UCEER Small/Pilot Grants

Overview Information

| Funding Organization | Utah Center for Excellence in ELSI Research (UCEER)  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding Source</td>
<td>NIH Grant 1RM1HG009037-02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Purpose</td>
<td>The purpose of the UCEER small/pilot grant program is to provide funding for small scale research projects or scholarly activities that address ethical, legal, or social issues in human genetics. We invite applications from a broad range of investigators and scholars across the University of Utah campus who seek to conduct innovative research and scholarly activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds Available</td>
<td>$10,000 per project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Due date</td>
<td>November 15, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award Notification</td>
<td>December 15, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earliest Start Date</td>
<td>January 5, 2019</td>
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Funding Opportunity Description

The University of Utah Center for Excellence in Ethical, Legal, and Social (ELSI) Issues in Genetic Research (UCEER) is accepting applications for small/pilot grants from students and scholars from a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds including University of Utah graduate students, post-docs, and faculty. The small/pilot grant program supports small, well-defined projects that can be completed within one year and are within the scope of the UCEER. Publication of results and the submission of an application for external funding is encouraged within one year of the completion of the project.

The UCEER will support research projects from a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds that focus on ethical, legal, and social issues relevant to human genetics. Research is defined broadly to include scholarly activities conducted by those in disciplines such as humanities, fine arts, and health sciences. For example, the UCEER is currently supporting a communication analysis for carrier screening, theater techniques project for training health care providers, and a gaming application to educate patients. Projects may include empirical, conceptual research, legal analysis or other creative endeavors.

Of particular interest are projects that address decision-making for genetic testing or screening. As examples, topics in this domain of ELSI research might include carrier screening, genetic prenatal testing, the family experience with genetic testing, legal
liabilities, and newborn screening. Other research topics of particular interest include ELSI issues in informed consent, confidentiality, and the communication of genetic information on topics such as genome scale sequencing, return of primary and incidental genetic results, biobanking, and the communication of information between family members and across life stages.

The UCEER also will support activities that strengthen teaching and learning in schools and colleges, facilitate research and original scholarship, provide opportunities for lifelong learning, preserve and provide access to cultural and educational resources or strengthen the institutional base of the humanities. All proposed activities must be related to ELSI issues in human genetics.

**Award Information**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Award Budget</th>
<th>Not to exceed $10,000 in direct cost, no indirect cost.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award Project Period</td>
<td>The total project period may not exceed one year.</td>
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**Amount and description of the award**

A total amount of $20,000 is available for small/pilot grants. Awards will be provided for two or more projects. Each award will not exceed $10,000 in direct costs, to be used within one year of the award date. The funds should be used for project expenses only (e.g., materials, focus groups, transcription, research assistant, etc.). No salary support for faculty will be provided via these awards. No travel cost for dissemination or project presentation will be supported through this mechanism. However, upon the successful completion of the project, the applicant may apply for travel support from the UCEER. Grant funds will be administered through the UCEER.

Awardees will be expected to participate in other UCEER activities as a collaborator. Awardees will receive support and mentorship, as appropriate. Awardees attend the annual UCEER Collaboratory meeting and are expected to present findings from their research at these meetings. UCEER will provide support for the Project PI as needed, potentially including assistance with monthly project meetings, financial management, and guidance with IRB applications. Monthly progress reports are required to be submitted via REDCap (5 item survey).

**Eligibility Information**

UCEER is interested in fostering future generations of ELSI scholars. University of Utah graduate students, post-docs and faculty who have not had NIH funding in the past

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will be given priority. Students need to submit their proposal in collaboration with a University of Utah faculty mentor, as documented in a letter of support. Individuals from underrepresented groups as well as individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Applicants are encouraged to contact UCEER leadership prior to submission to inform us of their intention to submit and/or for feedback on project ideas.

**Cost Sharing**

Projects that propose cost sharing with other University of Utah entities are encouraged.

**Application and Submission Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section of Application</th>
<th>Page Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Aims</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Strategy (please use template)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline (please use template)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget (please use template)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH Biosketch</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Support from Faculty Research Advisor (student applications only)</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please follow NIH guidelines regarding formatting. No less than 0.5-inch margins, no less than 11-pt font (tables may be 10-pt), and one of the following fonts: Arial, Palatino Linotype, Georgia, Helvetica.

**Requesting an Application Template**

Applicants must use the UCEER Research Strategy Template. Download the template from [http://healthsciences.utah.edu/uceer/pilot-grant.php](http://healthsciences.utah.edu/uceer/pilot-grant.php) or email the UCEER Research Coordinator at erin.johnson@nurs.utah.edu. Submit applications via REDCap; the link to the application portal is: [https://redcap01.brisc.utah.edu/nursing/redcap/surveys/?s=PWW8YNDHDE](https://redcap01.brisc.utah.edu/nursing/redcap/surveys/?s=PWW8YNDHDE)

**Review Process**

A review committee composed of UCEER investigators will review all grant applications. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of their relevance to UCEER aims, ELSI issues and scholarship, including the importance of the research questions and the

Approval date: 9/20/2018
appropriateness of the proposed sample, data and methods to be used in addressing the question. The potential of the research to lead to future-funded ELSI research will also be a criterion for selection.

**UCEER Small/Pilot Grant Review Criteria**

- Does the project address an ethical, legal, or social issue in human genetics?
- Does the project address an interesting and important issue?
- Are the proposed methods rigorous, appropriate, and feasible within the budget and timeline?
- Do the Principal Investigator and collaborators have the qualifications to conduct the proposed project?
- Does the UCEER, in collaboration with other University entities, have the necessary resources to support the proposed project?
- If successful, does the proposed project have good prospects for publication and future external funding?

The UCEER Review Committee will make one of the following recommendations:

- Recommended for funding
- Revise and resubmit
- Not eligible for funding

**Previously Funded UCEER Small/Pilot Grants**

1. *The BRCA War: Science, Law and Politics in the Struggle over Gene Patenting*
   
   Conrreras, J., JD (PI) (Law)

   **Aims**
   
   1. Collect primary data pertaining to the *Myriad* case from approximately thirty key stakeholders in the case.
   2. Elucidate the political factors contributing to the resolution of the *Myriad* case, including the intervention of administration officials in the case.
   3. Prepare a book-length analysis of the *Myriad* case for a general audience in order to provide an intellectual framework under which advocates, legislators and the public can improve public health while continuing to reward innovation and discovery.
2. *Israel’s Immigration Policies and the Question of Genetic Testing: New Developments on a Controversial Topic*
   Devir, N., PhD, (PI) (Department of World Languages and Cultures)

   **Aims**
   
   1. Conduct an interview-based study among rabbinical and government authorities in Israel to enhance my forthcoming manuscript on several different neo-Jewish communities, *Between Law and Grace: Messianic Jewish Movements in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Interviews will explore perspectives on proposals for genetic testing of isolated or “lost” Jewish communities claiming a Jewish connection for purposes of emigration.

3. *Family Communication of Multigene Panel results*
   Elrick, A., PhD Candidate, (PI) (Communications), Kaphingst, K., PhD (Communications), Kohlmann, W., MS (Genetic Counseling), Brown, T., JD (Law)

   **Aims**
   
   1. Investigate the application of goals-plans-action model and legal consideration measures to family communication of genetic information through cognitive interviews.
   2. Examine the process of family communication of genetic test results through the goals-plans-action model, theory of planned behavior, and family characteristics.
   3. Investigate participants’ perspectives on legal issues related to family communication of genetic information.