Purpose: The major objective of this program is to provide research support to test innovative hypotheses involving nutrition and obesity in the prevention, pathogenesis, pathophysiology, and therapy of disease. It is hoped that a Pilot and Feasibility (P&F) Award will generate enough preliminary data for the investigator to obtain research funding from extramural sources (e.g., R01).

Eligibility Criteria: (see Appendix section below for letter requirements)
1) New investigators without current or past NIH research project support (R01, P01 or R24) or other large extramural research support as a Program Director/Principle Investigator.
2) Established, funded investigators who are proposing new studies for a new hypothesis or direction in nutritional science or obesity, which are not directly related to previous or currently funded research, and need pilot data to justify further funding for this new idea.
3) Postdoctoral trainees who are in their last year of training, have suitable expertise and independence to design and carry out the planned experiments, and can provide documentation that they will be faculty members at Washington University at the time of the initiation of the award.
   - Previous recipients of NORC Pilot & Feasibility (P&F) Award are eligible, but first priority will be given to those who have not been supported by this program.
   - No citizenship requirement for P&F applicants.

Awards:
- Awards of up to $30,000 for one year are awarded.
- A second year of funding is available, but is a competitive process, and will depend upon successful progress and promise of adequate data to support renewal.

Deadline and Review Process:
- Applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 18, 2018.
- Awards will be announced September 15, 2018, and funding will begin October 1, 2018.

All applications will be reviewed for scientific merit, originality, relevance of the work to nutrition and obesity, the potential for the project to generate data for a successful peer-reviewed grant application, and the potential for the PI to develop into an independent investigator.

Terms of Awards:
- All awardees must have appropriate institutional regulatory approvals (Human Research Protection Office-HRPO, Animal Studies, etc.) before funds will be released.
- Grantees will be required to meet with NORC Co-Director and to submit an annual progress report describing the results of their work, related publications and funding.
- If applying for a second year of funding, a full progress report on NIH 398 forms is required.
- All publications should acknowledge the Washington University NORC (P30 DK56341).

Questions: Stephanie Paton, NORC Research Program Administrator 314-362-2632; spaton@wustl.edu
David Alpers, MD, NORC Pilot and Feasibility Program Director 314-362-8943; dalpers@wustl.edu

To learn more about the Nutrition Obesity Research Center, go to the Center for Human Nutrition website https://gns.wustl.edu/research/nutrition-obesity-research-center/pilot-feasibility-program/
Applications are due Monday, June 18, 2018 by 4pm.

Please submit completed application to:
Stephanie Paton, NORC Research Program Administrator - spaton@wustl.edu

The application packet must include the following NIH SF 424 pages (in order):

- PHS 398 Form Page 1: Face Page (Grants Office signature not needed)
- Project Summary/Abstract
- PHS 398 Form Page 4 and 5: Initial Budget Period and Budget for Entire Proposed Project Period
- NIH Biographical Sketch (5 page limit)
- NIH Formatted Other Support
- Facilities and Other Resources

Forms may be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html

- Research plan (5-page maximum, excluding references). Include: 1) Specific Aims, 2) Research Strategy (address significance, innovation, approach) 3) Preliminary Data (if applicable), 4) Description of how the results of this study will lead to future investigations/grant applications, and 5) Use of NORC Core laboratories.

- NEW HUMAN RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS FOR NIH:
  
  o Indicate whether the pilot project involves exempt Human Subjects research, nonexempt Human Subjects Research, or Vertebrate Animals. If none of these, indicate the source of materials/data to be evaluated (ex: established cell lines).
  o If the Pilot Project involves exempt Human Subjects research, indicate source of materials
  o If the Pilot Project involves non-exempt Human Subjects research, indicate if it proposes a Clinical Trial, if the IRB verified that the project is minimal risk, or if the project involves more than minimal risk. If the project is an ancillary study to a clinical trial, please indicate this as well.
  o Also indicate if human embryonic cell lines will be used. If they are, list them. They must be from the NIH Embryonic Stem Cell Registry.
  o For any P&F program involving Human Subjects research, upload enrollment tables (and inclusion management tables, if applicable) using the Inclusion Management System (IMS)
  o If a P&F project is considered to be a Clinical Trial, the following additional information must be included:
    - Description of the intervention, outcomes, and eligible population
    - Sample size
    - Provide a brief overview of management data and safety management plan (DSMP)
    - Clinicaltrials.gov registration number

- If applicant is a junior faculty member or postdoctoral fellow, a letter of support from his/her Division Chief or Department Chair, confirming the plans to establish an independent research career must accompany the application.

- If project requires a sponsor, consultant or collaborator, this individual must write a letter of support for the application and should clarify any potential overlap between their support and the subject of the proposal. This letter should accompany the application.
Core Laboratories Usage Form must be submitted with your application. It is required that the proposal use at least one core laboratory. For details regarding core lab services, please visit the NORC website at https://gns.wustl.edu/research/nutrition-obesity-research-center/pilot-feasibility-program/

Budget Guidelines (follow NIH A-21 Guidelines):
- Maximum of 10% salary support for the PI is allowed as long as this amount does not exceed 25% of the total award.

Expenditures NOT Allowed:
- Secretarial/administrative personnel salary support
- Office equipment and supplies
- Equipment costing $5,000 or more
- Computers
- Tuition
- Domestic or foreign travel
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Dues and membership fees in scientific societies
- Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books
- Rental of office or laboratory space
Washington University
Nutrition Obesity Research Center
Facilities Usage Form

Principal Investigator: _______________________________________________________________

Project Title:_______________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Please indicate which core(s) you will use for your proposed project and describe specific needs:

☐ Clinical Science Research Core (CSR)

☐ Animal Model Research Core (AMR)

☐ Biomolecular Analysis Core (BMA)

☐ Adipocyte Biology Molecular Nutrition Core (ABMN)

Regulatory Approvals:

Human Research Protection? Yes ☐ No ☐ Pending ☐ If pending, date submitted__________

Animal Studies Committee? Yes ☐ No ☐ Pending ☐ If pending, date submitted__________

Include all appropriate regulatory approvals (HRPO, ASC, Radioactive Substances, Select Agents, etc.) when available with application.