FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: The Alcohol & Drug Abuse Center of Excellence is accepting applications for its Pilot Project Program. One or two awards of $10,000 to $15,000 per project for a 12-month period are anticipated.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Tuesday, November 1, 2016

PURPOSE: The purpose of this call for ADACE pilot grants is to solicit proposals that use a basic science approach to examine the biological effects of cannabinoids, especially in the context of their potential medicinal benefits in treating disease states related to inflammation and/or pain. The tissue/organ of focus, and the model system used may be determined by the submitting PI. A major goal of this call for abstracts is to help investigators generate preliminary data that will support a research component in a program project proposal that will be competitive for external funding (focus on NICAM). Pilot projects that establish new collaborations are strongly encouraged.

Eligibility: All full-time faculty members in the LSUHSC School of Medicine are eligible to apply as submitting PI. Co-I's need not be LSUHSC SoM faculty.

Application Instructions:

Research Plan. Not to exceed 3 pages. This section must clearly identify how data generated will be used to apply for extramural funding, complete a study, publish a manuscript, or for an alternative purpose.

NIH-style Biosketch. Other Support should indicate effort and total direct costs during funding period.

Budget. Detailed budget including justification should be submitted. Funds are not to exceed $15,000. Allowable costs include: Supplies, and salary support for research personnel (i.e., student worker, research associate). Costs not allowed include travel and salary support for the PI. Sub-contracts outside LSUHSC SoM are not allowed.

Submission: Proposals should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file including the three items above to Betsy Giaimo at mgiaim@lsuhsc.edu no later than Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

Please note: This funding mechanism does not need to be routed through the LSUHSC Office of Research Services for signatures. However, proof of IBC, IRB, and/or IACUC approval will be requested prior to approval.

Review/Evaluation Process: Proposals will be peer-reviewed by a committee of LSUHSC scientists that will make funding recommendations to the ADACE Steering Committee. In the review process, interview and/or seminar-like presentations may be requested of applicants, especially if ADACE Steering members are not familiar with the applicant and the area of research proposed.

Criteria for Review/Evaluation of Applications: Applications will be prioritized using the following criteria:

Fundability: Are the results obtained from this pilot study likely to lead to competitive federal grant applications? Does the study address a significant problem to the alcohol and drug abuse research field, and/or use novel approaches, and/or challenge existing ideas, and/or develop new methodologies?

Fit: Will the proposed work enhance alcohol and drug abuse research at LSUHSC, either by enhancing current areas of strength, creating new collaborations, and/or creating synergy between ongoing strengths in multiple research groups?

Approach: Are the overall approach, design, methods and analysis adequately developed and appropriate to address the aims of the study? Will the data generated by the proposed project produce a dataset that is likely to support a competitive federal grant application? Is this plan explicitly described in the proposal?

Investigator(s): Is he/she appropriately trained and experienced in the research area to carry out the proposed work? Does he/she have the track record that would warrant extramural funding based on the data obtained?

Funding Decision: Awards will be announced in December 2016. Funding is anticipated to start in January 2017 contingent on approval by appropriate institutional committees (IRB for human subject research, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Institutional Biosafety Committee.)

Progress: A mid-year written progress report must be submitted to ADACE leadership by June 1, 2017. The Project PI will be expected to give a short oral presentation on the results of this work at a future ADACE Annual Retreat.