Applications are solicited for pilot projects to conduct basic, translational, or clinical research related to digestive diseases. Applications will be considered in all areas of digestive disease research with particular emphasis along the following research themes:

- Gastrointestinal epithelial growth, proliferation and apoptosis
- Epithelial integrity
- Gastrointestinal development and function
- GI physiology, obesity and metabolism

Funds will support highly focused projects and are intended to provide support to collect preliminary data sufficient to support an application for independent research support through traditional NIH mechanisms. Funded projects are anticipated to range from $20,000 to $25,000 per year. VDDRC funding is limited to two years of support at a maximum level of $25,000 per year.

Two translational research awards are also available and are described in separate announcements; specifically these are the VDDRC Translational Discovery Grant Award and the VDDRC/Clinical Translational Science Award pilot awards.

In addition, exceptional applicants at the Research Assistant Professor or Assistant Professor level with a high likelihood for progression to extramural funding and a successful career in investigative gastroenterology are eligible to be named as a VDDRC Young Investigator. Salary support for such an individual is limited to 24 months and cannot exceed $50,000 total ($25,000 per year) and requires 80% of faculty effort to be focused on research. Applications for the Young Investigator Award require three letters of support, including one from the Division Director and one from the Department Chairman, documenting laboratory space and protected time commitment.