May 25, 2026
Anticipated project start date (pending NIH approval)	July 1, 2026

Intent to Submit a Proposal

To inform the selection of reviewers for all proposals, investigators should complete the ‘intention to submit a proposal’ [form](#) on or before March 15, 2026. The form requests the following fields: contact PI name, proposed project title, and 4-6 key words for the proposed project.

Format

Applications must be formatted according to the most recent NIH SF424 Application Guide.

Required Forms:

- NIH SF424 Face Page
- Page 2: Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel
- Detailed Budget (Form Page 4) and Budget Justification (Form Page 5/Continuation Format Page)
- Biographical Sketch Common Form and NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement for PI and any Key Personnel (must be created and digitally certified through SciENcv)
- Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Form for PI and any Key Personnel (must be created and digitally certified through SciENcv)

Note: All senior/key personnel must have an ORCID ID linked to their eRA Commons account before generating biosketches and Current and Pending Support forms. For Common Forms guidance, see:

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/implementation-of-new-initiatives-and-policies/common-forms-for-biosketch> For NIH application forms, see: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html>

Required Research Documents

- Specific Aims (1 page maximum)
- Research Strategy (4 pages maximum including Significance, Innovation, and Approach). Investigators must describe proposed statistical analysis in the Approach subsection. Applicants must address NIH requirements for rigor of prior research, rigor and reproducibility, and sex as a biological variable.
- References (no page limit)

Additional Required Documents:

- Letter of Support from PI's Department Head/Chair confirming approval for cost-shared effort
- For NIH-defined New Investigators and Early-Stage Investigators: Letter from Mentor agreeing to participate and support the project
- For PIs with prior COBRE, INBRE, or CTR pilot funding: Success from Prior Awards (1 page maximum) outlining progress, success in obtaining external funding, and rationale for additional support
- NIH Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form (PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information), if applicable. See NIH guidance at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials/definition.htm>
- Vertebrate Animals justification and protection, if applicable
- IRB/IACUC approval or documentation of IRB/IACUC submission, if applicable. IRB or IACUC approval may be pending at the time of submission, but documentation of IRB/IACUC submission must be included in the proposal. Full IRB/IACUC approval is required before sending selected projects to NIH for approval and project initiation.

Budget

Up to \$75,000 (direct costs) for the 1-year funding period may be requested. Funds can be used to support graduate students or staff, supplies, travel, etc. PI effort to complete the project should be cost shared and not part of direct cost expenses; a letter of support from the PI's department chair (or equivalent) giving permission for the proposed cost shared effort should be included in the application.

Submission

Pilot proposals should be submitted by the deadline using the UD [InfoReady](https://udel.infoready4.com) Platform at <https://udel.infoready4.com>.

Review of applications

Proposals will be reviewed by at least two reviewers using NIH guidelines and scoring. The likelihood of the proposed pilot project to lead to R01 or equivalent funding will also be evaluated. Accepted proposals must fully comply with all applicable federal policies, rules, and guidelines for research involving human subjects, vertebrate animals, and/or biohazards.

When comparing proposals with similar impact scores, the following priorities will be applied:

- Junior investigators without previous NIH funding as PI receive highest priority, followed by funded junior faculty, then senior faculty
- Faculty with previous CTR, INBRE, or COBRE pilot funding receive lower priority than those applying for the first time

Additional Information

As required by NIH policy effective January 25, 2026, all senior/key personnel must certify that they are not party to a Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (MFTRP).

For additional information contact Dave Edwards, COBRE PI at dge@udel.edu or Freddie Patterson, Associate Director at fredap@udel.edu.