



To: ALL UPR CAMPUSES

**COBRE PR-CMS
Feasibility Program
P20GM156713-01**



Important Dates

Application deadline: April 15, 2026

Decision: June 15, 2026

Anticipated start date: August 1, 2026.

COBRE Puerto Rico Microbiome Sciences Center (MSC) Feasibility Project Program Overview

The new COBRE Puerto Rico Center for Microbiome Sciences aims to strengthen microbiome research capacity in Puerto Rico by accelerating and expanding scientific discovery. The program advances cutting-edge microbiome science by supporting state-of-the-art research in data generation, sequencing, and advanced analytical approaches, including the establishment of the first microbiome research core facility of its kind in the Caribbean. In parallel, PR-CMS is committed to developing the next generation of scientists by fostering early-career investigators into competitive, independent researchers through sustained mentorship, access to shared resources, and comprehensive professional development support.

Check more details at <https://cobremicrobiomepr.com>

Feasibility Projects Program

- The PR-CMS Feasibility Project Program is a competitive funding opportunity designed to support investigators seeking to generate preliminary data using the services of the COBRE Microbiome Core Facility. These awards are designed to accelerate new microbiome-focused projects and strengthen future competitive grant applications.

I. Eligibility

- The COBRE PR-CMS leadership team, together with an expert external reviewer panel, will select investigators with innovative ideas in biomedical research with a clear focus on microbiome science.

Priority will be given to:

- Physicians within UPR collaborating with basic scientists
- Mid-career and senior investigators exploring new scientific directions
- Faculty members of any UPR campus; Other Puerto Rico Institutions will also be considered.
- Graduate students who approved their candidacy exams and are fully supported by the PI's are encouraged to apply. PI support letter must be included.
- PIs in any pilot or full COBRE PR-CMS project are not eligible.

II. Areas of Interest

- This funding opportunity is open to all areas of biomedical research consistent with the mission of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS). NIGMS-funded scientists investigate how living systems function across multiple levels of biological organization—from molecules and cells to tissues, organs, organisms, humans, and populations. The Institute’s research mission emphasizes understanding the principles, mechanisms, and processes that underlie living systems, often using experimental and computational research models. NIGMS also supports the development of fundamental methods and innovative technologies to advance this mission.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to review:

The [NIH Unified Strategic Plan](#)

- NIH research priorities, including:
 - Use of artificial intelligence and computational models
 - Translational studies leveraging clinical biorepositories
 - Development and application of novel model organisms
- Feasibility funds will be allocated to the COBRE Core lab to fulfill the needs of the proposed application and are not directly awarded to the team

III. Application components

- Cover Letter indicating the proponent team, PI and collaborator position and affiliation, current funding and plans for external funding facilitated by the feasibility funds. The letter should demonstrate feasibility, indicate the area of research and scientific rationale of the project. The letter should clearly articulate the importance of the proposed use of feasibility funds by explaining how they will support either the generation of preliminary data for new grant applications, address specific gaps identified in summary statements, or enable completion of additional experiments required for manuscript revision.
- Applicants must submit a **two-page proposal** outlining the hypothesis, scientific question, feasibility of the work, and how the requested services will support future funding applications or publication goals. In the methods section indicate study design, number of samples, replicates, applicable assurances (IACUC/ IRB/IBC) and specific core facility services that are being requested. Include at the end of the two-pages, a short timeline for the experiment, use of funds and expected outcomes. Additional details about collaborations facilitated by the project and how this supports the team’s career development are appreciated.

- Use of Funds: Feasibility Award funds may only be requested for services provided by the COBRE Microbiome Core Facility, including but not limited to:
 - Data acquisition
 - clinical sample processing for gDNA extraction or metabolite extraction
 - DNA sequencing – 16S/ITS/18S
 - Metagenomic sequencing
 - Multi-omics services
 - Data acquisition and bioinformatics analysis
 - Other microbiome-related laboratory services
 - Data analyses for papers
 - Analyses and figures for ongoing studies
- Biosketch of the PI and mentors/collaborators; Use Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/implementation-of-new-initiatives-and-policies/common-forms-for-biosketch>
- Appropriately document assurance (IRB, IACUC, IBC as applicable)

Expectations:

- Use of feasibility funds are expected to facilitate the generation of preliminary data for new grant proposals; Addressing gaps identified in summary statements for unfunded applications; Completing additional experiments required for manuscript revision.
- Applicants should specify collaborating investigators and describe how the partnership will enhance project feasibility, scientific output, or interdisciplinary integration and timeline for achieving project goals should be clearly outlined.
- Strengthening a developing research direction or multidisciplinary collaboration.
- *Incomplete proposals will not be considered. Submit electronically the completed application, as 1 combined PDF by the deadline to: cobremicrobiomeproposals@gmail.com. Subject must indicate “*COBRE MICROBIOME FEASIBILITY FUNDS 2026 – PI NAME*”

IV. Award Information

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V. Award Administration

- Funds available/ project: \$5,000/ year to cover COBRE Microbiome Research Core services fees.
- Number of awards: 2 per year
- Maximum supported period: 1 year
- Awardees must submit:
 - Mid-project (6- months) progress updates
 - Final report summarizing outcomes and preliminary data
 - Evidence of NIH grant submission following award completion or manuscript submission (whichever apply).
- Funded investigators will be required to present at the annual microbiome symposia each year and meet periodically with the Center's Leadership.
- Citing the COBRE- PR CMS award in future publications generated as a result of the project. ***"The research/publication/press release was supported by Award Number P20 GM156713 from the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health"***.
- Development of other scientific products will be monitored, such as publications, oral and poster presentations, and patents.

VI. Review Process

- Proposals will be evaluated by external reviewers using standard NIH review criteria: Importance of the Research (Significance & Innovation), Rigor and Feasibility (Approach), and Expertise and Resources (Investigators & Environment)
- Check this link for further information on review criteria: <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/review-criteria>

Apply Now!!

Contact:

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