G3C Pilot Grants 2025-2026

The Genetics, Genomics & Growth Center (G3C) is launching **a pilot award program** to spark high-impact, multidisciplinary collaborations that bridge basic, mechanistic genetics discoveries with translational and clinical strengths. The program will provide **$60,000 for one year** to support innovative pilot studies, preliminary data collection, or new pipeline development with a clear path towards major future funding (multi-PI R01s, P01s, P50s, commercialization, or center-level initiatives).



Teams of 2–4 investigators are invited to apply, with at least one PI from the Department of Pediatrics. Researcher–clinician partnerships are strongly encouraged, and projects leveraging systems biology approaches to **genetics across the lifespan** are especially welcome. A key evaluation criterion will be the study's **potential to launch large-scale, competitive efforts** that advance discovery and impact child health.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Proposals must be in the broad area of genetics, integrating genomics and systems biology approaches with mechanistic discoveries, and may encompass fields such as developmental genetics and gene–environment interactions that shape pediatric outcomes and health across the lifespan.

- The Main PI must be a faculty in the Department of Pediatrics, ideally a member of the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh/Rangos Research Center community. Co-PIs can have other departmental or clinical affiliations across the University of Pittsburgh.

- All PIs must be faculty at Pitt. All academic ranks are eligible including tenured, tenure-track as well as appointment stream investigators.

- Funds can be used to support salaries and fringe benefits of study personnel, laboratory costs, core-facility costs and costs related to data analyses. Salaries of MPI/Co-PIs, equipment purchase or administrative expenses will not be covered.

Important Dates

Application Deadline: 12/19/25, 5pm EST
Notification of Finalist Selection: 2/10/26
Finalist Presentations at G3C Symposium and Award Announcement: 3/2/25
Award Commencement: 5/1/25

Review Criteria

The major review criteria will be: (1) does the application addresses an important question in pediatric genetics using innovative interdisciplinary approaches and (2) what is the likelihood that the pilot award will advance the area with large-scale applications to NIH or commercialization or program establishment. The applications will be assessed by an advisory panel for potential impact, innovation, and rigor of approach, followed by appropriateness of the team, project synergy, and future potential.

Progress Reports

A two-page final report will be required at the conclusion of the seed project to describe scientific progress, grant submissions planned, strategy for obtaining team science funding using the products of seed funding.

Questions

Arjumand Ghazi (ghazia@pitt.edu)
Eric Goetzman (Eric.Goetzman@chp.edu)

Application QR Code: