

**RESEARCH VOUCHER PROGRAM REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)**  
**University of Louisville Center for Integrated Environmental Health Science (CIEHS)**  
**Omics & Exposure Facility Core (OEFC)**

**OEFC Research Voucher Due Dates for 2022:**

Award type (up to)	Submission Due Dates
Large voucher*‡ (\$10,000)	<b>Cycle 1- 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in January</b>  <b>Cycle 2- 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in May</b>  <b>Cycle 3- 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in September</b>
Medium voucher*‡ (\$5,000)	
Small voucher*‡ (\$1,500)	

\* Awards are contingent upon availability of funds. Depending on the numbers of meritorious applications the funding for later submission due dates may be canceled due to lack of funds.  
‡OEFC Voucher Program will consider off-cycle applications for emergent situations such as disaster response research. Please contact OEFC Director ([michael.merchant@louisville.edu](mailto:michael.merchant@louisville.edu)) directly.

The **UofL CIEHS** is soliciting applications to support integration of OMICS and exposure studies (e.g., next generation sequencing, proteomics, metabolomics, metallomics, and exposomics) into environmental health science (EHS) research programs through the recently obtained CIEHS P30 Environmental Health Sciences Core Center grant. Research voucher subsidy applications will be accepted from CIEHS members as well as CIEHS nonmembers so long as a CIEHS member is included as a Co-I on the application. Applicants from members of all traditionally underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and math are encouraged to apply. **An individual may be the principal investigator (PI) or co-investigator (CoI) on only one award from CIEHS in any fiscal year.**

**Background:** The goal of the CIEHS is to develop a framework to understand the complexities of and to integrate the interactions between environmental toxicants, lifestyle factors, life stage, genetics and gender and their roles in human health and disease. The CIEHS facilitates research and training focused on: (1) exposure to industrial chemicals present in the urban and rural Kentucky environments (metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), vinyl chloride, etc.), (2) lifestyle factors (diet, alcohol, socioeconomic stressors, obesity, etc.), and the modifications to response by life stage, genetics, and gender in development of chronic adult diseases. The CIEHS is organized into three multi-disciplinary research interest groups (multi-organ toxicology, cancer, and neurodevelopmental toxicology); an Integrated Health Science Facility Core (IHSFC), a Community Engagement Core (CEC), and two facility cores (biostatistics and informatics, “BIFC”; and OEFC).

**Goal for this RFA:** The goal of this RFA is to provide financial support toward the integration of available shared omics resources into EHS research. This support is targeted to the shared research facility cores and will be in the form of OEFC research vouchers that will be invoiced by the respective shared resource facility core.

**Submission Instructions:** *Please email final application packet as a single PDF file to [oefc@louisville.edu](mailto:oefc@louisville.edu) and carbon copy **Michael Merchant** ([michael.merchant@louisville.edu](mailto:michael.merchant@louisville.edu)).*

## **General Information and Types of Awards:**

(1) **Response to Reviewers (small) awards** for up to \$1,500 to cover the costs associated with OMICS research needed to finish out a project or address questions arising in manuscript revisions or grant resubmissions.

(2) **New Direction (medium) awards** for up to \$5,000 to cover costs associated with critical exploratory research and proof-of-concept studies needed by CIEHS members for hypothesis generation and grant submission.

- ***It is expected that funding these EHS-centric studies will lead to NIEHS grant submissions by the PI.***

(3) **Supporting the Base (large) awards** (up to 25% total OMICS costs capped at a \$10,000 maximum) will be provided to subsidize CIEHS-member NIEHS-funded research.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL APPLICATIONS**

(A) Submission cover letter on department or division letterhead.

(B) Completed cover pages provided with this RFA.

(C) 1-2 paragraph abstract addressing how the proposal: (i) is consistent with the CIEHS goals; (ii) leverages OEFC resources; (iii) leverages other CIEHS cores and/or RIGS.

(D) NIH-style biosketch(es) (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>) for all PI/multiple PI (MPI) applicants and for relevant key personnel involved in the study.

(E) Letter of support from the relevant shared resource facility core director addressing feasibility of proposed research, a plan for completion of the proposed work during the current P30 grant fiscal year, and costs associated with the proposed research; if the voucher award is not sufficient to cover all projected costs, please provide a letter identifying committed sources of funding.

(F) For all Omics research to be conducted on animals, human subjects, or biological samples related to same, please provide appropriate IRB, IACUC, DEHS approval notifications or pending submissions.

## **ADDITIONAL VOUCHER SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.**

**Response to Reviewers (small) voucher applications-** (1) a pdf copy of the rejected manuscript or grant application and (2) a copy of the reviewer or study section comments.

**New Direction (medium) voucher applications-** (1) a two-page research plan inclusive of title, background, research plan including hypothesis statement and objectives for the proposed research, budget, future research plans if hypothesis is supported, and relevant references and (2) a letter from Dr. Shesh Rai, the BIFC Director, addressing statistical analyses and how the proposed research experiments documenting the appropriate power is achieved with the proposed numbers of replications. Letters of support from BIFC and IHSFC are mandatory for any study involving human subjects.

**Supporting the Base (large) voucher applications-** (1) a copy of the funded NIH grant, (2) a copy of the summary statement, and (3) a copy of the award notice.

**Review Process:** All applications will be reviewed by an OEFC director and CIEHS executive staff to evaluate for (A) addressing the CIEHS goals and advancing the NIEHS mission, (B) scientific merit, and (C) feasibility of achieving stated aims and goals. Medium award voucher applications will be assigned to two independent, expert-reviewers to focus on review of scientific merit and will be scored for scientific merit on the 9-point NIH rating scale to rank for funding and provide feedback to the applicant.

Note: Awards for human studies or animal studies will not be approved if IRB or IACUC protocols are pending.

An individual may be the PI or co-investigator on only one award from CIEHS in any fiscal year. **Awardees** will be required to sign an award notice committing to the terms of the award, including required post-award reporting, citation of the grant (P30ES030283) in any publications, and **participation in a CIEHS session at the subsequent annual Research!Louisville event.**

*It is expected that funding these EHS-centric studies will lead to NIEHS grant submissions by the PI.*

#### **Post-Award Administration of Voucher Awards**

**Reporting:** Ascertaining the impact of OEFC voucher awards on UofL EHS research is vital for gauging the success of the program. To gather necessary information needed to measure success all awardees (PIs) will be contacted 12-, 24- and 36-months post award. The goal will be to determine if and how the OEFC funds led to support and stimulation of EHS research by CIEHS members. We will be looking to gather information that includes but is not limited to: **(a)** listing of poster and oral presentations, **(b)** grant applications which included subsidized research results, **(c)** trainees that were directly involved with the research, **(d)** copies of the manuscripts (resubmitted/in-press/published), **(e)** grant applications (submitted/funded/renewed), **(f)** data sharing to the EHS research community and lastly a cover page addressing how the expended funds addressed the gap in the research.

## Program Contacts

For general information about the CIEHS OEFC Subsidy Award Program and the application process, contact: Michael Merchant, PhD, Director, OEFC; [Michael.Merchant@louisville.edu](mailto:Michael.Merchant@louisville.edu) / 502-852-0425

For information related to Shared Resource Core Facility Directors and Advisors, contact the following individuals:

Shared Resource Director	Resource Director – UL Building & Office#	Performance Site – UL Building & Office #
Genomics	Wolfgang Zacharias, PhD 502-852-2579 <a href="mailto:wolfgang.zacharias@louisville.edu">wolfgang.zacharias@louisville.edu</a>	Office: Center for Translational Research Building, Room 218 Lab: Center for Translational Research Building, CTB Rooms 227E-H
Metagenomics	Rachel Neal, PhD 502-852-3179 <a href="mailto:rachel.neal@louisville.edu">rachel.neal@louisville.edu</a>	Office: Medical Dental Research Building, Rooms 208 Lab: Medical Dental Research Building, Room 209
Proteomics	Michael Merchant, PhD 502-852-0245 <a href="mailto:michael.merchant@louisville.edu">michael.merchant@louisville.edu</a>	Office: Donald Baxter Research Building, Room 204C Lab: Donald Baxter Research Building, Rooms 207/209/215
Metabolomics	Xiang Zhang, PhD 502-852-8878 <a href="mailto:xiang.zhang@louisville.edu">xiang.zhang@louisville.edu</a>	Office: Shumaker Research Building Room 349 Lab: Shumaker Research Building, Room 335
Environmental Metals	Lu Cai, MD, PhD 502-852-2214 <a href="mailto:lu.cai@louisville.edu">lu.cai@louisville.edu</a>	Office: Donald Baxter Research Building, Room 314F Lab: Donald Baxter Research Building, Rooms 309,311,319
Exposure assessment	Daniel J. Conklin, PhD 502-852-5836 <a href="mailto:daniel.conlin@louisville.edu">daniel.conlin@louisville.edu</a>	Office: Delia Baxter Building, Diabetes and Obesity Center (DOC) Room 404E Animal Phenotyping Laboratories: Delia Baxter Building, Rooms 411, 419, 420, 434 (UofL Inhalation Facility labs)- Medical Dental Research Building rooms: 715, 716, 717, 722

For information related to P30 Center cores, contact the individual core directors:

- Integrated Health Science Facility Core (IHSFC), Matthew Cave, MD ([m0cave01@louisville.edu](mailto:m0cave01@louisville.edu))
- Community Engagement Core (CEC), Luz Huntington-Moskos, PhD, RN, CPN ([luz.huntingtonmoskos@louisville.edu](mailto:luz.huntingtonmoskos@louisville.edu))
- Biostatistics and Informatics Facility Core (BIFC), Shesh Rai, PhD ([shesh.raai@louisville.edu](mailto:shesh.raai@louisville.edu))

## OEFC Shared Facility Resources and Fee Schedules

### Genomics

(Billing varies by approach and sample or replicate numbers. Please contact core (<http://louisville.edu/research/kbrin/kbrin-cores/genomics-core>).

Service Category	Application and methods		
1) Next Generation Sequencing Service	Illumina MiSeq, Illumina NextSeq		
2) Single-Cell Sequencing Services	10X Chromium Controller		
3) Real-time quantitative PCR (qPCR)	ViiA7: 96-well FAST, 384-well, and Array Card block)		
4) Sample preparation and training- RNA analysis, PCR, ultrasonication,	Nanodrop One and ABI Qubit	Covaris S220	BioAnalyzer
5) Data mining	Metacore, Partek		

### Metagenomics- Functional Microbiomics Core (FMC)

Service Category	Fee structure
1) Germ-Free Mice	C57BL/6 (\$80/mouse; \$3/cage/day)
2) Nanopore Sequencing and 16S Analysis	\$30/sample; requires 24 samples (\$720) to use single Flongle flow cell
3) Multiplex Analysis by Luminex xMAP technology	Bioplex-200 immunoassay using serum, plasma, cell culture supernatants, lysates, and other sample types- prices kit dependent ranging between 1,500 to 8,000.

### Proteomics

1D-LCMS		Cost per	Additional reagents
1) Validation of knowns	Purified peptide or protein	\$75	
2) Discovery proteomics	Gel bands	\$125	
	Complex samples	\$175	
3) *Absolute quantification	*AQUA or *PRM/MRM-Tof	\$125	Stable isotope labeled standards
4) *Post-translational modifications	*Phosphoproteomics	\$175	Phosphopeptide enrichment kits
	*Other PTMs	\$175-\$1,375	Project specific
2D-LCMS			
5) Discovery proteomics	Label-free Moderate complexity	\$1,375	
	Label-free High complexity	\$2,875	
	*TMT-labeling	Varies	Multiplexing TMT reagents
6) Bioinformatics			
Basic studies	Volcano plots, GO analysis	\$75/hour	
Advanced studies	Pathways analysis, protein-protein interaction analysis, target selection	N/A	
*Requires consultation and development			

*Metabolomics*

Service Category		LCxLC-MS	GC-MS	GCxGC-MS	LC-MS	Bioinformatics
Units		Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Hour
Billing Rate per UNITS		\$200.00	\$100.00	\$170.00	\$100.00	\$70.00
1) Untargeted polar metabolite profiling by GCxGC-MS and LCxLC-MS						
2) Untargeted lipid profiling by LCxLC-MS						
3) Targeted metabolomics by LC-MS via MRM						
4) Targeted metabolomics for short chain fatty acid by GC-MS						
5) Quantification of bile acids by SPE LC-MS						
6) Quantification of nucleosides and nucleotides by SPE LC-MS						

*Environmental Metals*

Total metal analysis:	Fee Structure
1) Inductively-coupled plasma – mass spectrometry (ICP-MS)	\$45/sample*
* - May be eligible for subsidy; contact the Core Director for more information	

*Animal Phenotyping Core and the Functional Inhalation Core*

(Billing varies by approach and sample or replicate numbers. Please contact Facility Core Director Dr. Daniel Conklin (dj.conklin@louisville.edu):

<http://louisville.edu/doc/research-core/animal-phenotyping-core-prices>)

Use of Inhalation Facility requires consultation with Core Director, Dr. Conklin		
	Fees: Assisted (per test subject)	Fees: Unassisted (per test subject)
1) Hind Limb Ischemia Surgery	\$60.29	NA
2) Hind Limb Ischemia Surgery w/ Laser Doppler Imaging	\$71.21	NA
3) Glucose Stimulated Insulin Secretion (GSIS)	\$249.05	NA
4) Telemetry Surgery (surgery costs only; transmitters need to be purchased separately)		
a) Temperature and Activity	\$57.16	NA
b) Respiratory Rate	\$76.81	NA
c) Blood Glucose (HD-XG)	\$96.46	NA
d) ElectroCardioGram (ECG)	\$57.16	NA
e) Blood Glucose	\$76.81	NA
f) BP+ECG (HD-X11)	\$96.46	NA
5) DEXA Scan Imaging	\$26.46	\$16.64
6) Metabolic Chambers	\$65.15	NA
7) Non-invasive Blood Pressure	\$62.90	\$1.97
8) Glucose Tolerance Test – Insulin TT – Pyruvate TT	\$20.68	NA
9) Euthanasia	\$10.63	NA
10) Blood Draw	\$11.31	NA
11) Blood Draw with Dissection	\$14.59	NA
12) Injections/Drug Dosing	\$10.73	NA
13) Blood Gas Measurements	\$11.74	\$1.91
14) Core Technical Staff Time	\$39.30 per hour	
NA, not available		
Unassisted use of any equipment requires consultation with Core Director		