

MARCH 1, 2012

...To Meet Your  
Research Needs  
In Diabetes,  
Endocrinology,  
and Diabetes  
Complications...

**NEW WEBSITE**  
<http://DERC.ucsd.edu>

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Please remember to cite the DERC Grant in all papers that utilize DERC Cores or are supported by the Pilot and Feasibility Awards:

"Our research utilized Core (or Research) support from the UCSD/UCLA NIDDK Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Center P30 DK063491."

**2012 DERC P&F Grants AVAILABLE****Pilot and Feasibility Projects in Endocrinology & Diabetes**

Pilot & Feasibility Program, Director: Pinchas Cohen

As part of the mission of our UCSD/UCLA DERC grant, the Pilot and Feasibility grant program will support 4 grantees at approximately \$30,000-\$50,000 per year for 2012

Applications DUE: **March 19th 2012 to Dr. Pinchas Cohen at: [hassy@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:hassy@mednet.ucla.edu)**

This mechanism will fund innovative new projects that will explore the feasibility of novel testable concepts and enhance the endocrine/diabetes research scope within the institutions. A special emphasis on promoting promising junior faculty involved with diabetes research is key to the UCSD/UCLA P&F mission. It is expected that P&F studies will generate preliminary data that will be used by these investigators in diabetes/endocrinology-related RO1 applications in the years following their award.

**P&F grant format**

Failure to meet the requirements for grant format will lead to an administrative disqualification of the proposal. The P&F grant applications should include:

- (a) Face page with the title of the grant, the name, email, academic title, department, and institution of the PI, the names of additional personnel and collaborators and a 200 word abstract.
- (b) Biosketches for the PI and other key personnel.
- (c) The scientific proposal (5-page limit).
- (d) References.

The entire grant **must be submitted** as a single emailed pdf file < 2 megabyte in size. If the grant includes high-resolution images, these must be reduced to meet the size requirement. Failure to provide a single pdf file or a file that is too big will result in disqualification. No budget is required, but the scope of the work should be appropriate for 1-year project and the funds cannot be used for the PI salary.

**Eligibility**

All eligible investigators must have faculty appointments at UCLA, Salk, Cedars, or UCSD and be independent investigators. To be eligible for a P&F grant you need to be eligible to submit an RO1 as a PI at the end of the grant period. A joint appointment at an affiliated institution is allowed. Post-doctoral fellows may submit a grant if they provide a letter from their Chair stating that they are about to be appointed to the faculty. Investigators eligible for pilot and feasibility funding generally will be expected to fall into three categories:

**(Category 1)** New investigators without current or past non-mentored NIH research support as a principal investigator (current or past support from other sources being modest).

**(Category 2)** Established investigators with no previous work in diabetes who wish to apply their expertise to a problem in this area.

**(Category 3)** Established investigators in diabetes/endocrinology research who propose testing innovative ideas that represent clear departure from ongoing research interests.

**Interactions with other DERC components**

It is expected that junior faculty will be able to rely on the advice and support of senior DERC investigators and will have priority access to DERC Cores, including an opportunity to discuss their projects in depth with the core directors in order to receive maximum benefits from their services. Similarly, investigators with no previous experience in diabetes/endocrinology research will be expected to have a DERC collaborator. P&F grantees will be encouraged and expected to utilize DERC core resources. However, the award is given only to the designated PI and not to collaborators.

**P&F Final report and presentation at the annual retreat**

A report on each pilot and feasibility study conducted will be due at the end of the study period and an update will be requested yearly for four years after the completion of the award. These brief reports will contain professional career status at the time of the award and at the time of the report; an overview of the project including its significance and salient results; a list of resulting publications; and peer-reviewed subsequent funding in the same or related areas. Funded P&F investigators will be expected to attend the annual DERC retreats as well as a meeting of Regional P&F awardees, present the results of their work in the year immediately following their award and continue to attend the annual meetings for at least three years thereafter. Travel to these meetings can be charged to the individual P&F awards.

**ALL PAPERS MUST CITE P30 DK063491**

**Notification procedure:** Expected **activation date is 5/1/2012.**

After approval of the funding decisions by the DERC executive committee, funded and unfunded investigators will be notified and, when appropriate, a brief summary of the reviews will be sent to them by email (not a detailed critique).



**Listserv for DERC Members**

Send announcements, communications, requests, etc., to your DERC colleagues:

**DERC-L@UCSD.EDU**

If you are receiving this newsletter directly, you are already subscribed. If you would like to subscribe, please email mellonadmin@ucsd.edu. This is a moderated listserv, so messages will be prescreened such that only relevant and important messages will reach you.

**NEW WEBSITE**

<http://DERC.UCS.D.EDU>

**Contact information for DERC Cores and Programs:**

**DERC PI/Director:**

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**DERC Co-PI and Director Pilot & Feasibility Program Pinchas Cohen, M.D.**

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**DERC Co-PI and Director Transgenic and Knockout Mouse CORE:**

<http://cancer.ucsd.edu/tgm/>  
**Pamela Mellon, Ph.D.**  
Core Director

**Core Contacts:**

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**Competing Renewal Submitted 2/29/12**

**Thank you to everyone who provided information for the year 11 application.**

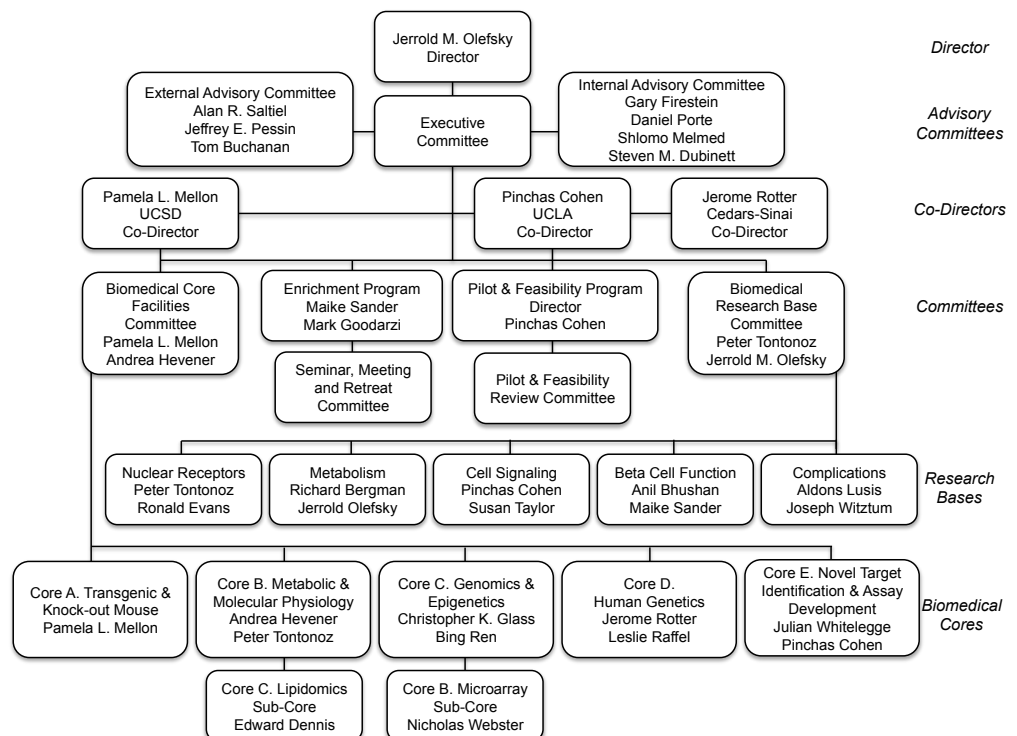
Our renewal application was submitted for review on 2/29/12.

The Proposed Components include:

- A. Transgenic and Knock-out Mouse Core (P.L. Mellon)
- B. Mouse Metabolic and Molecular Physiology Core (A. Hevener)
- C. Epigenetics and Genomics Core (C. Glass)
- D. Human Genetics Core (J. Rotter)
- E. Novel Target Discovery and Assay Development Core (J. Whitelegge)
- F. Pilot and Feasibility Program (P. Cohen)
- G. Enrichment Program (M. Sander & M. Goodarzi)
- H. Administrative Component (J.M. Olefsky)

**Proposed Organization of the UCSD/UCLA/Salk/Cedars-Sinai Diabetes Research Center for years 11-15 5/1/2013-4/30/2018**

UCSD-UCLA-Salk-Cedars Sinai Diabetes Research Center



**Mouse Phenotyping CORE:****Rajendra Tangirala, PhD**

Core Director

**Pinchas Cohen, MD**

Core Co-Director

**Andrea Hevener, PhD**

Core Co-Director

**David Hwang, PhD**

Core Co-Director

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**Transcriptional Genomics CORE:**<http://www.microarrays.ucsd.edu>**Chris Glass, Ph.D.**

Core Director

**Gary Hardiman, Ph.D.**

Core Co-Director

BIOGEM Core Facility

**Nicholas Webster, Ph.D.**

Core Co-Director

VA Genechip Core

**Core Contacts:****BIOGEM Core**

Agilent and Illumina Arrays

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**Colleen Ludka**

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**Genechip Core**

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454 Sequencing

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**DERC Co-PI and Director Human Genetics CORE:****Jerome Rotter, M.D.****Leslie Raffel, M.D.**

Core Co-Director

**Xiuqing Guo, Ph.D.**

Core Co-Director

**Kent D. Taylor, Ph.D.**

Core Co-Director

**Core Contact:****Cynthia Hernandez, R.N.**

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**Inflammation CORE:****Peter Tontonoz, M.D., Ph.D.**

Core Director

**Rajendra Tangirala, PhD**

Core Co-Director

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**Upgrades to our Cores Proposed in the Renewal**

Our Biomedical Research Cores have undergone substantial growth and change in the renewal application. For example, our Inflammation Core (previous Core E) has now been incorporated into the **Metabolic and Molecular Physiology Core** (Core B) and an entirely new core entitled "**Novel Target Discovery and Assay Development Core**" has been created as new Core E. This new core focuses on proteomic analysis of plasma and tissue samples and provides unique services in the generation of novel immunoassays for biologically relevant proteins of interest. For the next project period, the Transcriptional Genomics Core (previous Core C) has been reconfigured to incorporate a variety of epigenetic technologies, which provide a major new strength for our DRC faculty. Bing Ren is now the Co-Director of this new **Epigenetics and Genomics core** (new Core C), along with Chris Glass, and Dr. Ren is a well-recognized world leader in this field. He is Director of an NIH-sponsored Epigenetics Center, and has established cutting-edge technologies for the analysis of histone and DNA-based epigenetic marks that are now part of this Core. Our Mouse Phenotyping Core (previous Core B) has also undergone significant evolution and growth and has been renamed the "Metabolic and Molecular Physiology Core" (new Core B) to reflect these changes. For example, a **Lipidomics sub-core** has been added to this program, headed up by Dr. Edward Dennis. Dr. Dennis is the Director of the LIPID MAPS Consortium at UCSD and his laboratory has developed many new methodologies for analyzing over 700 lipid species in blood as well as tissue samples from humans and mice. He is among the world's leaders in this area, and the addition of these mass spec-based lipidomics methodologies and analyses to the Metabolic and Molecular Physiology Core (B) represent powerful new services available to our membership. This core has also acquired important new technologies in mitochondrial functional analyses, as well as ex vivo studies of insulin target tissues. The **Transgenic and Knock-out Mouse Core** (A) has also added new advanced technologies including conditional Tet-inducible and tamoxifen-inducible transgenes, tissue-specific knock-outs using Cre-LoxP and Flp recombinases and Recombination-mediated Cassette Exchange (RMCE), BAC transgenics, BAC-Trap, Ribo-Tag, and other specialized technologies, facilitating the advances of our DRC investigators in genetically modified mice. The **Human Genetics Core** (Core D) has expanded its genotyping capabilities, adding specialized chips including the Cardio-Metabochip, the Immunochip, the Exome chip, and the HumanMethylation450 DNA Analysis BeadChip. Additionally, two new laboratory services have been added; exome and targeted DNA sequencing, and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC). All of these changes and new services are described in great detail under the various Core presentations.

**NEW MEMBERS HIGHLIGHTED****Cedars-Sinai Diabetes and Obesity Research Institute**

Established in July 2011, the newest research initiative at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, the Diabetes and Obesity Research Institute brings two major new members to the DERC. The Director of the Institute, **Richard Bergman, PhD**, and the Associate Director, **Marilyn Ader, PhD**, are both new DERC members. The goal of the Institute is to examine the prediction, prevention, treatment and cure of diabetes, obesity, and associated conditions.

Previously, Dr. Bergman spent three decades at the University of Southern California, where he served as the Keck Professor of Medicine and chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, as well as professor of medicine and biomedical engineering at USC's Keck School of Medicine. An influential diabetes researcher for more than three decades, with more than 300 peer-reviewed published papers, Bergman pioneered the use of engineering principles to understand mechanisms that lead to development of diabetes. Among numerous honors and awards over the course of his career, Bergman has received the Banting Medal for Scientific Achievement and the Man of Distinction Lifetime Achievement Award, both from the American Diabetes Association; the NIH Merit Award; and the Lilly Award as Outstanding Researcher in Diabetes. Accompanying Dr. Bergman on his move from USC to Cedars-Sinai is Marilyn Ader, now associate director of the Diabetes and Obesity Research Institute. She had been associate professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at USC, where she studied physiology and biophysics.