

Illumina Pilot Grant Program at NUSEq Core Facility 2022

To support genomics research at Northwestern University and assist investigators in preparation for the next rounds of NIH/NSF grant proposals, Illumina will provide a limited quantity of sequencing reagents at no charge to the Northwestern University NUSEq (Genomics) Core Facility. NUSEq, in turn, will offer pilot grant awards that include free reagents and reduced user fees to help NU investigators generate preliminary data.

A typical award is expected to provide support for up to 300-400 million sequencing reads. This can be used for up to 12 samples for a typical bulk RNA-seq experiment, or 10,000 cells for single cell RNA-seq. Other NGS applications, including whole genome/exome, gene panel, ChIP-seq, metagenomics, and spatial transcriptomics, are all supported. If needed NUSEq will provide guidance on experimental design.

To apply for this pilot program, please submit a one-page project summary along with an NIH-style biosketch for the Principal Investigator to NUSEq's Project Coordinator Skye Tavarez at skye.tavarez@northwestern.edu. The submission deadline is 06/30/22.

The project summary should include: 1) a high-level summary to provide a perspective for the proposed work; 2) details on support needed: number of samples, library type (if Illumina library prep kit is needed), read length, and depth; 3) plan for upcoming grant proposal submission(s), including title, type (e.g. NIH R01), date for full proposal submission, and classification (New, Competing Renewal, or Resubmission). Please specify how the sequencing requested will strengthen the upcoming submission(s).

Award notices will be provided by 07/31/22. Projects will be evaluated and supported with the reagents and technologies that are best fit to the experimental designs. If library prep is needed that requires Illumina library prep kits, and/or bioinformatics data analysis, the award notice will include a quote for reduced user fees. NUSEq will make every effort to deliver results in a timely fashion to facilitate full proposal submission, but please be aware that this is not guaranteed.

Illumina and NUSEq may follow up with awardees on project progress for the purpose of generating funding outcome metrics for funding future pilot programs. Illumina is excited to partner with the Northwestern University research community and administration to bring new, high impact studies to campus.