**Who we are.** The Emotional Well-being and Economic Burden (EMOT-ECON) Research Network is one of five research networks funded by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) to refine and test key concepts that advance the study of emotional well-being. The EMOT-ECON network aims to advance the understanding of economic burden of disease and emotional well-being, and generate the body of knowledge necessary for developing interventions that minimize the impact of this burden and enhance emotional well-being (Grant: U24AT011310). EMOT-ECON is funded by NCCIH and the National Institutes of Health Office of the Director (NIHOD).

There are numerous economic consequences of having a disease. These may include the money patients have to spend when getting medical care and managing their illness, and the time they may be out of work and the lost income, even if temporary. The EMOT-ECON Network is a new initiative that will support research to connect the dots on how this burden relates to a person’s emotional well-being, with the goal of finding solutions that minimize the impact of economic burden of disease and enhance well-being.

The EMOT-ECON network invites applications for ‘Booster’ pilot awards to provide project support for investigators with EMOT-ECON related research who require additional data analysis and/or pilot data to strengthen the resubmission of their recently scored, but not funded, NIH award. Applications will be accepted in the following priority areas:

- **Ontology and measurement of emotional well-being.** This research may include projects that aim to:
  - Fully capture the dimensions of emotional well-being in people with economic burden
  - Conceptualize distress related to economic burden (Existing measurement of distress related to economic burden is likely to be conceptually distinct from that distress not related to economic burden)
- **Mechanistic research** to identify mechanisms linking coping behaviors to emotional well-being among individuals with economic burden
- **Prevention research** to identify intervention strategies that help individuals effectively cope with economic burden and maintain or improve emotional well-being

The booster pilot studies must address both emotional well-being and economic burden in the scored/unfunded grant and pilot proposed. Priority will be given to applicants that demonstrate close relevance to the EMOT-ECON’s focus and likelihood of future funding of the grant.

**Study PIs:** Maria Pisu, Ph.D., Professor, Division of Preventive Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Michelle Martin, Ph.D., Professor, College of Medicine, University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

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**RFA Guidelines and Terms of the Award**

*Funding Amount: $15,000 available*
*Application Due: July 12, 2021 by 11:59 PM (CT)*
*Announcement of Recipients: September 21, 2021*
*Projected Start Date (estimated): October 1, 2021*

*The EMOT-ECON booster pilot award funding mechanism offered through NCCIH grant # U24AT011310 does not fund indirect costs. All funds must go directly towards the research project.*
Eligibility
1. PI must be faculty at a U.S. institution that can receive federal research grants. Investigators are encouraged to contact the Pilot Project Core leader to determine their eligibility and appropriateness of their project.
2. Scored/unfunded submission must be for a R01, R15, R21, R24, R43, U01, K, or equivalent. The following grant types are not eligible: R03 grants, VA Merit Awards, or applications in response to “One-off” RFAs. If unsure about the eligibility of the unfunded grant, contact the Pilot Project Core Leader (see contact information below).
3. Must have an NIH critique that is no more than 6 months old (Summary Statement Release Date).
4. Grants that have already been resubmitted in response to the most recent Summary Statement are not eligible.
5. The scored/unfunded grant and the booster pilot must focus on adult patients.

Amount and Period of Support
1. Funding is available in the amount of up to $15,000 total. No indirect costs are allowed.
2. Funds can be used for one year.
3. Funds can be used for:
   a. Regular faculty salaries
   b. Salary and fringe benefits staff members (including post-doctoral fellows, graduate students not supported by the graduate college/school)
   c. Research supplies
   d. Dataset fees
   e. Contracts for research-related service (e.g., recruitment services, survey administration)
   f. Small equipment costs
   g. Publication costs
4. Funds cannot be used for:
   a. Indirect/F&A costs
   b. Travel
   c. Graduate student tuition and stipends (if supported by the graduate college/school)
   d. Large equipment purchases
   e. Secretarial/administrative personnel
   f. Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers
   g. Per diem charges for hospital beds
   h. Non-medical services to patients
   i. Construction or building maintenance
   j. Major alterations
   k. Purchasing and binding of periodicals and books
   l. Office and laboratory furniture
   m. Office equipment
   n. Rental of office or laboratory space

Willful misrepresentation of the budget, misuse of funds, or not notifying the EMOT-ECON investigators of new extramural funding will result in loss of current and/or future eligibility.
Application Submission Process
Interested faculty should submit the documents below in a single PDF file. Applications should be single-spaced, with at least 0.5-inch margins, and should use 11- or 12-point Arial or Times fonts.

1. 1-page that includes the specific reviewer concern(s) that the booster award will address, how the award will be used to address the concern, and relevance to EMOT-ECON research
2. 200 word blinded lay abstract summarizing the parent grant, what will be accomplished with the booster award, and the relevance to EMOT-ECON
3. Specific aims of submitted grant
4. Summary statement of submitted grant with reviewer critiques and score
5. PI’s proposed response to the Summary Statement critique (1 page)
6. Budget and budget justification
7. Letter from PI’s Chair confirming information provided is correct, to the best of his/her knowledge, and outlining their opinion of possibility of future funding on this project
8. PI’s NIH biographical sketch (5-page limit)

Please submit research proposals by July 12, 2021 11:59 PM (CT) via email to mail@emot-econ.org. Subject line should read: “EMOT-ECON – 2021 Booster Proposal Submission – [PI Last Name]”

Application Evaluation Process
1. Each application will be assessed by a panel of cross-institutional peer reviewers.
2. Evaluation Process:
   a. Applications that meet eligibility requirements will be reviewed using the following criteria: (1) relevance to EMOT-ECON research; (2) the potential of the proposed booster pilot work to strengthen the application; and (3) probability of future funding of the grant. The highest priority will be given to those requests that are deemed most promising to receive extramural funding.
   b. Since the evaluation of applications is based upon the factors noted above, in-depth comments relative to the application’s science will not be provided; however, reviewers may provide brief comments that can be forwarded to the PI.
   c. Funding decisions will be made by the PIs based on combined reviewer assessments and programmatic considerations, and in consultation with the EMOT-ECON NIH program officer. However, in some cases where the application may represent a conflict of interest or present some problem in its evaluation, the PIs will ask the reviewers for further assessment.
   d. Evaluation is expected to be completed within a month of the application submission deadline.
3. If applicable, applications with fundable scores will be required to demonstrate human subjects research compliance to NIH standards prior to receiving funding.

Expectations of EMOT-ECON Booster Pilot Recipients
1. PI agrees to resubmit the grant within one year.
2. If the grant is funded during the EMOT-ECON award period, the PI is required to notify the EMOT-ECON Pilot Project Core Leader and return the unexpended amount upon receipt of the new grant funding.
3. A one-page progress report on the status of the EMOT-ECON funding must be submitted by the PI to the EMOT-ECON Pilot Project Core Leader at 6 and 12 months past the funding date. The PI will meet quarterly with EMOT-ECON PIs.
4. PI or other team member agrees to present findings at EMOT-ECON meetings.

For questions, please email the Pilot Project Core Leader at mail@emot-econ.org.