



# PILOT/FEASIBILITY PROGRAM

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# Overview

Launched in 2017.

Pilot and Feasibility awards (up to \$30,000 for one year) for new projects that explore AgFF environmental and occupational health issues.

Designed to offer new and early-stage investigators with seed funding for R01 applications.

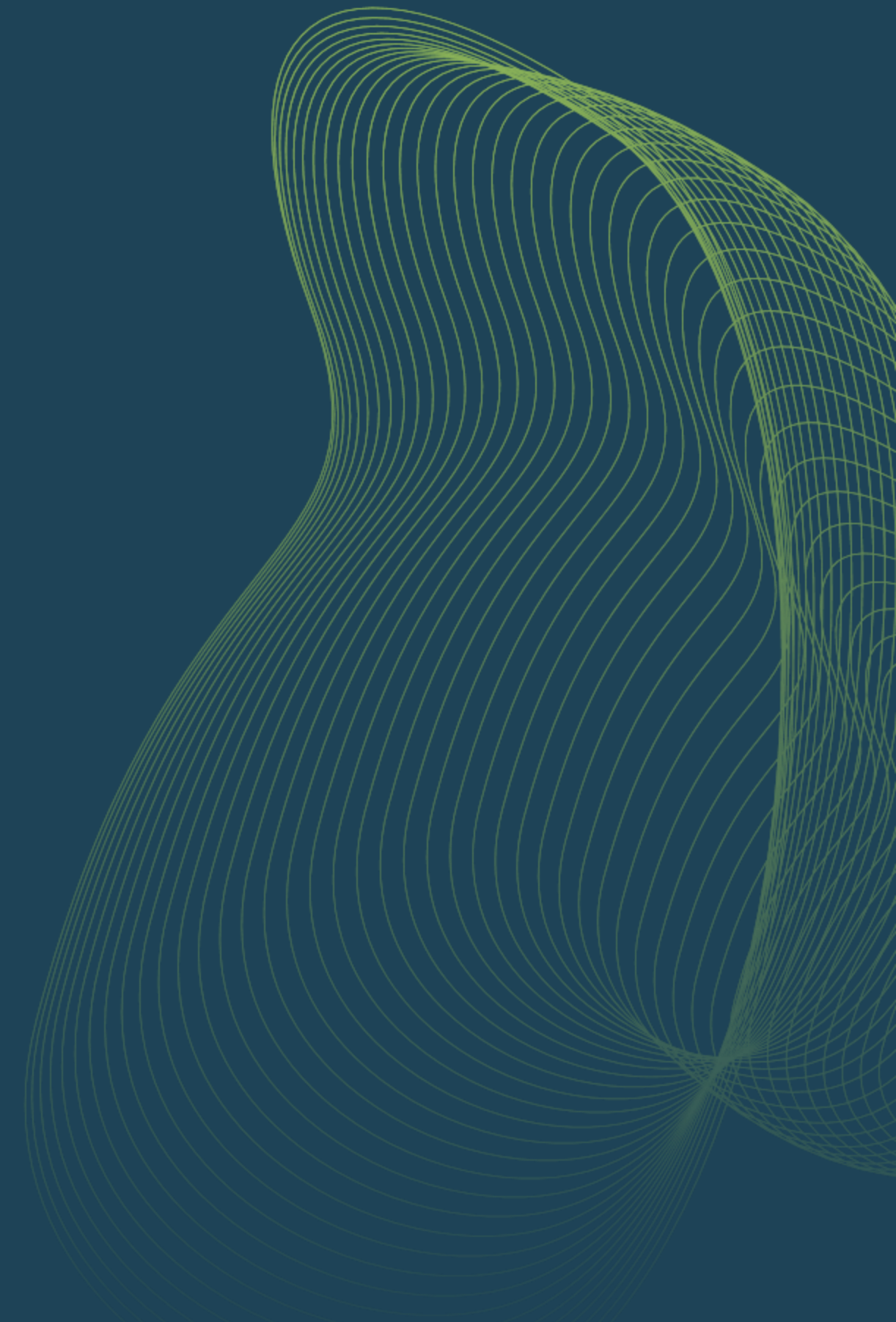
Seeking investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups who are underrepresented in the biomedical, occupational health, environmental sciences, clinical and behavioral and social sciences research workforce.

High priority on transformative research to address agricultural and aquaculture worker health disparities and the advancement of health equity.



# Benefits

- Availability of Center expertise across Cores:
  - ✓ Outreach and Communications
  - ✓ Biostatistics
  - ✓ Evaluation
  - ✓ Research Core laboratories
- Collect preliminary data for larger grant opportunities



# Regional coverage

Pilot projects spanned the Southeast U.S./Caribbean Regions:

- North Central Florida (Cedar Key, Steinhatchee)
- South Florida (Immokalee, Clewiston)
- Northeast Georgia (Statesboro)
- Puerto Rico (all regions West, North, Central, South, East)

# Past Awardees

Lynn Grattan, MD – Professor, Neuropsychology. Pilot study of the acute psychological and health impacts of Hurricane Irma in UF/IFAS extension workers

John Luque, PhD – Associate Professor, Behavioral Sciences/Health Education, Florida A&M University. Aplicación Movil para Prevenir Agotamiento por Calor (AMPAC)- Pilot study of mobile app monitoring to prevent heat-related symptoms among Hispanic Farmworkers

Gülcan Önel, PhD – Assistant Professor, Food and Resource Economics, UF. Uncovering patterns of mental, physical and occupational health issues among migrant farmworkers with different sociocultural networks: A pilot study among Haitian and Mexican farmworkers in Immokalee, FL  
(2018 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Leaders Award)

Kimberly Dunleavy, PhD – Associate Clinical Professor, Physical Therapy, UF. Chronic low back pain in seafood workers: a pilot intervention study to identify modifiable work and movement solutions  
(Lead Investigator on R01 project in review)



# Past Awardees

Antonio Tovar, PhD – Director, Farmworker Association of Florida. Agroecological practice in the face of climate change: Resilience, sustainability, and preparedness in Puerto Rico  
(2018 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Leaders Award)

Heidi Radunovich, PhD – Associate Professor, Family, Youth and Community Sciences, UF. Understanding the scope of the opioid epidemic for agricultural industries  
(2018 Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association Research Endowment Award and Investigator on R01-level project in R01 resubmission proposal)

Gregg Stanwood, PhD – Associate Professor, Biomedical Sciences & Neuroscience, Florida State University. A novel approach to monitoring pesticide exposure in farmworkers  
(Investigator on independently awarded NIH R21 titled, Noninvasive Pesticide Biomonitoring Using Sweat Patches)

Atin Adhikari, PhD – Assistant Professor, Environmental Health Sciences, Georgia Southern University. Field evaluation of N95 filtering facepiece respirators against airborne dust and microorganisms during cotton harvesting

Eric Coker, PhD – Assistant Professor, Environmental and Global Health, UF. A Pilot Study to Assess Personal PM2.5 Exposure and Respiratory Virus Infections among Farmworkers in the Southeast

Maria Morera, PhD – Assistant Research Scientist, Agricultural Education and Communication, UF. Developing an integrated decision support tool and network for WPS respirator compliance in Florida agricultural industries

Marysel Pagán-Santana, PhD – Program Manager, Migrant Clinicians Network. Exploring mental health and natural disasters in agricultural communities in Puerto Rico

# Highlights

## Chronic low back pain in seafood workers: a pilot intervention study to identify modifiable work and movement solutions (Kimberly Dunleavy)

- Dr. Dunleavy's pilot study established the feasibility of new methods of self-management strategies in clam farmers with low back pain (LBP).
- Three published manuscripts.
- In 2022 she was awarded an Office of Research grant to continue her work on participatory ergonomic approaches, specifically that introduce participatory ergonomics for low back pain in nursery and landscape workers.
- Sustainability: Current R01 application in review

## Understanding the scope of the opioid epidemic for agricultural industries (Heidi Radunovich)

- Dr. Radunovich's pilot study documented threats to farm worker health and safety associated with opioid abuse and how specific industries are impacted.
- Two published manuscripts.
- Sustainability: USDA Subaward with Agrisafe Network, supplementary funds through Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA), and SCCAHS Emerging Issues Funds for Mental Health First Aid (a course that teaches participants how to recognize signs and symptoms of mental health problems and how to provide help in a practical way in crisis and non-crisis situations)

# Highlights

## A pilot study to assess personal PM2.5 exposure and respiratory virus infections among farmworkers in the Southeast (Eric Coker)

- Dr. Coker's pilot study established the groundwork for a larger epidemiology study to evaluate the relationship between PM2.5 exposure and acute respiratory infections among farmworkers in the southeastern U.S.
- Sustainability: One Florida Clinical Research Network award (a study on using electronic health records, geospatial analysis and exhaled breath condensate to conduct respiratory and chronic kidney disease surveillance among Hispanic crop farmworker communities) and R01 application in review

## Exploring mental health and natural disasters in agricultural communities in Puerto Rico (Marysel Pagan-Santana)

- Dr. Pagan-Santana's pilot study documented the impact on the mental and behavioral health of agricultural workers and the relationship with disaster preparedness and available adaptation mechanisms.
- Validated tools – explored cultural and linguistic appropriateness of current resources utilized to address mental health, climate change, and disasters
- Sustainability: Concentrating efforts at Migrant Clinicians Network to work on mitigation strategies with agricultural workers in the rural areas of Puerto Rico



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Cycle II: What's next?

# 2023 Funding Priorities

- Burden of climate change on communities - understanding the health, social and cultural impacts
- Enhance the diversity of the research workforce by recruiting and supporting eligible investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related research
- Support new and early-stage investigators
- Regionally-focused and interdisciplinary research: high priority on U.S. Caribbean
- Community engagement
- Enable research that will develop into R01-like research applications

# Logic Model

Inputs		Strategies/Activities	Outputs and Outcomes
<p><b>Burden/Need</b> National trends of new and early-stage investigators from underrepresented faculty (which includes women and racial and ethnic minorities: American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/LatinX, Black/African American, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander individuals) show underrepresentation in university settings at the same proportion as they are in the general population (Nikaj et al., 2018; Ransdell et al., 2021).</p> <p><b>Theory of Action</b> Linking underrepresented postdoctoral fellows and faculty with resources for pilot funding and mentorship will improve the likelihood of publications and independent grant submission success.</p> <p><b>Target Population</b> Post-doctoral fellows and new- and early-stage career scientists.</p>	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><b>Seed Funding Investment</b></p> <p><b>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program</b> Policies to reduce barriers to race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability status, socioeconomic status, geographic location, and institution equity in the occupational health and safety workforce.</p> <p><b>Pilot Peer Review Committee (PPRC)</b> A representative diverse, inclusive, and knowledgeable volunteer PPRC.</p> <p><b>Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)</b> Senior investigator knowledge and training on conducting quality research and scientific writing.</p> <p><b>Data Management/Biostatistics Program</b> Expertise in statistical methodology for the preparation of grants, study design, data analysis and manuscript preparation.</p> <p><b>Outreach Core</b> Health communications meets the specific needs and priorities of the AgFF communities served and addresses all people inclusively, accurately, and respectfully.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanding research topic areas and geographic locations of interest.</li> <li>Development of a funding announcement marketing strategy that will secure applications from underrepresented groups in research.</li> <li>Early identification of talent utilizing the SAB partner resources.</li> <li>Interactive website to assist application process and serve as a portal for publication guidelines and funding announcements.</li> <li>Annual cohesive and extensive peer-review of applications that strategically assesses the potential.</li> <li>Awardees given clear points of contact at SCCAHS who they can reach out to with questions or concerns to minimize downtime in their research.</li> <li>Career-pathway mentoring.</li> <li>Ongoing collection of progress and the provision of feedback to all awardees (formative evaluation).</li> </ol>	<p><b>Output Program Metrics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of total applications received.</li> <li>Number of new- and early-stage investigator applicants.</li> <li>Number of underrepresented applicants.</li> <li>Number of reviewers for each application.</li> <li>Number of varied disciplines contributing to AgFF needs.</li> <li>Total number of scholarly publications.</li> <li>Number of independent grant submissions/awards using pilot data.</li> </ul> <p><b>Intermediate Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible design and greater visibility of the of SCCAHS Pilot/Feasibility Program website.</li> <li>SCCAHS annual retreat presentation of preliminary findings at 6–8-month timeline of project.</li> <li>Quarterly PI-to-PI meetings convened with overall Center PI.</li> </ul> <p><b>Long-Term Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each awardee has a total of at least 1 accepted publication in high-tier scientific journal.</li> <li>≥50% success in sustainability of research project into an R01- or R21-like project.</li> </ul>

# Timeline

<b>Item</b>	<b>Dates*</b>
Pilot Feasibility Solicitation Released	May 1, 2023
Letter of Intent Due	June 26, 2023
Pilot Program Research Committee Selected	July 3, 2023
Pre-Submit for grant writing support	July 10, 2023
Project Proposal Due Date	July 31, 2023
Review of Proposals	August 1 – 30, 2023
PPRC Review Meeting	September 1, 2023
Earliest Anticipated Start Date	September 30, 2023
3-Month Progress Report	December 20, 2023
Mid-term Progress Report	February 19, 2024
Final Report	October 7, 2024

*\*Dates may need to be revised if administrative/IRB issues delay the start date for the proposal.*



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for Agricultural Health and Safety

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