

Overview:

The Wake Forest Primate Signature Program's mission is to provide funds, monkeys, expertise, and infrastructure for feasibility studies that advance the CTSA network's translational research by the use of monkeys. Wake Forest has been a primate resource since 1961, with specific expertise in guiding investigators in the development and application of nonhuman primates to diseases of human relevance. The Program maintains the Vervet Research Colony (VRC), which is the most highly characterized U.S. monkey population relative to pedigree, phenotype and genotype. This colony consists of approximately 300 Caribbean-origin vervet monkeys (aka African green monkeys; *Chlorocebus aethiops sabaesus*), spanning neonatal to geriatric ages. The Program also maintains a small cohort of insulin-resistant and diabetic vervets for use in metabolic research. The colony is managed to optimize studies related to aging, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and neonatal health. In addition, historical and lifespan phenotypic data and extensive tissue and data repositories are available for use.

The need to obtain pilot data is often a barrier to researchers new to nonhuman primate (NHP) research. To assist new NHP researchers, the Wake Forest Primate Signature Program is providing funds for feasibility studies to be conducted using monkeys accessed through the Program. Studies will be conducted at Wake Forest with significant technical and faculty support with no requirement for the awardee to be on-site during the study. The objective is to facilitate the collection of data from NHPs in support of applications for extramural funding. Funds will be awarded for studies ranging from **\$10,000-\$20,000** each.

Each year we provide funds for feasibility studies to assist investigators interested in exploring an idea using the vervet colony. We will consider all scientific requests that translate preclinical or clinical observations and encourage non-destructive studies related to neonatal health, novel imaging, genetic evaluation of phenotypic characteristics, and Alzheimer's disease.

Examples of past studies have included the assessment of:

- Safer infant anesthesia
- Novel PET imaging tracers
- Effects of allergen exposure
- Immune response of vervets to a native HIV envelope protein
- Therapeutic compound in lowering intraocular pressure
- Neonatal microbiome and its influence on health and disease
- Impact of diet and eating pattern on markers of diseases of aging

For investigators needing guidance in developing a proposal to use monkeys, please email primates@wakehealth.edu describing the general idea, and an experienced NHP researcher will contact you directly.

Application Process

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent by **March 22**. Full proposals will be requested from a subset of the LOIs. The LOI should be submitted through the [Feasibility Study LOI Submission Form](#). An invitation to apply for a full application or notification if you are not selected will be communicated by **March 29**.

Submission Guidelines

Investigators invited to apply will receive an email with a link to submit a full application by April 26.

Questions about the application submission process should be directed to primates@wakehealth.edu

Application instructions are included in the system and are summarized below:

Format Specifications

- Documents should be in Arial font and no smaller than 11 point. Margins should be at least 0.5 inches (sides, top, and bottom). Single-spaced lines on consecutively numbered pages.

Submission Information

- Project Title
- Submitting Investigator, Co-Investigator(s), and other Key Personnel information

Abstract (300 words maximum)

Research Plan (7 pages maximum)

- Specific Aims (1 page maximum)
- Background and significance, translational importance, experimental design and methods, and the plan for seeking future extramural funding (3 pages maximum)
- Study milestones, anticipated outcomes (1 page maximum)
- Contribution and summary of qualifications of each contributing investigator (1 page maximum)
- Next steps/planned grant applications and/or publications using data generated from this award (1 page maximum)

References (no limit)

Budget and justification

- Complete the budget template form provided along with a brief justification for the funds requested.

NIH-style biographical sketch for all key personnel

Reviewers will score applications from 1 to 9 based on:

1. Significance of the problem to be addressed
2. Innovation in the proposed solutions
3. Potential to generate extramural funding
4. Strength and breadth of the investigative team

Program Expectations

Prior to funding, awardees will discuss the project with Matthew Jorgensen, PhD and Kylie Kavanagh, DVM to make plans for the study. An IACUC protocol will be submitted as soon as possible.

Specific Deliverables

Upon completion of the project, a closeout report is required.

Response to a follow up survey is required at the end of the project.

Disclosure of efforts to seek extramural funding beyond the feasibility project and subsequent notification of any funds obtained and/or related publications or significant collaborations from the project for a minimum of 4 years.

Grant Administration

Project funding will end on March 31, 2020.

DATES

- March 22 – Letter of Intent due
- March 29 – Invitation for full proposals
- April 26 – Full Proposal due
- May 3 – Award notification

Questions may be directed to Primates@wakehealth.edu.