

Table of Contents

**MERKIN PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY AND NERVE REGENERATION (PNNR) CENTER  
RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION ..... 2**

**GRANT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: ..... 4**

COVER LETTER ..... 4

RESEARCH PROPOSAL..... 4

BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION..... 4

MANDATORY MEETINGS ..... 5

REPORTING..... 5

SUBMISSION PACKAGE ..... 5

**MERKIN PNNR GRANT APPLICATION DETAILS..... 6**

SECTION A- GENERAL INFORMATION..... 6

SECTION B- CONTACT INFORMATION..... 7

SECTION C - PROPOSAL ..... 7

SECTION D- BUDGET..... 8

SECTION E- SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS..... 8



# Merkin Peripheral Neuropathy and Nerve Regeneration (PNNR) Center Research Grant Application

## Overview

The Johns Hopkins Merkin Peripheral Neuropathy and Nerve Regeneration (PNNR) Center has been established to advance peripheral neuropathy (PN) and nerve regeneration research, deepen the understanding of the conditions and their causes, and develop viable therapies.

As part of the JHU Merkin PNNR Center's mission to provide support to research, we offer research grants to qualified applicants. Our goal is to help researchers explore novel ideas and answer questions related to peripheral neuropathy and nerve regeneration.

If you are a researcher (assistant professor or senior post-doctoral fellow who finished two years of training at an academic institution in the USA) committed to enhancing the science behind peripheral neuropathy and nerve regeneration, we encourage you to submit your grant application to the Merkin PNNR Center. Please note that duplicate or overlapping funding from any other private or public source for the same project is not allowed. Also, Assistant professors who have R01 level funding or are beyond 5 years at rank are not eligible.

Research proposals will be carefully vetted by the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). The Board will evaluate each proposal based on the investigator's experience, the project plan, and the research environment, as well as the project's ability to be translated into treatments for people with PN.

**Types of Proposals:** In FY25, the Merkin PNNR Center is offering grants through two different mechanisms to external applicants:

- **Seed grants:**

We are requesting submissions for high-risk, high-reward pilot projects that probe the mechanistic underpinnings of axon degeneration and Schwann cell dysfunction in peripheral neuropathies as well as impediments to successful nerve regeneration. Novelty of the proposed ideas as well as likelihood for successful transitioning to external funding will be a key selection criterion for funding. For this funding mechanism, researchers may request funding for 1 or 2 years (max \$75K/year), depending on the scope of the proposal. It is important to note that we do not provide support for facilities and administrative (F&A) costs.

- **Special Call for Proposals:**

In addition to the general call for proposals, we are pleased to announce a special funding opportunity in this cycle. This one-time funding initiative seeks for a research project related to peripheral neuropathy utilizing artificial intelligence, stem cells, or genetic therapies. Projects that investigate innovative approaches in these areas, with potential for discoveries and therapeutic applications, are particularly encouraged.

Applicants have the option to request funding for either 1 or 2 years, with a maximum of \$100K in total funding. The selection criteria will align with the overarching goals of the Merkin PNNR Center, emphasizing novelty, feasibility, and the potential for future external funding. Proposals in this category will undergo the same rigorous evaluation process by the Scientific Advisory Board. It is important to note that we do not provide support for facilities and administrative (F&A) costs.

## **Submission timeline**

The proposal submission period is between July 01, 2024 and August 18, 2024 11:59 pm EST. Award notifications will be sent out by November 4, 2024. The expected project start date is March 1st, 2025, or sooner.

Submission will be available on the grant application portal on 07/01/24.

# Grant application requirements:

## Cover Letter

Cover letter should include the following information and be maximum one page:

- A strategic reason for the advisory board to consider your proposal:
  - Identify the problem to be addressed and the needs to be met by the project.
  - Describe your project's objectives, activities, strategies, staffing, collaborators, timelines and explain how the design will enable you to address the problem or need.
- Total funds requested
- Other funding
- Indicate the type of grant mechanism for which you are applying.

## Research Proposal

Research proposal should include the following information and be maximum 1,500 words:

- Abstract (maximum 250 words),
- Specific aims,
- Background and significance (i.e., rationale),
- Preliminary results (if available), and
- Research design and methods (including expected results and alternate strategies)
- Data management
- Statistical analysis
- Project timeline and deliverables

## Budget and justification

Please include the following budget information in your submission and be aware of the budgetary limitations outlined below.

- **Budget period:** Please specify the start and end dates of each budget year separately (e.g., March 15, 2024, to March 14, 2025).
- **Annual budget:** The budget for each year should not exceed \$75,000.
- **Detailed budget justification:** Provide a comprehensive explanation for each expense category. Note that faculty salary is not allowed.
- **Second-year funding:** If applicable, funding for the second year is contingent upon successful progress during the first year.

## Mandatory meetings

Merkin PNNR Center will hold monthly Grant Holders' meetings. It is required that grantees and/or their senior staff attend these meetings during the award period. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an open discussion platform among the research scientists to exchange ideas, promote collaboration and improve the projects' success. Attendance at minimum 8/12 meetings per year is required to continue to receive funding.

## Reporting

Interim and final project progress and expenditure reports will be required for every grant awarded. It is important to design your evaluation process at the outset and begin to collect data from the beginning of the project.

## Publication

As a requirement, all manuscripts (including meeting abstracts and research papers under review) stemming from your research project must be submitted to the Merkin PNNR Center after acceptance for publication. When referencing your investigations in any publication or public presentation, kindly acknowledge that the research was conducted with funding provided by the Merkin Peripheral Neuropathy and Nerve Regeneration (PNNR) Center.

## Submission package

1. Cover Letter
2. Grant application
3. Budget and justification
4. Supplemental documents

Online submission for this RFA will be available on the [Merkin PNNR Center website](#) on July 1, 2024.

## Contacts

✉ Lale Akca, MBA, CCRA for submission related inquiries

✉ Ahmet Hoke, M.D., Ph.D. for scientific inquiries



## Merkin PNNR Grant Application Details

Grant cycle: 25-DF/EC4

### Section A- General Information

**Full title:** *[your project's full title]*

**Short name:** *[Identify a three-word short name for your project that will be used in correspondence]*

**Purpose:** *[Summarize the project purpose in 3-4 sentences directed at non-scientific audience]*

**Strategic reason:** *[Identify the problem to be addressed and the needs to be met by the project]*

**Proposal summary:** *[describe your project's objectives, activities, strategies, staffing, collaborators, timelines and explain how the design will enable you to address the problem or need]*

**Total funds requested:** *[the project period and total funds you are requesting]*

**Institutional approvals:** *[details about any institutional approvals you have obtained here, if applicable. For example: IRB approval status and number, IACUC approval status and number, IBC #]*

**Other funding:** *[information about alternative/supplemental other funding you have obtained or planning to obtain for this proposal. Include any internal or external funding and their status]*

## Section B- Contact information

### Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator(s) and staff:

**Name:**

**Degree(s)/Credentials:**

**Title:**

**Institution:**

**Department:**

**Phone #:**

**E-mail address:**

**Street Address:**

## Section C - Proposal

1. **Abstract:** *[maximum 250 words. Briefly summarize your project, the research plan, and the expected outcomes]*
2. **Specific aims:** *[provide your project's specific aims in detail]*
3. **Background and significance, rationale:** *[discuss current relevant work and highlight the significance of your project. Explain why your project is interesting and significant. Provide prior research done in this area and the necessary background leading up to your research hypotheses that you'll be testing in your project]*
4. **Preliminary results, if applicable:** *[provide information about any preliminary findings]*
5. **Research design and methods:** *[provide information about your overall methodological approach and give details of your data collection plan. Include your sample size estimate, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and any procedures, and tools you plan to use for data collection]*
6. **Data management:** *[provide information about your data management plan such as data collection, data ownership, standards and formats planned to be used, data security measures, sample collection methods, and storage]*
7. **Statistical analysis:** *[provide detailed information about the statistical plan and procedures that will be used to analyze your data]*

8. **Project timeline and deliverables:** *[summarize the project timeline to effectively implement your project including tasks and activities to be performed, roles and responsibilities of your research team and milestones and deadlines to be met]*

## Section D- Budget

**Entire budget period:** *[specify the budget period; i.e: March 15, 2024, to March 14, 2026]*

**Requested total amount:** *[specify the total cost of your project for the entire project period]*

**Expenses:** *[itemize your expenses by category for each budget year]*

**Budget justification:** *[provide detailed explanation of each budget category and how the funds will be used for each budget year]*

## Section E- Supplemental documents

**Bio-sketches:** *[NIH formatted bio-sketch for the principal investigator and each coinvestigator(s)]*

**Departmental support letters (optional):** *[provide letter(s) of support from department chair/program director/supervisor/mentor]*

*Submit your proposal electronically using the online portal located on the Merkin PNNR Center's [website](#) anytime between July 01 and August 18,2024.*

*Find detailed instructions on how to navigate the online portal on our website.*