

Guidelines for Submissions of Requests for Scanner Time for Pilot Studies to the Dornsife Imaging Center Proposal Review Committee

Pilot studies are meant to facilitate the collection of preliminary data necessary for grant applications, finalize MR protocols for use in a study, or verify if a specific stimulus design is effective. Researchers may request free pilot time by submitting an application to the Proposal Review Committee. The application will be reviewed by at least 3 members of the Committee and free pilot time for scanning may be granted for a maximum of 10 hours per PI per year. Pilot studies are not supposed to fill a funding gap or to otherwise complete an on-going study for publications.

Requests for pilot scans should be submitted via the DNI User Portal website (<http://dni.usc.edu>), by clicking on the “New Project Application” button on the Projects page. This will send your application to the Chair of the **Proposal Review Committee**.

The New Project Application form requires a short description of the study, the research goals and hypotheses, the subjects to be tested, the protocol to be employed, stimulation presentation requirements, the names and qualifications of all personnel, and the source of funding.

Review Criteria

- Methods
- Feasibility of protocol with USC’s imaging facilities - Ability of research team to conduct the study
- Availability of magnet time
- Securing of IRB approval

IRB approval is not required prior to proposal submission, but IRB approval is required before scanning can begin.