**2023-2024 UCLA Pilot Project Funding Available for Research in Nutrition, Obesity, and Diabetes: Leveraging Institutional Support for Talented, Underrepresented Physicians and/or Scientists (LIFT-UP)**

**October 11, 2022 Funding Announcement**

**Important Dates** (subject to change)

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>REQUIRED LOI Deadline</strong></th>
<th><strong>Nov 30, 2022 by 5:00 pm</strong></th>
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<td>Invitations for Full Applications based on LOI Review</td>
<td>Early-mid December 2022</td>
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<td>Full Application Deadline (selected applicants)</td>
<td>Feb 3, 2023 by 5:00 pm</td>
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<td>Invitations for Interviews (selected applicants)</td>
<td>Early-mid February 2023</td>
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<td>Award Notifications</td>
<td>Early of March 2023</td>
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<td>Pilot Funding Start Date</td>
<td>July 1, 2023</td>
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**Who Should Apply:** Our U24 LIFT-UP program is accepting applications from promising investigators who hold a research position in Southern California and identify with a racial or ethnic group under-represented in the California scientific research workforce. Applicants must be post-doctoral scholars, UCLA Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) program fellows or junior faculty members at the Clinical Instructor, Assistant Professor, or Associate Professor level, who are pursuing careers in biomedical research, behavioral research or health services research in obesity, diabetes, and/or related conditions. Preference will be given to applicants in the pre-tenure phase.

**Funding Amount Available:** $35,000 one-year pilot award (no indirect costs allowable). Funded LIFT-UP Scholars may be eligible to apply for a second year of up to another $35,000 in support, pending satisfactory research progress in the first year of their initial award.

**Focus of Pilot Projects:** Proposed pilot projects must focus on obesity, diabetes, and/or nutrition. Pilot projects focused on the prevention of obesity or the prevention of diabetes are eligible for funding. Projects spanning the translational research spectrum from T0 to T4 are eligible to apply, including:

- Projects focused on the development, implementation, and evaluation of community and health system partnered interventions and policies in obesity, diabetes and/or related conditions
- Laboratory-based science that advances the mechanistic understanding of molecular and physiologic processes related to obesity, insulin resistance, diabetes, and related conditions.

Funding from NIDDK Grant U24 DK132746
**Letter Of Intent Instructions**: The required LOI and supporting documents include:

- Cover letter (see template below) that includes names: of PI, proposed research mentor and co-investigator(s).
- Project title and amount requested (maximum allowable is $35,000 for the one year project)
- Specific aims and project plan (combined two-page maximum) that provides an overview of the scientific rationale, study hypotheses/research questions, research design and methods and evidence of feasibility. Reference citations relevant to the proposed study may be included on a separate page.
- Biosketches for PI, research mentor, and any co-investigators (in the new NIH format)
- Please use Microsoft Word file formatted single-spaced document in Arial 11-point font, with a minimum of one-half inch margins, on 8.5”x11”
- Submit LOI to fsillas@mednet.ucla.edu by 5pm, Wednesday, November 30, 2022.

Receipt confirmation will be sent for all received applications.

**Letters of Intent will be reviewed and finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal.**

**Application Review Process**: LIFT-UP core leadership and research methods experts will review pilot proposal application packets. Pilot & Feasibility Application Review Criteria are as follows:

| Relevance of the proposed project to obesity, diabetes and/or related conditions |
| Scientific merit and feasibility of the proposal given timeline and budget |
| Research productivity to date, appropriate for the career stage of the candidate |
| Suitability of candidate’s mentors and evidence of strong mentorship support |
| Strong commitment to and promise of an academic career in obesity/diabetes research |
| Fit with the methodological expertise of the LIFT-UP faculty and mentor pool |
| Likelihood the project will lead to independent NIDDK-funded research |
| Willingness to participate in monthly career development activities such as grant writing, navigating the promotion process, formal mentor and team science training, and federal research project management. LIFT-UP awardees and projects will be supported by the LIFT-UP Network that includes a Research Mentoring Core (RMC) and Research Support |

Please email questions to: fsillas@mednet.ucla.edu

Funding from NIDDK Grant U24 DK132746
Full Name

Last
First
Middle Initial

Email

Degree(s):

Institutional Affiliation:

Academic Position/Rank, please complete the details below:

Postdoctoral scientist
Assistant Professor
Other:_____________

If yes, number of years in current position:_____________

Department (select all that apply)

Anesthesiology
Biological Chemistry
Computational Medicine
Emergency Medicine
Family Medicine
Head and Neck
Human Genetics
Medicine
Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics
Molecular and Medical Pharmacology
Neurobiology
Neurology
Neurosurgery
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Ophthalmology
Orthopedic Surgery
Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Pediatrics
Physiology
Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Radiation Oncology
Radiology
Surgery
Urology

Gender identity or expression

Male
Female
Trans female/trans woman/trans femme
Trans male/trans man/trans masc

Genderqueer or nonbinary gender
Not listed above, please specify
Prefer not to answer

Race and/or Ethnic groups with which you identify.

American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous
Asian or Asian American
Black or African American
Hispanic or Latina or Latino or Latinx
Middle Eastern or North African
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
White
Not listed above (please specify)
Prefer not to answer

Prefer not to answer

Please select the first-generation indicator:

Yes - My parental/guardian education level includes either less than high school, high school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent)

No - My parental/guardian education level includes Associate’s degree (AS, AN, etc.), Bachelor’s degree (BA, BS, etc.), Some graduate (but no degree), Master’s degree, Doctorate or professional degree

Unknown - My parental/guardian education level is unknown

Prefer not to answer

Mentor(s):

Co-Investigator(s):

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