***Joint Institute Pandemic Pilot Project Program***

The Joint Institute Pandemic Pilot Project Program (P4) aims to deploy our UA Faculty expertise to address problems related to pandemics in rural Alabama and the U.S. broadly. We are amid a global pandemic that is putting stress on healthcare, education and markets. It is essential that as the flagship university in the state that UA contribute to improving the lives of Alabamians in the face of this pandemic. We are seeking three-page research proposals focused on pandemic harm reduction. All topics related to pandemic research are of interest, including testing, treatment, response, mitigation and impact from epidemiological, biological, psychological, sociological, transportation, security and commerce perspectives. Innovative projects designed to develop scalable and sustainable solutions focused on the specific environmental constraints that exist in rural Alabama are particularly of interest.

This program is guided by the UA Office for Research and Economic Development (ORED) Strategic Plan – particularly items 1.1, 3.1 and 3.3 – which involve the promotion of a university-wide culture for research, merit-based investment in research initiatives, and pilot and seed funding for cross-disciplinary and transformative research.

**Review Process**

A P4 review committee will rate an application’s pilot project focusing on criteria for the *Significance* (focusing on scientific premise), potential *Impact*, *Innovation*, and *Approach* (focusing on scientific rigor) of the pilot research project.

The review of the *Approach* will consider the pilot nature of the study and will focus primarily on whether the pilot project can establish feasibility for larger external funding. The clarity of the conceptual framework (including a focus on relevant mechanisms of action), the hypotheses to be examined, and the rigor of the project’s methodology will be primary considerations in the review of the Approach section.

The review of the *potential Impact* will focus heavily on the sustained impact of the proposal beyond the current global COVID-19 crisis and how well it scales to address larger more persistent problems.

**Application**

Applications for funding should be prepared and submitted as an electronic document. One of the investigative team should be the designated Principal Investigator. The application should include the following sections:

I) Title of the proposed project, along with name(s), academic rank(s), and departmental affiliation(s) of the applicants.

2) Specific Aims of the proposed work – This should not exceed 500 words and should be suitable for general publication or dissemination to the general public. The Specific Aims page should include a brief rationale for the proposal, description of the method, and the Specific Aims to be tested. his page should be single-spaced in not less than 12-pitch type. (on p. 2of the proposal)

3) Proposal – The proposed work should be described (single-spaced; not less than 12-pitch type with 1-inch margins; not to exceed 2 pages; this page limit does not include the Specific Aims page).

**Budget and Budget Justification**

Budgets of any amount, but not to exceed $15,000.00 will be accepted. Include a well-specified budget, clear budget justification, and brief timeline for the pilot project work (in addition to *the larger timeline just described for the subsequent grant submission*). The total period of the proposal, covering the pilot project completion and the completion of all elements of the grant submission timeline, should be specified and will be up to 24 months. The section can be 1-2 pages single-spaced.

**Submission Dates**

**The due date will be *5pm on Friday, April 17, 2020*.** Application materials and all questions about the application process will be emailed to Allen Parrish at [allen.parrish@ua.edu](mailto:allen.parrish@ua.edu).

**Biosketch**

A Biosketch is required for each investigator.

**Final Report**

At the end of the first year of the award, PIs must submit a written progress report (not to exceed two pages). At the end of the project period, applicants must submit a written report (not to exceed three pages) describing the results of the pilot project, and the details and completion of the grant submission process. A copy of the submitted grant application should be made available, and subsequent grant review feedback should be provided.