Funding Opportunity Announcement
CKD Biomarkers Consortium Pilot and Feasibility Studies

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
and the University of Pennsylvania

Background	The Chronic Kidney Disease Biomarkers Consortium (CKD BioCon) was established by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) to promote the discovery, evaluation and validation of biomarkers to advance the field. The Consortium supports a broad array of biomarker research conducted by its members (http://www.ckdbiomarkersconsortium.org) and via a Pilot and Feasibility Studies Program (PFSP) open to the broader research community who are not part of the funded CKD Biomarkers Consortium.
Overview	CKD BioCon is accepting applications to fund pilot and feasibility studies focused on the discovery, validation, or qualification of CKD biomarkers in adults and children. The CKD BioCon Scientific and Data Coordinating Center (SDCC) at The University of Pennsylvania administers this program. Successful pilot and feasibility studies will serve as a basis for subsequent applications for independent research support. Typical awardees will either be early stage investigators or investigators who are pursuing new research directions related to CKD biomarkers. Applications focused on the two areas below will be accepted for review: • Applications proposing studies of biomarkers that are measured in human blood, urine, or renal tissue, or extracted from radiographic/imaging data and that seek to address important research questions related to the occurrence, progression, and/or consequences of CKD. • Applications proposing the development and/or evaluation of new statistical methods relevant to biomarkers which are specifically related to CKD biomarkers.
Eligibility and Scope of Applications	Eligibility criteria for PFSP applicants will be the same as those specified in RFA-DK-14-011 (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-14-011.html) for applicants to join CKD BioCon. Studies of biomarkers for patients undergoing hemodialysis or kidney transplant recipients are not within the scope of this program. Applications focused in these areas will be considered non-responsive to this announcement and will not be reviewed. Current CKD BioCon investigators are not eligible for this program.
Application Instructions	A preliminary application must be submitted no later than **April 21, 2017**. It should be no longer than one page in length (no smaller than 11 pt Times New Roman font) and include: 1. The study question, justification of its importance and a brief rationale 2. The cohort of study participants for which biological samples or images will be available for study 3. Confirmation that a formal request for access to samples or images has been submitted to the parent study (or federal/non-federal data repository) and is under review or will be approved prior to the anticipated pilot award date 4. The assays or image assessments that will be performed 5. The qualifications of the proposed investigative team Preliminary applications will be reviewed and selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application that will expand on each of the key elements of the preliminary application and also include items 6-9 below. Full applications should not exceed five pages in length (no smaller than 11pt Times New Roman font).

	6. A statistical analysis plan including assessment of study power 7. A plan for quality assurance 8. Plans for subsequent grant submission informed by pilot study results 9. Detailed budget and justification
Key Dates	Preliminary application due date: **April 21, 2017** (by 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization) Applicants notified of invitation to submit full application on or about **May 19, 2017** Full applications will be due eight weeks after receipt of the invitation to submit them. Notifications to awardees distributed: approximately January 2018
Budget	Budgets must be well-justified and may not exceed $50,000 in total costs. Budgets should be for one year in duration.
Requirements of Awardees	Awardees are required to submit an interim progress report six months after receiving funding. A final report of the study's findings must be submitted twelve months after receiving funding. Awardees will present their findings to the CKD BioCon Steering Committee at the conclusion of the pilot study. It is expected that each pilot study will culminate in publication(s), in addition to a subsequent grant application.
Contact Information	Send applications electronically to: bioconpf@mail.med.upenn.edu For questions please contact: CKD Biomarkers Consortium Scientific and Data Coordinating Center The University of Pennsylvania bioconpf@mail.med.upenn.edu